City of Derby Inland Wetlands Agency Regular Meeting
Minutes
Monday, January 14, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting of the City of Derby Inland Wetlands Agency was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call: Present were Paul Denise, Paul Padilla, and Jennifer Desroches. *Ray Bowers* was absent. It was noted that a quorum of three members was present.

3. Public Portion: The Chair opened the public portion of the meeting and asked whether anyone present in person or attending by Zoom wished to speak.

Karen Kemmesies, 25 John Street, addressed the Agency regarding inland wetlands monitoring and enforcement within the City. She noted several environmental areas of concern, including drainage basins that may not have been inspected in years, agreements related to the transfer station, annual testing of wells, and water testing at Witek Park. Ms. Kemmesies expressed appreciation that the Agency continues to monitor inland wetlands violations and encouraged continued oversight in 2026.
The Chair responded that if Ms. Kemmesies had specific reports or areas of concern, she wished the Agency to review, she should notify the Agency by email or at a future meeting. Ms. Kemmesies stated that water quality at Witek Park remained a concern due to the number of residents in the area who rely on well water. It was noted that, at the time of approval, annual water testing had been agreed upon. The Chair stated that he would look into the matter.

4. Election of Officers: The Chair stated that, pursuant to Section 7.1 of the Inland Wetlands Agency Bylaws, January is the Agency's organizational meeting and officers must be elected. The offices to be elected were Chair and Secretary. The Chair explained that the Chair presides over meetings and functions as head of the Agency, while the Secretary serves in a supporting role and assumes the duties of the Chair when necessary.

Election of Chair: A nomination was made by Paul Padilla to elect Paul Denise to serve as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Jennifer Desroches. Paul Denise accepted the nomination. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Election of Secretary: A nomination was made for Jennifer Desroches to serve as Secretary by Paul Denise The nomination was seconded by Paul Padilla. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Update on Inland Wetlands Violations: The Agency discussed a reported inland wetlands violation off Krakow Street involving the placement of fill material within what was believed to be wetland boundaries. Kevin reported that the matter began in October after he received notice from former Mayor Zeke and Dave Kubjanski regarding filling activity at the end of Krakow Street near the former kennel property. Kevin visited the site, took

photographs, and observed material placed within the wetland area. The owner and/or contractor was advised that the activity needed to stop and that contact with the Agency was required.

Kevin White - further reported that he later received notice in early December that additional material had been placed in the wetlands. He revisited the property, took additional photographs, and a letter was sent to the company listed as the property owner of record in Norwalk. The letter advised the owner that fill had been placed in wetlands and that the owner needed to contact the Agency and appear before the Board. Kevin stated that no response had been received.

The Chair stated that, based on his reading of the regulations, the letter may need to be reissued because the enforcement process requires that the property owner be provided an opportunity to appear before the Agency at a hearing within ten days of the issuance of the order. It was also noted that the prior letter contained an error regarding the property address.

Attorney Brian Lima joined the meeting by Zoom and advised that the Connecticut General Statutes provide that the property owner should have the opportunity to present evidence and show cause why the order should not remain in effect. Attorney Lima agreed that the order should be reissued at a time when the Agency is able to hold a hearing within the required ten-day period.

The Chair stated that the Agency's next meeting would be held on the second Wednesday in February and that the letter should be issued within the required timeframe so that the hearing may be held at that meeting. Attorney Lima advised that the order should be issued with sufficient time to ensure the hearing falls within the statutory period and stated that he would further review whether any advertising requirements apply to the hearing.

Kevin stated that he had located a business card for an individual associated with the matter and would reach out to make contact and advise that the matter is expected to be addressed at the February meeting.

Agency Vacancies and Training: The Chair stated that he would again contact the Mayor's Office regarding vacancies on the Agency. Members discussed the need for one additional regular member and two alternates. Members also discussed the availability of inland wetlands training, including an online course, and requested that the training information be sent to members.

Payment of Bills: The Agency noted that no bills had been submitted for payment.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Padilla and seconded Jennifer Desroches. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Desroches