

## Water Planning Council Advisory Group

### January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A telemeeting of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) was held by Zoom

A video recording is available at:

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2023-01-17\\_WPCAG\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2023-01-17_WPCAG_Video.mp4)

#### Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	<a href="#">Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments</a>
Karen Burnaska	<a href="#">Save the Sound</a>
Josh Cansler	<a href="#">Southeastern CT Water Authority</a>
Alicea Charamut	<a href="#">Fisheries Advisory Council</a>
Carol Haskins	<a href="#">Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition</a>
Sean Hayden	<a href="#">Lake Waramaug Task Force</a>
Patrick Kearney	<a href="#">Manchester Water &amp; Sewer</a>
Fred Klein	<a href="#">CT Power and Energy Society</a>
David Knauf	<a href="#">CT Association of Directors of Health</a>
Dan Lawrence	<a href="#">Aquarion</a>
Margaret Miner	<a href="#">Rivers Alliance</a>
Jon Morrison	<a href="#">USGS CT Water Science Center</a>
Darryl Newman	<a href="#">CT Nursery &amp; Landscape Assoc.</a>
Denise Savageau	<a href="#">CT Association of Conservation Districts</a>
Tom Tyler	<a href="#">MDC</a>
Steve Vitko	<a href="#">South Central CT Regional Water Authority</a>

#### Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	<a href="#">CEQ</a>
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Cos.
Laura Bergman	CT Water Co.
Kim Czapla	<a href="#">DEEP</a>
Rebecca Dahl	OPM
Rich Hanratty	CT Water Co.
Ali Hibbard	<a href="#">DEEP</a>
Iris Kaminski	
Dave Kuzminski (alt.)	Town of Portland
Gannon Long	Operation Fuel
Christine O'Neill (alt.)	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Martha Smith (alt.)	Rivers Alliance
Bruce Wittchen	OPM

#### Members Absent:

Eric Hammerling	<a href="#">CT Forest and Park Association</a>
Brenda Watson	<a href="#">Operation Fuel</a>

#### Vacancies

- Agriculture
- Business Organization

#### 1. Call to Order

Alicea Charamut called the meeting to order at 1:33 and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## **2. Approval of draft 12/20/2022 Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft [12/20/2022 minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **3. Updates**

### **a. Annual Report**

Alicea Charamut said the WPC approved the annual report at this month's meeting and Denise Savageau added that final edits should be completed and the report submitted later this week.

### **b. Water Planning Council Update**

Alicea said the WPC intends to hold an in-person meeting in a coming month to give Maureen Westbrook an award. It will probably be a hybrid meeting.

### **c. Implementation Work Group Update**

Ali Hibbard provided an overview of the previous week's IWG meeting (see [draft meeting notes](#)), highlighting the current and potential future work groups discussed at that meeting. There was a discussion of how Virginia de Lima leaving the WPCAG changes IWG membership and Denise Savageau mentioned the [Outreach & Education Work Group](#)'s plans for climate change presentations in 2023.

### **d. State Water Plan Update and Staffing Resource procurement update**

Alicea Charamut said she believes the WPC submitted its budget request covering these items.

### **e. Water Plan Update Priorities Discussion**

Dan Lawrence said there have been some discussions of updating water plan priorities and asked for suggestions on how to proceed. Denise Savageau recommended [Jamboard](#) and said it can be used if a workshop is scheduled for that prioritization effort. There was a discussion of scheduling a special meeting to do that and of the WPC's efforts to get funding to hire a water chief and to update the water plan.

There was general agreement to proceed with the prioritization and Alicea Charamut mentioned significant changes since the previous prioritization process. Dan Lawrence asked that anyone interested in assisting with the prioritization effort contact him and Alicea. He added that another factor to consider is how the water plan relates to other state plans. He recommended the new group meet prior to the next WPCAG meeting.

## **4. WPCAG Work Groups**

a. Watershed Lands Work Group

Karen Burnaska said the group's next meeting will be in March. She mentioned interest in bills regarding inland wetlands and also mentioned [HB 5904, An Act Requiring Notification Of Renewable Energy Installations Within Public Water Supply Watersheds](#), a bill resubmitted by the [CT Water Works Association](#). There was a discussion of training requirements for wetlands commission members and the need for enforcement. It was noted that towns sometimes do not enforce decisions by their wetlands commission, limiting their effectiveness, and also that DEEP's wetlands staff position is vacant.

Karen Burnaska mentioned [DPH's recent hearing regarding the Colebrook Reservoir](#). She said the outcome is that the MDC withdrew its request for a declaratory ruling and will instead submit an abandonment request to DPH. Margaret Miner said she agrees with the proposed notification process for renewable energy installations. Margaret noted that some work group members have a continuing interest in the legislative land conveyance process and highlighted that what they do regarding that is not on behalf of the WPC. She also mentioned water and wastewater activity by the EPA in CT.

**5. Old Business**

a. [Water Utility Coordinating Committee \(WUCC\)](#) update

Dan Lawrence mentioned difficulties in scheduling WUCC meetings and noted that the western WUCC has decided to separate its meetings from the other WUCCs' meeting. He noted that the WUCC implementation group will meet 2/15 and Jonathan Avery said the central and eastern WUCCs are still trying to coordinate their meetings. Dan said they are receiving few noncommunity system requests. Alicea Charamut mentioned the [update to DEEP's draft permit for nonroutine transfers and interconnections](#) discussed at previous meetings.

b. [Interagency Drought Work Group](#) update

Bruce Wittchen said the group met and decided to eliminate the last remaining area of Stage 1 drought, but the group will continue to meet to consider additional recommended changes to the state drought plan. Denise Savageau asked if the group will also do a de-briefing and Bruce said he will remind group chair Martin Heft of the need to do that.

c. Nominating Committee

Carol Haskins said the committee recommends that [Bonnie Burr](#) be appointed to the WPCAG to represent agriculture. There was a discussion of her qualifications and of her familiarity with agricultural concerns due to her role with the Extension.

Carol also mentioned that Tyra Peluso who had been an alternate member representing consumer interests and Joe Violette, the new member representing a general business organization, have left their jobs and must be replaced. The director of the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce will fill in for Joe until they hire his replacement. There was a discussion of finding a replacement for Tyra and Alicea Charamut recommended asking

the WPC for guidance. A motion was made and seconded to recommend the WPC appoint Bonnie Burr to the WPCAG and the motion passed unanimously.

**6. New Business**

There was no new business.

**7. Public Comment**

There was no further public comment.

**8. Next Meeting Date**

Alicea read the list of upcoming meeting dates:

February 7, 2023:	WPC
February 14, 2023:	IWG
February 21, 2023:	WPCAG

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*