

## Water Planning Council Advisory Group

### September 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Agenda: <https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/18564>

Video: [https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2023-09-19\\_WPCAG\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2023-09-19_WPCAG_Video.mp4)

#### Members Present by video or phone:

Carol Haskins	<a href="#">Pomperaug River Watershed Association</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>
Darryl Newman	<a href="#">CT Nursery &amp; Landscape Assoc.</a>
Tom Tyler	<a href="#">MDC</a>
Steve Vitko	<a href="#">South Central CT Regional Water Authority</a>

#### Other Participants:

Ally Ayotte	<a href="#">CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority</a>
Kim Czapla	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection</a> (DEEP)
Rich Hanratty	CT Water Co.
Brandon Hayden	
Ali Hibbard	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection</a> (DEEP)
Iris Kaminski	
Dave Kuzminski (alt.)	Portland Water and Sewer Commission
Aimee Petras (alt.)	Farmington River Watershed Assoc.
Martha Smith (alt.)	West River Watershed Coalition
Mike Turaj	Operation Fuel

#### Members Absent:

Aaron Budris	<a href="#">Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments</a>
Bonnie Burr	<a href="#">UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources</a>
Josh Cansler	<a href="#">Southeastern CT Water Authority</a>
Alicea Charamut	<a href="#">Fisheries Advisory Council</a>
Sean Hayden	<a href="#">Lake Waramaug Task Force</a>
Jon Morrison	<a href="#">USGS CT Water Science Center</a>
Denise Savageau	<a href="#">CT Association of Conservation Districts</a>
Brenda Watson	<a href="#">Operation Fuel</a>

#### Vacancies:

Business Association (Non-Water Intensive)  
Land Protection  
Recreation

#### Staff:

Bruce Wittchen	<a href="#">CT Office of Policy &amp; Management</a> (OPM)
----------------	--

## 1. Call to Order

Co-chair Alicea Charamut was unable to attend the meeting and co-chair Dan Lawrence experienced technical difficulties and had to leave the meeting and rejoin several minutes later. Carol Haskins was selected acting chair in the interim and called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.

## 2. Approval of draft 8/15/2023 Minutes

A quorum was not present to approve the [draft 8/15/2023 minutes](#).

## 3. Discussion: Future of WPCAG & IWG

- Recap of WPC and IWG meetings and further discussion & recommendations

Margaret Miner said she favors a merger of the WPCAG and IWG and she also mentioned the [Water Utility Coordinating Committees](#) (WUCC). She said the IWG is an unusual group and added that there are too many committees. Steve Vitko and Martha Smith agreed and commented further on the time demands. Bruce Wittchen said he is a member of the IWG, which discussed this last week. There was disagreement regarding some points, including about whether WPC agencies should be represented in the merged group as they are in the IWG. He agrees with the merger and does not believe WPC agencies should be members of the merged group, but added that the details of merging the groups will require more thought.

Pat Kearney said he agrees that groups are redundant and that the agencies should not be represented but disagreed with Margaret about the WUCCs being part of this. That is a separate process. Dan Lawrence agrees with the merger but pointed out that there will always be a need for additional subgroups. Iris Kaminski said she prefers that there be just one group, not two, but noted that each group has a different focus. She also asked why agencies should be excluded. Bruce Wittchen said the agencies would participate in meetings of the merged group, noting that people from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the WPC agencies are at this meeting, but the WPC makes all final decisions and the agencies do not need a vote on the group advising it. Dan Lawrence asked if anyone opposed what has been said and no one spoke up.

## 4. Updates

- a. Water Planning Council Updates

There was no further WPC update.

- b. Implementation Work Group Update

Ali Hibbard read her notes from the WPCAG meeting, including an overview of IWG work group activities. She noted the IWG's responsibility for the WPC's annual report and described the timing of the report being finalized by the USGS data needs group. Regarding the website, Ali said a group of agency staff are working on it and are looking to complete the current work by the end of the year.

## 5. WPCAG Work Group Updates

a. Watershed Lands Work Group

Margaret Miner mentioned that former co-chair Karen Burnaska has retired and said one focus of the group's Sept. 8 meeting was on how the group should follow up on its original charge. She said key topics are watershed lands, aquifer protection areas (APAs), and whether state-owned lands in source water watersheds should be protected. She added that the envisioned APA work has a distinct beginning and end.

Margaret also recommended that Rich Hanratty replace Karen Burnaska as co-chair and provided an overview of his background. Margaret said the group intends to move ahead with a review of APA regulations and also mentioned the group's interest in the update process for the [state Conservation & Development Policies Plan](#) (C&D Plan) and [DEEP's Zero Emissions Request for Proposals](#). She said she, Alicea Charamut, and Denise Savageau had submitted comments and provided an overview. Margaret also mentioned the group's continuing interest in DEEP's [Release-Based Remediation Regulation Development](#) and provided further background.

b. Source Water Protection Work Group: [Source Water Protection Outline](#)

Kim Czaplá said the group met this morning and they expect to have an updated draft next month.

c. Solar Siting Work Group: [Draft Solar Siting Recommendations & Work Plan](#)

There was no update.

d. Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Work Group

The group will meet later this week.

## 6. Old Business

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

Dan Lawrence said they need to schedule a new date for the [WUCC implementation work group](#) to meet and noted the individual WUCCs tend to meet twice per year.

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

Bruce Wittchen said state drought coordinator Becca Dahl is unavailable today and pointed out that the state remains out of drought, but pointed out that a recent stretch of unusually warm and dry weather could have been the beginning of drought if not interrupted by the more recent rain. Carol Haskins said the Pomperaug River reached a low-flow threshold but there was no public announcement due to a concern about mixed messaging. Dan Lawrence mentioned Aquarion's experience with one of its systems.

c. Nominating Committee

Carol Haskins provided an overview of current vacancies and listed the four members whose terms expire this year. All but one are interested in remaining with the WPCAG. They are looking into refilling the consumer representative position that will be vacated

at the end of the year and the land protection position left vacant when Karen Burnaska retired. She said Kathy Cziepiel of Save the Sound, Karen's former organization, is interested in joining the WPCAG and pointed out that Kathy is at this meeting. Carol described the ongoing process and listed the additional vacancies being filled.

d. Hydrilla update

There was no update.

**7. New Business**

There was no new business.

**8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

Upcoming meetings include:

October 3, 2023:	WPC (1:30)
October 10, 2023:	IWG (1:00)
October 17, 2023:	WPCAG (1:30)

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:36.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*