

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

May 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A tele meeting of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) was held by Zoom

Agenda: [WPCAG Agenda May 20, 2025](#)

Video: [WPCAG Mtg. Recording May 20, 2025](#)

Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Len Greene	FirstLight (Electric Power)
Patrick Kearney	New Britain Water Dept.
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion
Sonia Brinckswirth	CT Association of Directors of Health
Denise Savageau	CT Association of Conservation Districts
Martha Smith	New Haven West River Watershed Coalition
Tom Tyler	MDC
Kelsey Sudol	Lake Waramaug

Other Participants:

Jonathan Avery	Hazardville and Jewett City Water Co.s
Lauren Bergman (alt.)	CT Water Co.
Becca Dahl	CT Office of Policy & Management
Ray Jarema (alt.)	Berlin Water Dept.
Iris Kaminski	
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	CT Office of Policy & Management
Aimee Petras (alt.)	Farmington River Watershed Assoc.
Paul Aresta	CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Members Absent:

Kathy Czepiel	Save the Sound
Alison McHorney	CT Office of Consumer Counsel
Darryl Newman	CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.
Steve Woltornist	Marmon Water Residential Filtration/Water Quality Assoc.
Nicole Deziel	Yale School of Public Health
Bonnie Burr	UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Sean Hayden	Lake Waramaug Task Force
Steve Vitko	South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

Vacancies:

Recreation

Staff:

Sheena McElrath	CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority
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1. Call to Order

Co-chair Alicea Charamut began the meeting at 1:33pm with introductions of everyone on the call.

2. Approval of draft 4/15/2025 Minutes

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the [4/15/25 Meeting](#). The motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. WPC and Work Group Updates

- Per Water Planning Council decision, Steve Vitkos will be replacing Dan Lawrence as Co-Chair on the WPCAG. Alicea thanked Dan for his work as Co-Chair. Alicea stated that she was re-appointed as Co-Chair and stated that Co-Chairs will be rotating so she gave a year notice for anyone looking to step in to Alicea's role. We will welcome Steve Vitko as the new Co-Chair at the next meeting.
- Review of State Water Plan Recommendations
 - Section 5.2 Water Management Policies
 - Recommended Water Management Policies
 - a. Land Use Practices and Protection Related to Water
 - b. Water Quality and Quantity Management
 - c. Water Conservation
 - d. Consistency with Existing State Plans
 - e. Monitoring for Plan Implementation
 - f. Agricultural Practices
 - g. Obsolete Registered Water Diversions
 - h. Implementation of Minimum Stream Flow Regulations
 - i. Outreach, Education and Public Engagement
 - j. Regionalization
 - k. Class B for Non-Potable Use
 - l. Data Availability, Access and Accuracy
 - m. Coordination with Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCCs)
 - We will go over Section 5.3 Pathway Forward Opportunities next month
 - Section 5.5 Water Management Structure and Decision Framework
 - [Outreach & Education Work Group](#)
 - Extreme Weather & Watershed Webinar Series May 29, 2025 12-1pm (virtual) on Forest, Droughts, and Wildfires.
 - 2 Workshops being planned for the fall
 - 1. Floods and Impact on Water Quality tent for Sept. 30
 - 2. Imagine a Day without Water focusing on droughts and the impact droughts have on water quality. Tent. for
 - Asking all WPCAG Members to complete the Outreach Survey and send out as well. The survey is open until May 31.
 - Workgroup is always looking for members.

- Nominating Committee
 - No update
- Watershed Lands Workgroup
 - At the WPC meeting discussion was had in regard to merging the Source Water Protection White Paper Work Group together so that Watershed Lands Group can look at Source Water Protection more broadly.
 - Watershed Protection Workgroup, Standing Workgroup title needs to be adjusted.
 - Next meeting on June 6, 2025
 - Alicea will send an email to Martin Heft regarding the Watershed Lands Group giving an update in July instead of at the June 10 WPC Meeting.
 - No Report
- **Source Water Protection White Paper**
 - Denise Savageau said the white paper is on hold

b. 2025 Legislative Session

- H.B. No [6830](#) AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF INLAND WETLANDS AGENCIES. Was grouped in with a bigger bill now [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, 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. Passed the house and is now on the Senate calendar.
- H.B. No [7174](#) AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS. Working on amending the current language. Making sure the inland wetlands commissions protect the vegetated areas only.
- H.B. No. [5004](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ASSOCIATED JOB SECTORS. Amended
- SV9 amended in the Senate this past week. Still contains language to update the State Water Plan, include Climate Change and subsurface regulations.
- H.B. No. [6249](#) AN ACT LIMITING APPEALS UNDER THE CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT. Denise stated that they met with the majority leader on this bill and had a good meeting.
- H.B. No. [7172](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SEWAGE RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT. Still in appropriations. No update.
- Continuing to monitor Housing Bills.
- 1, 4 Dioxane sent to appropriations and did not pass.
- DPH recommendations concerning Drinking Water we are not sure where it is at. Please inform Alicea if you are aware.

c. Other old business

- Website changes
There was no update.
- WUCC update
There was no update.
- Interagency Drought Work Group
 - Met on May 8, 2025.
 - Next meeting is June 5, 2025.

4. New Business

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Adjourn

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.

Minutes prepared by Sheena McElrath, PURA