

Connecticut Water Planning Council

March 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Video:

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/250304 Water Planning Council Meeting Recording.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/250304%20Water%20Planning%20Council%20Meeting%20Recording.mp4)

Members Present:

Martin Heft (chair)	CT Office of Policy & Management
Christopher Roy	CT Dept. of Public Health
Christopher Bellucci (alternate for Graham Stevens)	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection

Other Participants:

Aaron Budris	NVCOG
Ryan Carboni	Council on Environmental Quality
Alicea Charamut (WPCAG)	Fisheries Advisory Council
Kim Czapla	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Kathy Czepiel (WPCAG)	Save the Sound
Virginia de Lima (WPCAG)	
Iris Kaminski	Yale University
Peter Kelly	
Barbara Masi	Yale University
Alison McHorney	OCC
Aimee Petras (WPCAG)	Farmington River Watershed Assoc.
Kaleigh Pitcher	PURA
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	CT Office of Policy & Management
Hannah Reichle	MetroCOG
Denise Savageau (WPCAG)	CT Association of Conservation Districts
Meghan Sloan	MetroCOG
Jeff Ulrich	Aquarion

*WPCAG – Water Planning Council Advisory Group member

Staff:

Becca Dahl	CT Office of Policy & Management
Bruce Wittchen	CT Office of Policy & Management

Call to order and Seating of Council Members

Council Chair Heft called the virtual meeting to order at 1:31, outlined meeting procedures, and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Approval of draft 2/4/2025 Minutes

A motion was made by Christopher Roy and seconded by Christopher Bellucci to approve the [2/4/2025 minutes](#), with two corrections – changing the header to February 4th, and correcting the January minutes to 1/7/25. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment on agenda items

There were no public comments.

Business

1. 2025 Work Plan

a. Review of State Water Plan Recommendations

Council Chair Heft reiterated that the Water Planning Council (WPC) instructed the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) to review the recommendations of Sec. 5.2, 5.3, and 5.5 of the [State Water Plan](#) and to incorporate the survey being developed from Outreach & Education Workgroup, at the last meeting.

Council Chair Heft called on Denise Savageau to elaborate on the survey.

Denise Savageau described the goals of the survey and the intent to identify other organizations that are aiding in implementation of the State Water Plan. She added that the target audience is state agencies and non-governmental organizations and that the Outreach and Education Workgroup

A motion was made by Chris Bellucci and seconded by Christopher Roy to approve the survey for distribution, with final approval to be made by the Chair.

2. Legislative watch list

Council Chair Heft mentioned some bills relevant to the State Water Plan:

[SB 1307](#) – *An Act Establishing a Working Group to Study and Develop Best Practices to Promote Housing Growth and Protect the State’s Water Supply*

[HB 6977](#) – *An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations Regarding Drinking Water*

[SB 1245](#) – *An Act Establishing a Resilient Connecticut Strategy*

[HB 5004](#) – *An Act Concerning the Protection of the Environment and the Development of Renewable Energy Sources and Associated Job Sectors*

3. Outreach and Education Workshop – March 25 Program

Council Chair Heft highlighted that the Outreach and Education Workgroup will be hosting an online workshop on March 25th. Denise Savageau added that the Outreach and Education Workgroup intends to issue a press release announcing the webinar series and will work with Council Chair Heft to promote this.

4. Next Meeting April 1

a. Agenda topics

Council Chair Heft requested that people requesting an agenda item or have agenda packet materials to contact OPM one week in advance.

5. Other

It was noted that Former Council Chair Jack Betkoski's retirement party will be held on March 18th at the Legislative Office Building, for those interested.

Workgroup Reports

1. Water Planning Council Advisory Group

WPCAG co-chair Alicea Charamut reviewed the topics of the last WPCAG meeting which included a discussion on the Outreach and Education Workgroup survey and next steps on evaluating the WPC Workplan. Alicea mentioned that there is a desire for more participation from agency staff members at WPCAG meeting. She also mentioned a need to discuss more about technical standards for housing development and wastewater issues.

a. Standing Work Groups

i. Nominating Committee

Carol Haskins was not present at this meeting to provide an update. Council Chair Heft thanked the nominating committee and stated that they will vote on the slate of WPCAG members at the next meeting.

ii. Outreach & Education

Denise Savageau provided the update – she stated that the Outreach and Education Workgroup met this morning. She thanked Becca Dahl for distributing the webinar announcement. Denise noted that the second webinar of the year will be planned for June 10th. Upcoming webinars will cover wildfire's impacts on water, flooding, and water quality issues in relation to drought.

Council Chair Heft noted that June WPC meeting will be on June 10th, which is a potential conflict. He asked for a list of upcoming webinars and proposed dates for Council approval.

iii. Watershed Lands

Kathy Czepiel stated the group's next quarterly meeting will be March 14th and there will be more to report at the April WPC Meeting.

b. Topical

i. Conservation Pricing Rate Recovery Analysis

Alicea Charamut noted that it was previously discussed that the WUCCs would be the right avenue for further work in this area and that the WPC should remain involved in some fashion.

Council Chair Heft recommended verifying that the WUCCs will be able to continue this effort and plan to dissolve this workgroup as applicable.

ii. Source Water Protection

Denise Savageau noted that the workgroup will not be able to meet April deadline for completion of the white paper as discussed. She will reach out to Chris Roy to discuss and get further input from DPH on this topic.

2. Interagency Drought Workgroup

Becca Dahl said CT remains in Stage 2 drought statewide and noted that the group will meet 3/6 to consider current conditions and any need for changing the current stage.

Public Comment

Alicea Charamut spoke on [SB 732](#), which intends to amend the State Water Plan to address climate change. She also spoke about sections 2 and 3 in HB 6977.

Denise Savageau spoke on [SB 732](#) and SB [1245](#), both of which include language to update the State Water Plan.

Jeff Ulrich spoke on current flooding issues occurring in Newtown and associated issues with a wellfield serving Newton and Bethel.

Iris Kaminski spoke on [SB 884](#), on limiting 1,4 dioxane in household products for water pollution prevention.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM

Minutes prepared by Becca Dahl and Bruce Wittchen, OPM