

## Water Planning Council Advisory Group

### May 21, 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/24215>

Video: <http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=23163>

#### Members Present by video or phone:

Nicoletta Blevins (alt.)	<a href="#">South Central CT Regional Water Authority</a>
Aaron Budris	<a href="#">Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments</a>
Alicea Charamut	<a href="#">Fisheries Advisory Council</a>
Kathy Czepiel	<a href="#">Save the Sound</a>
Carol Haskins	<a href="#">Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition</a>
Patrick Kearney	<a href="#">Manchester Water &amp; Sewer</a>
Sonia Marino	<a href="#">CT Association of Directors of Health</a>
Alison McHorney	<a href="#">CT Office of Consumer Counsel</a>
Darryl Newman	<a href="#">CT Nursery &amp; Landscape Assoc.</a>
Jeff Shaw	<a href="#">CT Outdoor Recreation Alliance</a>
Martha Smith (alt.)	West River Watershed Coalition
Tom Tyler	<a href="#">MDC</a>
Steve Woltornist	<a href="#">Marmon Water Residential Filtration/Water Quality Assoc.</a>

#### Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	<a href="#">CT Council on Environmental Quality</a> (CEQ)
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Cos.
Ally Ayotte	<a href="#">CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority</a> (PURA)
Ryan Carboni	<a href="#">CT Council on Environmental Quality</a> (CEQ)
Kim Czapl	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection</a> (DEEP)
Becca Dahl	<a href="#">CT Office of Policy &amp; Management</a> (OPM)
Virginia de Lima (alt.)	
Ali Hibbard	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection</a> (DEEP)
Iris Kaminski	
Fred Klein	CT Power and Energy Society
Eric Lindquist	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Public Health</a> (DPH)
Barbara Masi	
Brooke Parker	<a href="#">CT Office of Consumer Counsel</a>
Aimee Petras (alt.)	Farmington River Watershed Association
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	<a href="#">CT Office of Policy &amp; Management</a> (OPM)
Lisette Stone	<a href="#">CT Dept. of Public Health</a> (DPH)

#### Members Absent:

Bonnie Burr	<a href="#">UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources</a>
Josh Cansler	<a href="#">Southeastern CT Water Authority</a>
Sean Hayden	<a href="#">Lake Waramaug Task Force</a>
Dan Lawrence	<a href="#">Aquarion</a>
Denise Savageau	<a href="#">CT Association of Conservation Districts</a>
Vacancy	Electric Power

**Staff:**

Bruce Wittchen [CT Office of Policy & Management](#) (OPM)

**1. Call to Order**

Co-chair Alicea Charamut called the meeting to order at 1:33 and everyone introduced themselves. Alicia noted the passing of long-time WPCAG member Margaret Miner, and played a video of [Senator Murphy’s testimonial](#) to Margaret on the senate floor. Others spoke of their memories of Margaret

**2. Approval of draft 4/16/2024 Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [draft 4/16/2024 minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously, with Darryl Newman and Nicole Deziel abstaining because they had not attended the meeting.

**3. Legislative Recap**

Alicea Charamut said language that would have undermined the [CT Environmental Protection Act](#) and wetlands protections did not pass in affordable housing bill [HB 5475](#), *An Act Concerning The Development Of Housing And Challenges To Certain Decisions Of Municipal Agencies*.

Alicea noted that such language, specific transportation projects, passed in budget implementer bill [HB 5523](#) (PA 24-81), *An Act Concerning Allocations Of Federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds And Provisions Related To General Government, Human Services, Education And The Biennium Ending June 30, 2025* (beginning with Sec. 127). She said it was intended to apply only to federal American Rescue Plan Act-funded projects but was worded too broadly. There will be an attempt to correct that.

Alicea Charamut said [HB 5004](#), *An Act Concerning The Implementation Of Certain Climate Change Measures*, did not pass but there is talk of bringing it up in special session. Another bill that died was [HB 5218](#), *An Act Concerning The Establishment Of Riparian Buffers And Revision Of Certain Inland Wetlands Provisions*.

Alicea mentioned that [HB 5170](#), *An Act Concerning Training For Members And Employees Of Inland Wetlands Agencies*, did not pass. She asked about water-oriented bills that utilities were following. Nicoletta Blevins said there were not many others, but mentioned [SB 192](#) (PA 24-94), *AN ACT CONCERNING DAM SAFETY*. She can send the list of bills she followed.

**4. Old Business**

a. WPC and work group updates

- WPC meeting

Alicea Charamut said the WPC will cancel or postpone its 6/4 meeting.

- Nominating Committee

There was no update.

- USGS Data Collection Work Group
  - final [draft Report on the Evaluation of the USGS Data Collection Programs](#)

There was no update and it was noted that the group's report is linked on the agenda.

- Watershed Lands Work Group

Alicea said the group will meet 6/14.

- Source Water Protection Work Group

Alicea said the group canceled the meeting scheduled for this morning and Kim Czapla said the group expects to complete a draft by the end of the summer.

- Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Work Group

Alicea said a meeting will be scheduled.

- Outreach & Education Work Group

Iris Kaminski said the group is planning a Source Water Protection Week event in September, which could be a collaboration with the Source Water Protection Work Group or Watershed Lands Work Group. Alicea asked if the WPC's most recent annual report is available on the water website and Kim Czapla placed a [link](#) in chat.

Kim said this work group discussed a possible clean water stewardship program, in which clean water stewards would assist in implementing the state water plan. Some partners are already implementing parts of the plan but without getting credit for it. She provided further background.

b. Other old business

- Website changes

Becca Dahl described the work of DEEP and OPM staff, highlighting the goal of making information available in a consistent and accessible way. She also mentioned the upcoming website migration. Ali Hibbard said she had met with state's contractor to clean up the site and prepare for migration.

- [Water Utility Coordinating Committee](#) (WUCC) update

Lisette Stone said there is no update, but they are reworking the process and the WUCCs are meeting.

- Interagency Drought Work Group

Becca Dahl said the group did not meet this month but intends to meet in June. She described work at the staff level to prepare a tabletop exercise to test the drought plan. She added that it is intended to be an all-hands-on-deck exercise.

## 5. New Business

Alicea Charamut said Saturday is [World Fish Migration Day](#) and mentioned events planned at the Farmington River. She also recommended people provide notices of water-related activities to the WPC.

## 6. Public Comment

Carol Haskins mentioned the efforts of DPH, DEEP, and the health district in response to the discovery of trichloroethylene in some private wells in her watershed. DEEP is determining the source and she noted the area is far from the nearest public water system.

Virginia de Lima asked how to dispose of PFAS and Steve Woltornist and Tom Tyler described options for contaminated water filters and containers of Scotchgard, respectively. Alicea Charamut noted that SB 292 (PA 24-59), *An Act Concerning The Use Of Pfas In Certain Products*, passed this session.

## 7. Next Meeting Date

Upcoming meetings include (subject to change):

May 21, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
June 4, 2024	Outreach & Education Work Group (9:00)
June 4, 2024	WPC (1:30) – <i>Note: this meeting might be postponed</i>
June 6, 2024	Interagency Drought Work Group (1:00)
TBD	Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis
June 14, 2024	Watershed Lands Work Group (9:00)
June 18, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
June 18, 2024	WPCAG (1:30)

## 8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:29.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*