

**CT Water Planning Council – Regular Meeting
September 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Video:

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/250902_Water_Planning_Council_Meeting-September_Meeting_Recording.mp4

Members Present:

Martin Heft (chair)
David Arconti
Graham Stevens

[CT Office of Policy & Management](#)
[CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority](#)
[CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)

Other Participants:

Derek Albertson
Paul Aresta
Lauren Bergman*
Aaron Budris
Josh Cansler*
Ryan Carboni
Alicea Charamut*
Kim Czapla
Virgina de Lima
Erica Fearn*
Leonard Greene*
Carol Haskins*
Ali Hibbard
Iris Kaminski
Pat Kearney*
Dave Kuzminski
Sonia Marino*
Barbara Masi
Alison McHorney*

[Council on Environmental Quality](#)
[CT Water Company](#)
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
[SE CT Water Authority](#)
[Council on Environmental Quality](#)
[Fisheries Advisory Council](#)
[CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)

[CT Association of Irrigation Professionals](#)
[First Light](#)
[Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition](#)
[CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)
[Yale School of Public Health](#)
[New Britain Water Department](#)

[Town of Guilford Health Department](#)
[Yale School of Public Health](#)
[CT Office of Consumer Counsel](#)

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CT Water Planning Council
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue, MS #54SLP, Hartford CT 06106
<https://portal.ct.gov/water>

Maddie Myers

Brooke Parker

Mary Pelletier

Aimee Petras*

Denise Savageau*

Lisette Stone

Greg Sweeney*

Liz Tavelli

Steve Vitko*

[Farmington River Watershed Association](#)

[CT Association of Conservation Districts](#)

Department of Public Health

[CT Association of Irrigation Professionals](#)

[Regional Water Association](#)

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

Staff:

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 1:33 pm, outlined meeting procedures and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Approval of minutes – [July 1, 2025](#)

A motion was made by Graham Stevens and seconded by David Arconti to approve the minutes of July 1, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment on agenda items

There was no public comment.

Business

1. [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.

2. [Source Water Protection Workgroup Final Report](#)

Denise Savageau provided an overview and outline of the final report, highlighting

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robust participation from agency staff Kim Czapla (DEEP) and Lisette Stone (DPH) as well as considerable feedback from WPCAG members and partners.

Council Chair Heft thanked Denise and the Source Water Protection Workgroup for their efforts and for getting this report completed.

Graham Stevens thanked Denise and the workgroup, adding that the report will serve as a good reference for the WPC.

A motion was made by Graham Stevens and seconded by David Arconti to accept the final report of the Source Water Protection Workgroup and officially thank all that participated. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Watershed Lands Workgroup Final Report

Steve Vitko provided an update and overview of the Watershed Lands Workgroup final report, which highlighted the accomplishments and achievements of the Workgroup over the last year, including bringing in presenters to discuss related topics and new initiatives.

A motion was made by David Arconti and seconded by Graham Stevens to accept the final report of the Watershed Lands Workgroup and officially thank all that participated. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Watershed Protection Workgroup Establishment

Council Chair Heft noted that there were some minor edits to the description of the Watershed Protection Workgroup from its predecessor workgroups. The description of the workgroup now reads as such:

To review and determine the adequacy of current statutory and regulatory provisions to help water companies and municipalities protect public water supply lands and comparable lands that are not owned by water companies. Review and track source water and watershed land protection programs and the roles of state and federal agencies. Review sensitive public and private land use proposals that could have detrimental effects on drinking water.

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He also noted that DPH will be the administrative agency for the workgroup and that chairs are to be determined by the WPCAG. Further, that the Nominating Committee will be reaching out to members and attendees about membership/participation for this workgroup.

A motion was made by Graham Stevens and seconded by David Arconti to accept the proposed verbiage recommendations of the Watershed Protection Workgroup. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DEMHS Emergency Planning and Preparedness (EPPI) – September 9, 2025

Council Chair Heft shared that the Statewide Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) will be facilitated by DEMHS and that this year the exercise will include drought alongside wildfire danger and air quality concerns. He also shared that State Drought Coordinator, Becca Dahl is a part of the planning team for the exercise and will be participating.

Becca Dahl added that the Interagency Drought Workgroup has been looking to test the State Drought Response and Preparedness Plan for some time and the EPPI offers a great opportunity to test parts of the plan that have not yet been exercised.

6. Special Act 25-12: An Act Concerning Riparian Areas

Council Chair Heft noted that the Special Act establishes a working group 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. He noted that this working group has not yet been convened, and he will be participating on behalf of OPM and the WPC.

7. Imagine a Day Without Water. What Would You Do? – October 16, 2025

Council Chair Heft shared that the national *Imagine a Day Without Water* will be taking place on October 16th and that the WPC has become an official participant of this event. He also noted that the upcoming webinar on October 17th addressing

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drought and water quality will also be held in honor of this event.

8. Next Meeting October 7, 2025

Council Chair Heft noted that the next WPC meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7th. He added that any agenda items should be sent a week in advance of this meeting for inclusion.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

Workgroup Reports

1. Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG)

WPCAG Co-Chair Steve Vitko provided the report and noted that the last WPCAG meeting was on August 19th. He shared that the WPCAG discussed and is planning an in-person meeting for October to discuss the State Water Plan recommendations and their prioritization, following the review of Section 5 of the State Water Plan over the last three WPCAG meetings.

WPCAG Co-Chair Alicea Charamut added that this meeting will be a good opportunity for agency participation, to better understand the related programs that state agencies oversee.

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. He also recommended that the Nominating Committee look to fill the WPCAG position open under Recreation. There were no further reports.

ii. Outreach and Education Workgroup

- Denise Savageau shared that the workgroup has opened registration for the upcoming fall webinars on September 30th (Floods and Water Quality) and October 17th (Drought and Water

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Quality). The workgroup has also discussed webinar topics for 2026 at their next meeting and is considering non-point source pollution. Denise Savageau also shared that the workgroup is looking to create a program of state water plan stewards as a follow-up to the outreach survey. She also noted that the group discussed developing a WPC YouTube channel to host webinars as well as new outreach content.

Ali Hibbard shared that she has started to investigate the development of a YouTube channel, and that they should be able to offer content without ads.

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

Becca Dahl shared that the IDW last met on July 3rd and that there is currently no drought stage per the State Drought Plan. She noted that conditions are generally looking drier and that she and IDW staff are continuing to monitor drought triggers. The IDW will meet on September 4th at 1 pm to review and discuss conditions.

Public Comment

Mary Pelletier provided comments about concerns about oversalting at state and university properties and questions regarding Public Act 25-12 and WPCAG workgroup reports.

Alicea Charamut provided comment about a legislative sewage working group and a desire to learn more about permitting and regulations enforced by DEEP and DPH.

Adjourn

David Arconti made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Graham Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Minutes prepared by Becca Dahl, OPM

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