

CT Water Planning Council
Regular Meeting
December 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Video: https://ctvideo.ct.gov/OPM/251202_Water_Planning_Council-December_Meeting_Recording.mp4

Members Present:

Martin Heft (chair)

[CT Office of Policy & Management](#)

Christopher Roy

[CT Dept. of Public Health](#)

Christopher Bellucci

[CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)

Janice Beecher

[Public Utilities Regulatory Authority](#)

Other Participants:

Paul Aresta

[Council on Environmental Quality](#)

Tucker Beckett

[WestCOG](#)

Lauren Bergman*

[CT Water Company](#)

Aaron Budris*

[NVCOG](#)

Bonnie Burr*

[UConn Extension](#)

Josh Cansler*

[SE CT Water Authority](#)

Ryan Carboni

[Council on Environmental Quality](#)

Alicea Charamut*

[Fisheries Advisory Council](#)

Kim Czapla

[CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)

Kathy Czepiel*

[Save the Sound](#)

Leonard Greene

[Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition](#)

Carol Haskins*

[CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)

Ali Hibbard

[Town of Berlin Water Control](#)

Ray Jarema*

[Yale School of Public Health](#)

Iris Kaminski

[New Britain Water Department](#)

Pat Kearney*

[CT Dept. of Public Health](#)

Eric Lindquist

[Town of Guilford Health Department](#)

Sonia Marino*

[Resilient Land and Water](#)

David Murphy

[Farmington River Watershed Association](#)

Aimee Petras*

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CT Water Planning Council

Office of Policy and Management

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<https://portal.ct.gov/water>

Hannah Reichle
 Denise Savageau*
 Lisette Stone
 Greg Sweeney*
 Tom Tyler*
 Charles Vidich
 Steve Vitko*

[MetroCOG](#)
[CT Association of Conservation Districts](#)
[CT Dept. of Public Health](#)
[CT Irrigation Contractors Association](#)
[MDC](#)
[WestCOG](#)
[Regional Water Association](#)

*denotes representative or alternate of Water Planning Council Advisory Group

Staff:

Becca Dahl Bruce Wittchen	<u>CT Office of Policy & Management</u> <u>CT Office of Policy & Management</u>
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Call to order and Seating of Council Members – Chairman Martin L. Heft

Council Chair Heft called the virtual meeting to order at 1:30 PM, outlined meeting procedures, and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Approval of minutes – November 4, 2025

A motion was made by Christopher Roy and seconded by Chris Bellucci to approve the minutes of November 4, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment on agenda items

No public comment.

Business

1. [WPCAG Vacancy Appointments](#)

Council Chair Heft noted that there are no items to vote on at this time as there are not any recommendations for vacancies at this time.

2. [2025 Annual Report](#)

Council Chair Heft directed members to the draft 2025 Annual Report included in the meeting packet. He noted that there are some items that will need to be updated with hyperlinks and thanked all chairs of the workgroups for getting their respective

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sections in.

A motion was made by Chris Bellucci and seconded by Christopher Roy to approve the 2025 Annual Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Bellucci noted that the report was well done and appropriately concise.

Jan Beecher noted that she appreciated the recognition of Chairman Betkowski within the report.

Council Chair Heft noted that once the Annual Report is finalized with links, he will transmit this to the legislature and distribute copies to the Council.

3. **2026 Theme & Goals**

Council Chair Heft reviewed the proposed theme for 2026 titled “Realizing Resilient Watersheds” which will encompass topics like source water protection and nonpoint source pollution. He also reviewed the proposed 2026 Goals, which will continue with the three goals that are in progress – reviewing sections 5.2, 5.3, and 5.5 of the State Water Plan, researching opportunities for partnerships, and exploring funding for implementation and update of the State Water Plan – and work towards finalizing these efforts.

A motion was made by Jan Beecher and seconded by Christopher Roy to accept the 2026 Theme and Goals. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **2026 WPC Meeting Schedule**

Council Chair Heft noted that the proposed 2026 WPC Meeting Schedule will continue to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of the month but will shift the time to 9 am. Once approved, the WPC Meeting Schedule will be updated on the [State Agency Public Meeting Calendar](#).

