

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

August 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/24218>

Video: <http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=23464>

Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Bonnie Burr	UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Kathy Czepiel	Save the Sound
Nicole C. Deziel	Yale School of Public Health
Patrick Kearney	Manchester Water & Sewer
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion
Alison McHorney	CT Office of Consumer Counsel
Darryl Newman	CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.
Aimee Petras (alt.)	Farmington River Watershed 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	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Cos.
Ally Ayotte	CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)
Chris Bellucci	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Ryan Carboni	CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Kim Czapla	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Becca Dahl	CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM)
Virginia de Lima (alt.)	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Ali Hibbard	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
David Kuzminski	Portland Water & Sewer Commission

Members Absent:

Sean Hayden	Lake Waramaug Task Force
Sonia Marino	CT Association of Directors of Health
Jeff Shaw	CT Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Steve Woltornist	Marmon Water Residential Filtration/Water Quality Assoc.
Vacancy	Electric Power
Vacancy	River Protection

Staff:

Bruce Wittchen	CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM)
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1. Call to Order

Co-chair Dan Lawrence called the meeting to order at 1:35, noting that some members are busy due to the flooding in western CT and some here have responsibilities too, said it will be a quick meeting.

2. Approval of draft 7/16/2024 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [draft 7/16/2024 minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. WPC and work group updates

- WPC meeting

- WPCAG review of working groups

Alicea Charamut provided an overview of her report at this month's WPC meeting regarding the WPCAG's recommendations regarding standing & topical working groups and their reporting structure. She said her written report will be posted and Dan Lawrence said the WPC appreciated the report.

- Water Plan & Water Chief presentation to legislature and others

Due to the desire to finish today's meeting quickly, this was tabled to September.

- Watershed Lands Work Group [next *quarterly meeting is Sept. 13*]

Kathy Czepiel noted that this group's meeting will be at 9:00 on the 13th.

- Source Water Protection Work Group

Denise Savageau said the group met this morning and described the group's progress with the white paper it is preparing. A small group will finish editing it and they hope to wrap it up soon. She highlighted the group's discussion today of how the definition of "public" drinking water excludes the significant proportion of the public served by private wells. They are considering how to address this without expanding the scope of their document.

Denise also said she believes state permitting processes do not embrace source water protection and described the [DEEP General Permit for the Discharge of Dewatering and Remediation Wastewaters](#) that is currently out for public comment. She said the draft permit could authorize discharges to public supply source waters and asked if DPH and water utilities should be notified, either by permit applicants or by DEEP. Denise added that source water protection should be considered in the land use approval process.

- Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Work Group

Alicea Charamut said she will schedule a meeting in September.

- Outreach & Education Work Group

Denise Savageau provided an overview of webinars planned for September and October. She added that the group will determine a theme for 2025 webinars and also mentioned the survey regarding the water plan-related actions done by others, as discussed last month. Dave Kuzminski suggested they also consider podcasts.



Save the Dates!

The Water Planning Council continues to celebrate two significant milestones in protecting drinking water in 2024: the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the 20th Anniversary of the CT Aquifer Protection Area Regulations with two lunch and learn workshops.

September 24, 2024 - 12-1 p.m.
Source Water Protection and Emerging Contaminants

Join us during Source Water Protection Week for this important workshop that both celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and looks at the challenges ahead. The program will provide an overview of the of the SDWA and how it provides for protecting drinking water quality at the source. Our discussion will then focus on water quality challenges and two emerging contaminants that are forever chemicals: PFAS and 1,4-dioxane. Speakers will provide the most current information on these two contaminants.

October 17, 2024 - 12-1 p.m.
Imagine A Day Without Water: Flash Drought

Each year, Connecticut takes part in the national Imagine A Day Without Water Campaign and this year our program will highlight a new phenomenon, Flash Drought. Although we are all familiar with the term "flash flood", we normally think of drought as a condition that develops over time. Climate change has altered precipitation patterns and availability of water. Learn what flash drought is and its potential impacts to Connecticut.

Registration coming soon. The State Water Plan is an initiative of the Connecticut Water Planning Council (<https://portal.ct.gov/water>). This workshop is hosted by the Water Planning Council's Outreach and Education Committee.



- Nominating Committee

Committee chair Haskins is in the field today following up on the week's flooding, so there was no update.

b. Other old business

- Website changes

Ali Hibbard said DEEP and OPM staff met to work on this in July and will do so again in September.

- WUCC update

Dan Lawrence said they are seeing small requests.

- Interagency Drought Work Group

Alicea Charamut said there is no update regarding drought and posted a link to an opinion piece she had written for the CT Post:

[Opinion: After the flood, why are lawn sprinklers running?](#)

4. New Business

- Expectations for 2025 legislative session

Alicea recommended tabling this until September

- Other

5. Public Comment

Denise Savageau posted a link in the chat to emergency assistance available from the US Dept. of Agriculture’s [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) and provided an overview of the program and procedures.

There was a discussion of precipitation data collection ending at some USGS stream gages and of funding issues for USGS data collection, a topic discussed in this year’s [Report on the Evaluation of the United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) Data Collection Programs to support the recommendations of the State Water Plan.](#)

6. Next Meeting Date

Alicea Charamut read upcoming meeting dates (subject to change):

Aug. 20, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
Sept. 3, 2024	Outreach & Education Work Group (9:00)
Sept. 3, 2024	WPC (1:30)
Sept. 5, 2024	Interagency Drought Work Group (1:00)
Sept. 13, 2024	WPCAG Watershed Lands Work Group
Sept. 17, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
Sept. 17, 2024	WPCAG (1:30)
TBD	Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:07.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM