

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

July 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Agenda: [July 15, 2025](#)

Video: [Video](#)

Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Bonnie Burr	UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Kathy Czepiel	Save the Sound
Len Greene	FirstLight (Electric Power)
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Patrick Kearney	New Britain Water Dept.
Denise Savageau	CT Association of Conservation Districts
Kelsey Sudol (alt.)	Lake Waramaug
Tom Tyler	MDC
Steve Vitko	South Central CT Regional Water Authority

Other Participants:

Ryan Carboni	CT Council on Environmental Quality
Becca Dahl	CT Office of Policy & Management
Ali Hibbard	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Kim Czapla	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Bruce Wittchen	CT Office of Policy & Management
Ray Jarema (alt.)	Berlin Water Control Com.
Mary Pelletier	
Charles Vidich	

Members Absent:

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
Sean Hayden	Lake Waramaug Task Force
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion
Sonia Brinckswirth	CT Association of Directors of Health
Martha Smith	New Haven West River Watershed Coalition
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion Water Company

Vacancies:

Recreation

1. Call to Order:

- Co-chair Alicea Charamut began the virtual meeting at 1:35pm with introductions of everyone on the call.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes:

- 5/20/25 meeting. A motion was made by Len Green and 2nd. The motion passed with an abstention from Carol Haskins as she was not present for the meeting.
- A vote was not held on the minutes from the 6/17/25 meeting as there was not a quorum at the 6/17/25 meeting.

3. Old Business

- WPC & Work Group Updates
 - 2025 WPC Work Plan
 - Overcoming Future Challenges
 - Changes to Laws and Regulations
 - Levels of Authority form Implementation
 - Watershed and Aquifer Protection where Incentives are Lacking
 - Vulnerability and Security Issues
 - Food – Energy- Water Nexus
 - Emerging Contaminants
 - Constraints on System Expansion
 - Climate Change
 - a. Article shared by Mary Pelletier:
https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/14/technology/meta-data-center-water.html?unlocked_article_code=1.Wk8.hmv9.DPcSYfihTmX1&smid=url-share
- Outreach & Education Work Group
 - Tues. September 30, 2025, 12-1pm– Floods and Impact on Water Quality
 - Tues. October 17, 2025 – Imagine a Day Without Water- Drought & Drinking Water Quality
 - Survey is complete. In the process of getting all the information together. And will finalize at August meeting.
 - Looking into the theme for next year and looking for recommendations.
 - Looking into better utilizing YouTube.
- Nominating Committee
 - May need to look into the configuration of the nominating committee
 - Vacancy in the Recreation category.
 - Always room for alternates.
 - At the WPC meeting there was discussion of having the nominating committee help with recruitment for membership for the Watershed Protection Workgroup which would be a merger of the Source Water Protection Group and the Watershed Lands Group.
 - There is no membership, anyone interested in participating is able.
 - Kim Czaplaski asked if the membership be considered to the CT Water Source collaborative.
 - Link to Workgroup description.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SgdU8wmolIvLkomSeStJz5uZyaCNufpo/view?usp=sharing>
- Watershed Lands Workgroup

- Next meeting September 12, 2025
- Source Water Protection White Paper
 - Thank you to Denise S., Lissette Stone, Kim Czapla & Rebecca Dahl for pulling together the White Paper.
 - Reviewed the Source Water Protection White Paper developed the Comprehensive report prepared by the Source Water Protection Workgroup for the CT Water Planning Council. It evaluates the current strategic recommendations, enhances safety, sustainability and resilience of the state drinking water source.
 - Proposed this report to the Advisory Group for an informal vote. There was no objection so the report will go to the Water Planning Council for approval.
- 2025 Legislative Session
- Other old business
 - Website changes
 - Ali Hibbard is working to make sure website is accessible to all and is open to any suggestions.
 - WUCC update
 - No Update
 - Interagency Drought Work Group [IDW Homepage](#)
 - Last met July 3, 2025
 - Conditions are holding normal.
 - Next meeting Aug. 7, 2025
 - Hydrilla
 - Research and management options will be taking place.
 - Informative video: <https://youtu.be/OZ2baYSgl8Y>
 - Hydrilla management: <https://riversalliance.org/statement-on-hydrilla-management/>
 - CT River Hydrilla: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Connecticut-River-Hydrilla/>
 - Aquatic Invasive Species in CT: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/39f2d565ea304c0aa97335ad2d3c7f0d?org=CAES&views=Instructions-1>
 - Contact Alicea Charamut with any questions.

4. New Business

- None

5. Public Comment

- None

6. Adjourn

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:04pm.

Minutes prepared by Sheena McElrath, PURA