

**CT Water Planning Council – Regular Meeting
July 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Video: https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/250701_Water_Planning_Council_Meeting.mp4

Members Present:

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

Other Participants:

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| Tucker Beckett | WestCOG |
| Lauren Bergman* | CT Water Company |
| Nicoletta Blevins* | Regional Water Association |
| Bonnie Burr* | UConn Cooperative Extension |
| Josh Cansler* | SE CT Water Authority |
| Ryan Carboni | Council on Environmental Quality |
| Alicea Charamut* | Fisheries Advisory Council |
| Kim Czaplá | CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection |
| Kathy Czepiel* | Save the Sound |
| Nicole Deziel* | Yale School of Public Health |
| Olivia DiPalermo | |
| Erica Fearn* | CT Association of Irrigation Professionals |
| Betsy Gara | CWWA |
| Leonard Greene* | First Light |
| Carol Haskins* | Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition |
| Ali Hibbard | CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection |
| Ray Jarema* | Town of Berlin Water Control |
| Iris Kaminski | Yale School of Public Health |
| Pat Kearney* | New Britain Water Department |
| Nora Kliczewski | |
| Dave Kuzminski | |

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CT Water Planning Council
Office of Policy and Management
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<https://portal.ct.gov/water>

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| Eric Lindquist | CT Dept. of Public Health |
| Sonia Marino* | Town of Guilford Health Department |
| Barbara Masi | Yale School of Public Health |
| Ron McDaniel | |
| Alison McHorney* | CT Office of Consumer Counsel |
| David Murphy | Resilient Land and Water |
| Aimee Petras* | Farmington River Watershed Association |
| Justine Phillips-Gallucci | CT Office of Policy & Management |
| Denise Savageau* | CT Association of Conservation Districts |
| Megan Sloan | MetroCOG |
| Martha Smith* | West River Watershed Coalition |
| Greg Sweeney* | CT Association of Irrigation Professionals |
| Jeff Ulrich | Aquarion |
| Steve Vitko* | Regional Water Association |

**denotes representative or alternate of Water Planning Council Advisory Group*

Staff:

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

Call to order and Seating of Council Members – Chairman Heft

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

Approval of minutes – [May 6, 2025](#)

A motion was made by David Arconti and seconded by Christopher Bellucci to approve the minutes of May 6, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment on agenda items

There was no public comment.

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Business

1. Election of Chairman 2025-2026

David Arconti moved to elect Martin Heft as Chairman pursuant to section 25-33o of the CT General Statutes for the term July 1, 2025 – July 7, 2026. The motion was seconded by Christopher Bellucci. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Water Planning Council Advisory Workgroup vacancies

Council Chair Heft noted that there are no recommendations for the WPCAG vacancies at this time and no action is needed.

3. Legislative Session Wrap Up

Council Chair Heft noted the following bills:

- **PA 25-33/SB 9: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL AND STATE PLANNING, AND THE USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS AND SECOND-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES:**
 - o Has been signed into law by the Governor
 - o Section 19 – relevant to the WPC; states that the next time the State Water Plan is updated, there must be consideration of the impact of climate change.
- **PA 25-142/HB 6777: AN ACT CONCERNING WATER UTILITY SYSTEMS AND WATER QUALITY AND TREATMENT SURCHARGES.**
 - o Awaiting Governor's signature
- **PA 25-125/HB 5004 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ASSOCIATED JOB SECTORS**
 - o Awaiting Governor's signature
- **PA 25-73/HB 6957 AN ACT ALLOWING A TOWN TO DESIGNATE ITSELF A CITY, ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE REGULATION OF CORPORATE HOUSING ACQUISITIONS AND CONCERNING TRAINING FOR INLAND WETLANDS AGENCIES,**

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CERTIFICATES OF CORRECTION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY ASSESSED IN ERROR, THE SUBMISSION OF CERTAIN STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS, INCLUSIONARY ZONING, SOLAR INSTALLATIONS IN CERTAIN COMMON INTEREST OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES, THE CAPITAL REGION AND THE MILLSTONE RIDGE TAX DISTRICT.

- Awaiting Governor's signature
 - Section 2: Expands who must take DEEP's inland wetlands agency training program to include all inland wetlands agency members and related municipal employees
- **PA 25-96/HB 6978 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.**
 - Has been signed into law by the Governor
- **SA 25-12/HB 7174 AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS.**
 - Has been signed into law by the Governor
 - Establishes a working group within the legislative branch to identify where and how protection of vegetated riparian buffers in the state can be incorporated into statutes and regulations in order to improve the health of and protect the resources of the state's watercourses.
- **SA 25-11/HB 6995: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF HARTFORD COUNTY.**
 - Has been signed into law by the Governor
 - Permits any town to be member upon approval of district board.

