

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

March 19, 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

Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Association
Sean Hayden	Lake Waramaug Task Force
Patrick Kearney	Manchester Water & Sewer
Fred Klein	CT Power and Energy Society
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion
Sonia Marino	CT Association of Directors of Health
Alison McHorney (alt)	CT Office of Consumer Counsel
Margaret Miner	Rivers Alliance
Darryl Newman	CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.
Denise Savageau	CT Association of Conservation Districts
Tom Tyler	MDC
Steve Vitko	South Central CT Regional Water Authority

Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Jonathan Avery (phone)	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Cos.
Ally Ayotte	CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)
Lauren Bergman	CT Water Co.
Chris Bellucci	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Kim Czapla	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Becca Dahl	CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM)
Virginia de Lima	
Richard Hanratty	CT Water Co.
Iris Kaminski	
Eric Lindquist	CT Dept. of Public Health (DPH)
Barbara Masi	
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM)
Martha Smith (alt.)	West River Watershed Coalition

Members Absent:

Bonnie Burr	UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Kathy Czepiel	Save the Sound
Jon Morrison	USGS CT Water Science Center
Jeff Shaw	CT Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Joe Violette	Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce

Staff:

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 2/20/2024 minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously, with Fred Klein and Darryl Newman abstaining because they had not attended.

3. Discussion: Future of the WPCAG

- WPCAG membership update

Alicea Charamut and Carol Haskins provided some background regarding the nominating committee's review of candidates for WPCAG membership following the group's merger with the former Implementation Work Group (IWG). Carol showed a spreadsheet including names of people who expressed interest in being members or alternates. The group went through the list person-by-person, discussing each person's qualifications what they could bring to the group. A motion was made and seconded to submit the following list of preferred candidates to the WPC and, after further procedural discussions, the motion passed unanimously:

Business & Industry-Association	O	Steve Woltornist, Water Quality Association / Marmon Water Residential Filtration	TBD	A (2025)
Small Water Utility	O	Josh Cansler, SE CT Water Auth.	TBD	A (2025)
Water Resources Protection	I	Carol Haskins, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition	Aimee Petras, Farmington River Watershed Assoc.	A (2025)
Wastewater	I	Tom Tyler, Metropolitan District	TBD	A (2025)
Public health (local)	N	Sonia Marino, Town of Guilford Health Dept	TBD	A (2025)
Investor-owned Water Utility (large)	O	Dan Lawrence, Aquarion Water Co.	Rich Hanratty, CT Water Company	A (2025)
Fisheries	I	Alicea Charamut, Fisheries Advisory Council	TBD	A (2025)
Business & Industry-Water Intensive Business	O	Darryl Newman, CT Nursery & Landscaping Association / Planters Choice Nursery	TBD	B (2026)
River Protection	I	Margaret Miner, Rivers Alliance of CT	Martha Smith, West River Watershed Coalition	B (2026)
Recreation	I	Jeff Shaw, CT Outdoor Recreation Association	TBD	B (2026)
Lakes and Ponds	I	Sean Hayden, Lake Waramaug Task Force	Kelsey Sudol, Lake Waramaug Task Force	B (2026)

Municipal Water Utility (med to large)	O	Patrick Kearney, Manchester Water Dept	TBD	B (2026)
Electric Power	O	VACANCY		B (2026)
Regional COGs	N	Aaron Budris, Naugatuck Valley COG	Janice Erlemeyer - River COG	B (2026)
Agriculture	O	Bonnie Burr, UConn Cooperative Extension	TBD	C (2027)
Academia, public health, ecology	N	Nicole C. Deziel, Yale School of Public Health	Viriginia deLima, retired USGS	C (2027)
Regional Water Utility (large)	O	Steve Vitko, Regional Water Authority (RWA)	Nicoletta Blevins, RWA	C (2027)
Conservation	I	Denise Savageau, CT Assoc. of Conservation Districts	TBD	C (2027)
Land Protection	I	Kathy Czepiel, Save the Sound	TBD	C (2027)
Consumer	N	Allison McHorney, Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC)	Brooke Parker, OCC	C (2027)

4. Legislative Update

Alicea Charamut described [HB 5218](#), *An Act Concerning The Establishment Of Riparian Buffers And Revision Of Certain Inland Wetlands Provisions*, which she said is out of committee. She also mentioned [HB 5004](#), *An Act Concerning The Implementation Of Certain Climate Change Measures*, highlighting Sec. 22's focus on nature-based solutions. She also mentioned the water-related aspects of [SB 11](#), *An Act Coordinating Connecticut Resiliency Planning And Broadening Municipal Options For Climate Resilience*. Alicea also mentioned [HB 5390](#), *An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities*.

