

Connecticut Water Planning Council

April 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Video:

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/250401_Water_Planning_Council_Meeting_Recording.mp4

Members Present:

Martin Heft (chair)	CT Office of Policy & Management
David Arconti	CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Christopher Roy	CT Dept. of Public Health
Graham Stevens	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection

Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	Council on Environmental Quality
Aaron Budris	NVCOG
Bonnie Burr (WPCAG)	UConn Cooperative Extension
Ryan Carboni	Council on Environmental Quality
Alicea Charamut (WPCAG)	Fisheries Advisory Council
Kim Czaplá	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Kathy Czepiel (WPCAG)	Save the Sound
Betsy Gara	CWWA
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Iris Kaminski	Yale University
Pat Kearney	New Britain Water Department
Kaleigh Pitcher	PURA
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	CT Office of Policy & Management
Hannah Reichle	MetroCOG
Denise Savageau (WPCAG)	CT Association of Conservation Districts
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 3:01, outlined meeting procedures, and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Approval of draft 3/4/2025 Minutes

A motion was made by Christopher Roy and seconded by Martin Heft to approve the [3/4/2025 minutes](#). The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment on agenda items

There were no public comments.

Business

1. 2025 Work Plan

a. Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) Appointments:

Council Chair Heft noted that the slate of appointees has been included within the Agenda packet and will be voted on.

Carol Haskins added that Sonia Marino is working on getting an alternate for the Public Health category and that there was an expressed concern about the public/private interests being balanced. WPCAG reiterated that there is a balance required via statutes.

Graham Stevens expressed thanks to Carol and the WPCAG nominating committee for their work.

- Group A appointees will be nominated for a term starting on May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2028.
- The following individuals were appointed in Group A:
 - Business & Industry—Association: Greg Sweeney, CT Association of Irrigation Professionals
 - Business & Industry—Association (alternate): Erica Fearn, CT Association of Irrigation Professionals
 - Small Water Utility: Josh Casler, SE CT Water Authority
 - Water Resources Protection: Carol Haskins, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
 - Water Resources Protection (alternate): Aimee Petras, Farmington River Watershed Association
 - Wastewater: Tom Tyler, The Metropolitan District (MDC)
 - Public Health: Sonia (Marino) Brinckwirth, Town of Guilford Health Department
 - Investor-owned Water Utility (large): Dan Lawrence, Aquarion
 - Investor-owned Water Utility (large) (alternate): Lauren Bergman, CT Water Company
 - Fisheries: Alicea Charamut, Fisheries Advisory Council

- The following individual was appointed as an alternate for Group B:
 - Municipal Water Utility (medium to large): Ray Jarema, Town of Berlin Water Control

A motion was made to accept the slate of appointees. The motion was made by Graham Stevens and seconded by David Arconti.

2. Legislative watch list

Council Chair Heft mentioned some bills relevant to the State Water Plan that have been placed on the Senate or House Calendars:

[SB 884](#) – *An Act Concerning the Maximum Allowable Concentration for 1,4-Dioxanxe in Household Cleaning and Personal Care Products and Cosmetics*

[HB 6830](#) – *An Act Concerning Training for Members and Employees of Inland Wetlands Agencies*

[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*

He noted that others may still be viable bills and have been filed but are awaiting further updates.

3. Next Meeting May 6

- a. Agenda topics:
 - Updated WPCAG Members
 - Appointment of WPCAG Co-Chairs

Workgroup Reports

1. Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG)

WPCAG co-chair Alicea Charamut provided the report from the WPCAG. Alicea welcomed Sheena McElrath as staff for the WPCAG, and thanked Bruce Wittchen for his years of service.

She further elaborated on the earlier mentioned comment regarding the balance of interests on the WPCAG, noting that the interested party is concerned with emerging contaminants and representing this interest. Alicea encouraged the individual to put together a proposal on representing this interest.

Alicea added that there was an in-depth discussion about surface sewage issues and that the WPCAG would like to hear from DEEP and DPH regarding the transfer of permitting for these systems.

Graham Stevens offered to reach out to DEEP staff to work with DPH to put together a

presentation on the updated regulations regarding surface sewage issues.

Chris Roy added that he can reach out within DPH to provide additional details and will relay message over to Environmental Health /Sewage group at DPH.

Graham Stevens brought up the emerging contaminants comment from earlier and offered to provide a 2019 report on PFAs and the three-year update on this report for reference.

a. Standing Work Groups

i. Nominating Committee

No further reports.

ii. Outreach & Education (O&E)

1. Webinar Updates: Council Chair Heft congratulated and thanked the O&E Workgroup for a successful webinar session on March 25th.

Denise Savageau noted that there were over 50 people in attendance. O&E met this morning and discussed the workshop, overall believe it went well. The next workshop is expected to be on May 29th and will focus on extreme weather, forest fire, drought, and protecting watersheds.

Denise noted that the O&E Workgroup would like to have the WPC confirm this date for the webinar and provide permission to move forward and work with Council Chair Heft to approve flyer.

The motion was made by David Arconti and seconded by Graham Stevens.

2. Draft Workplan for 2025: Denise noted that O&E would like to have the WPC look over and approve the workplan. Added two workshops for the fall.
3. Outreach Survey: Denise shared that Ali Hibbard and Kim Czapla are leading this effort and that the survey did not go out yet. Will work on one final draft and will coordinate with Council Chair Heft to get this distributed.
4. Website: Denise shared that O&E is looking at how to integrate links on resources and information sheets from other organizations (e.g., UConn, Ag. Experiment Station)

iii. Watershed Lands

Steve Vitko provided the update for the Watershed Lands Workgroup and noted that the group last met on March 14th. During this meeting the WLWG:

- Discussed the 2025 Workplan from the WPC to determine how to integrate these topics into WLWG's agendas for the next year
- Held discussion on land dispossession processes between public, private, and municipal water utilities, specifically regarding Class 3 Lands
- Legislative discussion on many of the bills mentioned previously
- WLWG is trying to have more education and public outreach from public regulators – hope to have DPH come on to discuss land classification map process that they have to discuss this
- Also discussed the Conservation & Development Policies Plan and the Green Plan.
- Next meeting will be held on June 6th.

b. Topical

i. Conservation Pricing Rate Recovery Analysis

No report at this time.

ii. Source Water Protection

Denise Savageau noted that this group has not met recently. Denise will be meeting with DPH to discuss Source Water Protection issues.

2. Interagency Drought Workgroup

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

Public Comment

No public comments

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 PM – the motion was made by Graham Stevens and seconded by David Arconti.

Minutes prepared by Becca Dahl and Bruce Wittchen, OPM