

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Agenda: <https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/XXXXXX>

Video: https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2024-01-16_WPCAG_Video.mp4

Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Kathy Czepiel	Save the Sound
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Association
Patrick Kearney	Manchester Water & Sewer
Fred Klein	CT Power and Energy Society
David Knauf	CT Association of Directors of Health
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion
Margaret Miner	Rivers Alliance
Darryl Newman	CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.
Brooke Parker (alt)	CT Office of Consumer Counsel
Kelsey Sudol (alt)	Lake Waramaug Task Force
Tom Tyler	MDC
Steve Vitko	South Central CT Regional Water Authority

Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Cos.
Jack Betkoski	CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)
Kim Czapl	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Becca Dahl	CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM)
Virginia de Lima	
Rich Hanratty	CT Water Co.
Ali Hibbard	CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
David Kuzminski (alt)	Town of Portland
Justine Phillips-Gallucci	CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM)
Chris Smith	
Ethan Werstler	

Members Absent:

Bonnie Burr	UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Jon Morrison	USGS CT Water Science Center
Denise Savageau	CT Association of Conservation Districts
New Member	
New Member	

Staff:

Bruce Wittchen	CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM)
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1. Call to Order

Co-chair Alicea Charamut called the meeting to order at 1:33 and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Approval of draft 12/19/2023 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft [12/19/2023](#) minutes and the motion was approved unanimously, with Fred Klein abstaining because he did not attend.

3. Discussion: Future of WPCAG & IWG

A motion was made and seconded to approve the procedural document as updated by the Implementation Work Group. Darryl Newman complimented the IWG for the changes and Virginia de Lima thanked WPCAG members who suggested the document be simplified. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was a discussion of the next step, in which Virginia will send the corrected version and a version showing all recent changes to the WPC. Alicea Charamut said she, Dan Lawrence, and Virginia de Lima will look at options for moving IWG members who are interested into the WPCAG. There was further discussion of the process and of the timing.

4. Old Business

a. WPCAG Work Groups

- Outreach & Education Work Group

Denise Savageau provided an overview of the group's recent meeting and said they reviewed the plan of work and are planning ground water and drinking water focused webinars for 2024. She also mentioned a private well fact sheet and a flash drought presentation they are planning.

Kelsey Sudol showed the flyer that the group is preparing for the planned presentation on state Aquifer Protection Area regulations. Denise mentioned state water website improvements and Ali Hibbard showed a [new page](#) created for that group and said similar pages would be created for other water work groups. There was further discussion of the website and of how webinars are made available for later viewing.

- Source Water Protection Work Group

Denise Savageau said the group will meet Jan. 30, although that date may change, and mentioned the group's work on its draft white paper, which will be circulated when ready.

- Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Work Group

Alicea said the group is meeting later this week.

b. Other updates

- WUCC update

Dan Lawrence said the [Water Utility Coordinating Committees](#) (WUCCs) are meeting quarterly or semi-annually and he believes the Western WUCC will meet tomorrow for elections. Jonathan Avery said the Eastern WUCC recently deferred a meeting.

- Interagency Drought Work Group

Becca Dahl said the group met earlier this month and there are no concerns regarding drought. She said some agency staff met with staff of MA agencies involved with their drought group and mentioned some things MA does differently.

- Watershed Lands Work Group

Margaret Miner said the group is interested in the [Watershed Assessment Tool](#) available from [UConn-CLEAR](#). Denise Savageau provided an overview of the tool and Rich Hanratty noted the group's next meeting will be March 8.

5. New Business

Alicea Charamut mentioned DEEP's upcoming presentation on [integrated water planning](#). There was a discussion of it not covering drinking water because DPH, not DEEP, is primarily responsible for oversight of drinking water. There was a discussion of the overlap between different water issues. Alicea mentioned that the [CT Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) (CEEJAC) has a water subcommittee that recently met.

6. Public Comment

There were no additional public comments.

7. Next Meeting Date

Upcoming meetings include (subject to change):

Jan. 18, 2024	Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis (11:00)
Jan. 30, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
Feb. 6, 2024	Outreach & Education Work Group (9:00)
Feb. 6, 2024	WPC (1:30)
Feb. 8, 2024	Interagency Drought Work Group (1:00)
Feb. 13, 2024	IWG (1:00)
Feb. 20, 2024	Source Water Protection Work Group (9:00)
Feb. 20, 2024	WPCAG (1:30)

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:18.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM