

## Water Planning Council Advisory Group

### February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Agenda: <https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/24210>

Video: [https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2024-02-20\\_WPCAG\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2024-02-20_WPCAG_Video.mp4)

#### Members Present by video or phone:

Josh Cansler	<a href="#">Southeastern CT Water Authority</a>
Alicea Charamut	<a href="#">Fisheries Advisory Council</a>
Kathy Czepiel	<a href="#">Save the Sound</a>
Carol Haskins	<a href="#">Pomperaug River Watershed Association</a>
Patrick Kearney	<a href="#">Manchester Water &amp; Sewer</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>
Christine O'Neill (alt)	<a href="#">Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments</a>
Denise Savageau	<a href="#">CT Association of Conservation Districts</a>
Jeff Shaw	<a href="#">CT Outdoor Recreation Alliance</a>
Kelsey Sudol (alt)	<a href="#">Lake Waramaug Task Force</a>
Tom Tyler	<a href="#">MDC</a>
Steve Vitko	<a href="#">South Central CT Regional Water Authority</a>

#### Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	<a href="#">CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)</a>
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Cos.
Ally Ayotte	<a href="#">CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)</a>
Kim Czapl	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection (DEEP)</a>
Becca Dahl	<a href="#">CT Office of Policy &amp; Management (OPM)</a>
Virginia de Lima	
Peter Galant	Tighe & Bond
Martin Heft	<a href="#">CT Office of Policy &amp; Management (OPM)</a>
Ali Hibbard	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection (DEEP)</a>
Iris Kaminski	
Ethan Werstler	

#### Members Absent:

Bonnie Burr	<a href="#">UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources</a>
Fred Klein	<a href="#">CT Power and Energy Society</a>
Alison McHorney (alt)	<a href="#">CT Office of Consumer Counsel</a>
Jon Morrison	<a href="#">USGS CT Water Science Center</a>
Darryl Newman	<a href="#">CT Nursery &amp; Landscape Assoc.</a>
Joe Violette	<a href="#">Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce</a>

#### Staff:

Bruce Wittchen	<a href="#">CT Office of Policy &amp; Management (OPM)</a>
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#### 1. Call to Order

Co-chair Alicea Charamut called the meeting to order at 1:35 and everyone introduced themselves.

## **2. Approval of draft 12/19/2023 Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft [12/19/2023](#) minutes and the motion was approved unanimously, with new member Jeff Shaw abstaining because he had not attended. Alicea mentioned a conversation regarding the circulation of meeting information prior to subgroup meetings and there was a discussion of state agency support for those groups.

## **3. Discussion: Future of the WPCAG**

- [Final WPCAG Guidelines & Procedures](#), approved by the WPC 2/6/2024

WPC member Martin Heft provided some background regarding the IWG-WPCAG consolidation process and the appointment or reappointment of members. He invited questions. There was a discussion of the timing, of what the WPC is likely to consider if more than one person seeks a particular position, and of the role of the WPCAG's Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee's Carol Haskins pointed out that there is only a week between the 2/27 deadline for people to submit requests and when the WPC intends to appoint members on 3/5. She also suggested that WPCAG members not interested in continuing email her and pointed out the change to three-year terms. There was further discussion of the changes.

David Knauf said he is retiring soon and said that, if allowed, it would be best to refill his position with a more water-oriented staff member of a local or district health department instead of a health director. Carol thanked him for his service.

## **4. Old Business**

### **a. WPC and work group updates**

- WPC meeting

Alicea Charamut said Sec. 3 covered much of the WPC's discussion. Dan Lawrence noted the Western [Water Utility Coordinating Committee](#) (WUCC) had offered to convene a meeting of WUCC leaders with DPH and added that WPC member Graham Stevens had announced a new planning & sustainability position at DEEP.

- Source Water Protection Work Group

Denise Savageau provided an overview of the group and of the report currently in preparation, which will be available for review by group members soon.

- Outreach & Education Work Group

Denise Savageau described three webinars: one each in March, May, and in the fall. She also mentioned other work, including work being done to improve the water

website, and highlighted Ali Hibbard's work to clean up the transcripts included with webinar videos posted to DEEP's YouTube channel.

- Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Work Group

Alicea provided a brief update and the group will meet again on March 7.

- Watershed Lands Work Group

Margaret Miner said there is nothing new but the next quarterly meeting will be March 8.

b. Other old business

- Website changes

Ali Hibbard noted that agency staff met last week to continue their work on this and pointed out that the state is rolling out new web sites.

- WUCC update

Jonathan Avery said there is no update other than that they are looking at scheduling a collective meeting of all WUCCs.

- Interagency Drought Work Group

Becca Dahl said there is no news but noted that conditions have generally been wetter than normal in recent months.

## 5. New Business

Denise Savageau suggested the group begin tracking legislation and mentioned [SB 11](#), *An Act Coordinating Connecticut Resiliency Planning And Broadening Municipal Options For Climate Resilience*. She is looking at that through the lens of source water protection and nature-based solutions. Alicea Charamut said a legislative update will be included on upcoming agendas.

Alicea mentioned [HB 5170](#), *An Act Concerning Extensions Of Time For Certain Municipal Commission, Board And Agency Decisions And Training For Inland Wetlands Agencies*, and said there is not much water-related legislation yet. Denise said a climate change omnibus bill is expected and she believes it will be numbered HB 5004. We will need to pay attention. Denise also pointed out that the state's focus has tended to be on sudden disasters, not on problems resulting from slow changes, and listed water quality, erosion, and hypoxia. These should be captured too.

## 6. Public Comment

There were no additional public comments.

## 7. Next Meeting Date

Upcoming meetings include (subject to change):

Feb. 20, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
Feb. 23, 2024	WPC Special Meeting (10:00)
March 5, 2024	Outreach & Education Work Group (9:00)
March 5, 2024	WPC (1:30)
March 7, 2024	Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis (11:00)
March 7, 2024	Interagency Drought Work Group (1:00)
March 8, 2024	Watershed Lands Work Group
March 19, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
March 19, 2024	WPCAG (1:30)

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:26.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*