Denise Savageau said [HB 5475](#), *An Act Concerning The Development Of Housing And Challenges To Certain Decisions Of Municipal Agencies*, includes egregious provisions regarding zoning and wetlands. Alicea mentioned [SB 192](#), *An Act Concerning Dam Safety*, noting its relevance to the recent problem at the Fitchville Dam in Bozrah and mentioned [HB 5355](#), *An Act Concerning The Water Resources Of The Upper Farmington River Valley*. Alicea Charamut described [SB 300](#), *An Act Concerning Natural Gas Capacity And The Renewable Portfolio Standard*, expressing concern about the latter broadening what is classified as Class 1 hydropower. She also mentioned [SB 190](#), *An Act Concerning The Use Of Neonicotinoids*, and said the bill does not do what advocates had wanted.

Dan Lawrence mentioned [SB 137](#), *An Act Concerning Gas, Electric, Sewer And Water Delivery Work*, saying it would require prevailing wages be paid for work on utilities, and also mentioned [SB 378](#), *An Act Concerning A Perfluoroalkyl And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Background Data Study For The Purpose Of Economic Development*. Dan and Steve Vitko both commented on the previously mentioned HB 5475's implications for water company source waters. Steve also noted the inclusion of stream flow language in the previously mentioned Sec. 22 of HB 5004 and added that [SB 3](#), *An Act Concerning Consumer Protection*, includes a provision banning the use of certain foreign-made drones currently used by water companies.

Referring back to the earlier mention of SB 190, Margaret Miner said an Environment Committee co-chair opposes restriction on neonicotinoid use sought by advocates. Denise Savageau described [HB 5330](#), *An Act Implementing Recommendations Of The Department Of Transportation*, highlighting its proposed limitations on public hearings and the resulting impact on the CT Environmental Protection Act.

5. Old Business

a. WPC and work group updates

- WPC meeting

Alicea Charamut mentioned the WPC's discussion of the work of the USGS Data Collection Work Group and Chris Bellucci said DEEP is making some requested clarifications to the report. Virginia de Lima said it is not appropriate to request changes to the report of a work group and Chris explained that the change is only to maintain consistency in terminology.

- Watershed Lands Work Group

Margaret Miner said the work group's quarterly meeting was 3/8 and provided an overview of a presentation by WestCOG's Charles Vidich on zoning impacts on water resources. She also mentioned that the WPCAG's Kathy Czepiel will succeed her as co-chair.

- Source Water Protection Work Group

Denise Savageau described the group's most recent meeting and provided an overview of the group's work, including the draft white preparation that is in preparation.

- Outreach & Education Work Group

Denise Savageau mentioned DEEP's recent presentation on the ongoing work.

- Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Work Group

Alicea Charamut said the group's meeting schedule will be changed to avoid the schedule conflicts she and some others are experiencing.

b. Other old business

- Website changes

Becca Dahl said work continues.

- WUCC update

Dan Lawrence said there is no update.

- Interagency Drought Work Group

Becca Dahl said the group will meet again on April 4.

6. New Business

Alicea Charamut said documentation of 2024's legislative conveyance requests has been posted on the [Government Administration & Elections](#) (GAE) Committee webpage.

Dan Lawrence mentioned ongoing EPA and other national activity regarding PFAS contamination, highlighting the potential costs for water utilities. He suggested that an update be included on the WPCAG's next agenda. He and Alicea will discuss that.

7. Public Comment

There were no additional public comments.

8. Next Meeting Date

Upcoming meetings include (subject to change):

March 19, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
April 2, 2024	Outreach & Education Work Group (9:00)
April 2, 2024	WPC (1:30)
TBD	Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis (11:00)
April 4, 2024	Interagency Drought Work Group (1:00)
April 16, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
April 16, 2024	WPCAG (1:30)

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:38.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM