

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

August 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Aug. 19, 2025 Meeting Agenda: [Agenda](#)

Video: [Video Link](#)

Members Present by video or phone:

Sonia Brinckswirth	CT Association of Directors of Health
Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Bonnie Burr	UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Len Greene	FirstLight (Electric Power)
Patrick Kearney	New Britain Water Dept.
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion
Darryl Newman	CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.
Denise Savageau	CT Association of Conservation Districts
Martha Smith	New Haven West River Watershed Coalition
Kelsey Sudol (alt.)	Lake Waramaug
Tom Tyler	MDC
Steve Vitko	South Central CT Regional Water Authority

Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	CT Council on Environmental Quality
Lauren Bergman (alt.)	CT Water Co.
Kim Czapla	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Martin Heft	CT Office of Policy & Management
Ali Hibbard	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Ray Jarema (alt.)	Berlin Water Control Com.
Iris Kaminski	
Aimee Petras (alt.)	Farmington River Watershed Assoc.
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	CT Office of Policy & Management
Bruce Wittchen	CT Office of Policy & Management

Members Absent:

Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Kathy Czepiel	Save the Sound
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Alison McHorney	CT Office of Consumer Counsel

Vacancies:

Recreation

1. Call to Order:

- Co-chair Steve Vitko began the virtual meeting at 1:31pm with introductions of everyone on the call.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes:

- 7/15/25 meeting. A motion was made by Len Green and 2nd Pat Kearney. The motion passed with an abstention from Sonia Brinckwirth, Dan Lawrence & Darryl Newman who were not present for the meeting.

3. Old Business

- WPC & Work Group Updates
 - There was no August WPC meeting and therefore no update.
 - 2025 WPC Work Plan
 - No Update
- Outreach & Education Work Group
 - Met on August 5, 2025
 - Workshops scheduled for:
 - Sept. 30, 2025, Extreme Weather & Relationship of Water Quality.
 - Fri. Oct. 17. Impact of Droughts on Water Quality
 - Registrations will come out the week after Labor Day
 - Looking into themes for next year
 - Reach out to Denise Savageau or Kim Czapla if you are looking to be apart of the Outreach & Education Workgroup
- Nominating Committee
 - No Update
- Watershed Lands Workgroup
 - Next meeting September 12, 2025
 - Finalized the 2025 activities report to close out the workgroup
 - Looking for anyone interested in joining the new workgroup. Reach out to Steve Vitko or Kathy Czepiel.
- Source Water Protection White Paper
 - More updates to come after the WPC Sept. meeting.
- 2025 Legislative Session
 - Special Act 25-12. Act Concerning Riparian Areas.
 - CT Water Works Association is meeting Friday Aug. 22.
 - Bill 5004 Passed. Looked at Climate Change and nature-based solutions. Eric Hammerling from DEP is putting together a work group.
- Other Old business
 - None
- Website changes
 - No Changes
- WUCC update
 - WOOC's are meeting intermittently.
 - No major updates.
- Interagency Drought Work Group IDW Homepage
 - IDW did not meet this month, but agencies are monitoring the drying conditions.
 - The IDW is scheduled to meet Sept. 4, 2025.

4. New Business

- None

5. Public Comment

- Kim Czapla wanted to bring awareness to the October 16, Imagine A Day Without Water website and upcoming webinars. <https://thevalueofwater.org/imagine-resources#makeyourown>

6. Upcoming Meetings/ Webinars

- Sept. 2, 2025, State Water Plan Education & Outreach Group (9am)
- Sept. 2, 2025, WPC Meeting (1:30pm)
- Sept. 4, 2025, Interagency Drought Workgroup (1:00pm)
- Sept. 16, 2025, WPCAG (1:30)

7. Adjourn

Motion was made by Steve Vitkos and second by Len Greene & Denise Savageau to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm

Minutes prepared by Sheena McElrath, PURA