

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

March 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Agenda: [WPCAG Agenda March 25, 2025](#)

Video: https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2025-03-25_WPCAG_Video.mp4

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
Nicole Deziel	Yale School of Public Health
Len Greene	FirstLight (Electric Power)
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Sean Hayden	Lake Waramaug Task Force
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
Nicoletta Blevins (alt)	South Central CT Regional Water Authority

Other Participants:

Lauren Bergman (alt.)	CT Water Co.
Kim Czapl	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Becca Dahl	CT Office of Policy & Management
Virginia de Lima (alt.)	
Ali Hibbard	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Ray Jarema (alt.)	Berlin Water Dept.
Iris Kaminski	
Dave Kuzminski	
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	CT Office of Policy & Management
Kelsey Sudol (alt)	Lake Waramaug Task Force
Bruce Wittchen	CT Office of Policy & Management
Marcus Yancoskie	

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.

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 1:31pm. The meeting was started by introducing Sheena McElrath of PURA as new staff to the WPCAG staff. Followed by introductions of everyone on the call.

2. Approval of draft 2/18/2025 Minutes

2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the [2/18/25 Meeting](#). Len Greene abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. WPC and Work Group Updates

- WPC met on March 4 discussion of the work plan and the review of recommendations in section 5 of the State Water Plan and the outreach survey. Brief discussion of what is on the Legislative watch list.
- Nothing to report on 2025 work plan. [see pg 2 at <https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/26953>].

- Review of State Water Plan Goals

Waiting on the capacity to take up after the legislative session is more settled.

Dan Lawrence asked if we had all of the previous documents created around the goals. Alicea has them pulled together.

- [Outreach & Education Work Group](#)

Denise Savageau started with an update on their 1st webinar they recently had on Extreme Weather and the impacts on watersheds which is their theme for this year.

Presented Outreach and Education Committee's Work Plan for 2025 that has been drafted for the WPC.

October is Imagine a Day without Water.

Exploring Linktree for website.

Putting out a press release about 1st workshop after approval from WPC.

Putting together a 1-page Infographics engaging our legislators about the work that they do.

Continuing to update website and logo into materials.

Putting together feedback from survey to get approval from WPC and then will be launched.

State Water plans stewards' program will follow the survey.

Outreach & jobs exploring the job pipeline for water resources. Dave Kuzminski

offered his podcast as an option to work together.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEb-Uo8z498aAb3s5FCSH4ZlGGHgpxxnq>

Committee continues to meet the 1st Tues 9-10am. Ali Hibbard is the DEEP liaison.

Always looking for new members. Looking for someone from each WPC agency to be represented.

- Nominating Committee

Carol Haskins shared the nominations slate and bio's

blob:<https://outlook.office365.com/65747dec-d9a8-421c-b5c7-0334a13ab26b>

There is an update to the slate, Greg Sweeney will be the representative and Erica Fearn will be the alternate.

Sonia Marino's name is being updated as well as her email to Sonia Brinckwirth
brincks@guilfordct.gov

Motion was made by Dan Lawrence to accept the slate and 2nd by Aaron Budris.
Motion was passed unanimously to send to the WPC.

- Watershed Lands Workgroup

Will wait until next meeting for update. They met on March 14, 2025

- Source Water Protection White Paper

Looking to connect with Chris, Roy, DPH through the WPC. On hold until they meet.

b. 2025 legislative session

Iris Kaminski, 1, 4-Dioxane asking for committees to support the bill.

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=884 Alicea asked if Iris was pleased with substitute language that came out. Iris was not familiar and will look into it.

Alicea touched base on the following bills.

- SB9 (SB 9 also includes section 21 on the State Water Plan)

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/TOB/S/PDF/2025SB-00009-R01-SB.PDF>

- HB 7174- Buffer Bill

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=7174

- HB 6777

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB06777&which_year=2025

c. Other old business

- Website changes

There was no update

- WUCC update

Dan Lawrence looking into what data will be included in the WUCC update that will be forthcoming.

- Interagency Drought Work Group

Becca Dahl stated that the group met March 6 and the state remains in Stage 2 drought. IDW will meet again April 3 at 1pm.

4. New Business

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Upcoming Meetings

Alicea Charamut noted the upcoming meeting dates

- April 1, 2025 Education & Outreach Work Group (9:00)
- April 1, 2025 WPC (1:30)
- April 3, 2025 Interagency Drought Work Group (1:00)
- April 15, 2025 Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
- April 15, 2025 WPCAG (1:30)
- May 20, 2025 WPCAG (1:30)

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Dan Lawrence, 2nd by Denise Savageau. Meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.

Minutes prepared by Sheena McElrath, PURA