A motion was made by Christopher Roy and seconded by Chris Bellucci to accept the 2026 WPC Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

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5. Legislative Committee Updates

a. SA 25-12 [Riparian Buffers Working Group](#)

Council Chair Heft provided update on this working group, noting recent presentations from DEEP and UConn CLEAR. The working group is meeting again tomorrow (12/3).

b. PA 25-97 [Working Group to Study Sewage Disposal](#)

Council Chair Heft provided update on this working group, noting that the three subgroups of the working group have been actively meeting and meetings are posted on the [CGA Calendar](#).

6. Other Business from Council members

No other business

7. Next Meeting – January 6, 2026

Council Chair Heft noted that the next WPC meeting will be January 6th at 9 am.

Workgroup Reports

1. [Water Planning Council Advisory Workgroup](#)

WPCAG Co-Chair Steve Vitko provided the update, noting that there was a miscommunication which led to the WPCAG cancelling their November meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday December 16th at 1:30 pm.

a. Standing:

i. Nominating Committee

Carol Haskins shared that the Nominating Committee has had some communication with Yale for filling academia vacancy.

ii. [Outreach and Education Workgroup](#)

Denise Savageau stated her report by thanking the WPC Council Members for approving theme. She shared that the Outreach and Education Workgroup met this morning and discussed the following:

- First 2026 Workshop: This will likely take place on World Water Day (March 22nd) and will cover non-point source pollution. The Workgroup will continue to work on coordinating and developing

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the proposed workshops and will provide more details as they are finalized.

- State Water Plan Stewards Program: The workgroup plans to focus on this program development and expect to discuss this further at their next meeting in January.
- WPC YouTube Channel: The channel is now active and all existing workshops are on the channel. Discussed developing additional content around the State Water Plan and 2026 Theme.
- Workgroup Membership: Denise noted that the workgroup would like a participant from each WPC agency. She also noted that they will be shifting their meeting times to accommodate for the 2026 WPC Meeting Schedule. The new meeting time is to be determined.
- Water Planning Council / State Water Plan Logo: The workgroup discussed designing a logo, incorporate the existing logos to aid in recognition of the State Water Plan stewards.

Council Chair Heft noted that the Workgroup may want to consider meeting the week between WPC and WPCAG to make the review of the Workgroup's proposals more efficient. He also responded that the WPC agencies will discuss adding to the Workgroup's membership. Council Chair Heft requested that the Workgroup develop a workplan and description for the State Water Plan Stewards Program.

Denise Savageau noted that the Workgroup should have the State Water Plan Stewards Program workplan for review at the WPC February meeting.

iii. [Watershed Protection Workgroup](#)

Kathy Czepiel noted that the workgroup is meeting on December 12th from 9-10:30. She also noted that she and Steve Vitko are working to get

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the agenda together, but plan to continue the discussion on action items at this next meeting.

2. [Interagency Drought Workgroup](#)

Becca Dahl reported that the Interagency Drought Workgroup last met on November 6th and decided to hold the Stage 2 Drought Advisory in Fairfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties. She noted that the Workgroup had to navigate reduced data availability from federal partners at that time. The next meeting is on Thursday, December 4th at 1 pm, where the Workgroup expects to discuss conditions and the 2024-25 Drought After Action Report.

Public Comment

Alicea Charamut provided public comments on the proposed Regional Water Authority acquisition of Aquarion. She noted concerns about water rates and the cost of infrastructure and maintenance. She also stated that she encourages more conversation among the WPC on these issues and development of consensus on what we want to see for CT's Water Suppliers.

Iris Kaminski provided public comment noting support for Alicea's comments and that the Yale School of Public Health is looking to re-propose legislation on the regulations of 1,4 dioxane in water.

Denise Savageau provided public comment noting support for Alicea's comments and encouraging more discussion on water rates and water conservation measures.

Adjourn

Christopher Roy made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Chris Bellucci. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Minutes prepared by Becca Dahl, OPM.

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