4. Outreach and Education Fall Webinars

Council Chair Heft noted that the meeting packet includes two planning outlines from the Outreach and Education Workgroup on their upcoming fall webinars:

- a. September 30, 2025 – Floods and Impact on Water Quality
- b. October 2025 (date TBD) – Imagine a Day Without Water

Chris Bellucci added that he has received a lot of positive feedback on the webinars.

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A motion was made by David Arconti and seconded by Christopher Bellucci to approve the two Extreme Weather & Our Watershed workshops as presented and permit the Chairman to sign off on the final media documents. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Conservation Pricing Rate Recovery Analysis Workgroup Transfer to DPH Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCC)

Council Chair Heft noted the ongoing discussion between the WPC and the co-chairs of the WPCAG regarding closing this workgroup out and transitioning responsibilities over to the WUCCs. The intent is to have WPCAG coordinate with the WUCCs on this topic.

A motion was made by David Arconti and seconded by Christopher Bellucci to disband the Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Workgroup and have the WPCAG contact the DPH Water Utility Coordinating Committees on this topic. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Watershed Protection Workgroup Establishment

Council Chair Heft noted that the WPC voted to combine the Watershed Lands and Source Water Protection workgroups at the May 6th WPC meeting, upon completion of the Source Water Protection white paper. The goal is to have the new workgroup ready to meet for September, with membership from each group. The WPC will be requesting close-out reports from both groups. The Watershed Lands Workgroup sent a memo regarding some minor changes to the new Watershed Protection Workgroup description. These details will be sent out and discussed at the next WPC meeting.

a. Membership potentials

A motion was made by David Arconti and seconded by Christopher Roy to have the Nominating Committee inquire with members of the Watershed Lands and Source Water Protection workgroups as well as other interested parties and present a list of potential members for the August Council meeting.

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7. Next Meeting August 5, 2025

Council Chair Heft noted the next meeting will be on August 5th and the agenda will include the following topics:

- a. Source Water Protection Workgroup Final Report
- b. Watershed Lands Workgroup Final Report
- c. Watershed Protection Workgroup Establishment

Workgroup Reports

1. Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG)

WPCAG Co-Chair Steve Vitko provided the report and noted that the last WPCAG meeting, the group met but did not have a quorum. The State Water Plan Section 5.3 was reviewed at the last meeting. The WPCAG will go over the the final section in the “Pathways Forward” portion of Section 5 of the State Water Plan at their next meeting. The WPCAG will plan an in-person meeting for September and would like to do this two times per year.

Denise Savageau shared that the outreach survey was closed at the end of June. Ali Hibbard will be sending the results out to the Outreach and Education Committee and it will be the focus of their next meeting on August 5th.

- a. Standing:
 - i. Nominating Committee
 - Council Chair Heft noted that those who want to be a part of the Watershed Protection Workgroup should contact Carol Haskins. There were no further reports.
 - ii. Outreach and Education Workgroup
 - Denise Savageau shared that the workgroup is finalizing the details of the upcoming fall webinars previously mentioned. The workgroup will also be discussing webinar themes for 2026 at their next meeting and welcome input on themes from all attendees. The workgroup is considering non-point source pollution as a theme in tandem with the Connecticut Envirothon.

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Denise Savageau also shared that the workgroup is looking to move forward with developing state water plan stewards as a follow-up to the survey. She also noted that the group is discussing social media and their online presence.

Council Chair Heft congratulated the workgroup for a great job at their last webinar.

iii. [Watershed Lands Workgroup](#)

- Kathy Czepiel provided a recap of the last meeting and noted that Eric McPhee of DPH provided a presentation of a source water protection GIS tool. She also noted that the workgroup discussed the description of the new Source Water Protection workgroup.

b. Topical:

i. Source Water Protection Workgroup

- Denis Savageau shared that the workgroup has not met recently and that the current draft of the white paper is preliminary and needs more information on the recommendations. The workgroup will do the best they can to get this finished and over to the WPCAG in time for their next meeting.

2. [Interagency Drought Workgroup](#) (IDW)

Becca Dahl shared that the IDW last met on June 5th and removed the stage 1 drought from the entire state. The group will meet again on July 3rd at 1 pm to review conditions, which have been looking normal.

Public Comment

Kim Czaplá commented that she wanted to hear more about the potential research opportunities through partnerships. Council Chair Heft noted that this was not discussed at this meeting, but that this is a topic for the WPCAG to explore further.

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Alicea Charamut shared about a viral video that has been providing misinformation about the treatment of hydrilla in the Connecticut River. She wanted to bring attention to this and the fact that her organization (Rivers Alliance) will be issuing a statement regarding this soon.

Denise Savageau commented on HB 5004 and SB 9, highlighting the nature-based solutions component of HB 5004 and its relation to source water protection, and the resiliency measures in SB 9.

Adjourn

David Arconti made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Chris Bellucci. The motion passed unanimously.

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Minutes prepared by Becca Dahl, OPM

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