
Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) Financing Adaptation and Resilience MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 24, 2020

Meeting Time:

8:15am-9:15am

Meeting Location:

ZOOM recording

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Rebecca French, Co Chair	Director of the Office of Climate Planning	CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection	x
Andrew Mais, Co-Chair	Commissioner	CT Insurance Department	x
Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum, Co-Chair	Commissioner	CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development	x
Bryan Garcia, Co-Chair	President and CEO	CT Green Bank	x
Joseph MacDougald	Executive Director	UConn Law School Center for Energy and Environment	x
Claire Coleman	Undersecretary for Legal Affairs	CT Office of Policy and Management	x
James O'Donnell	Executive Director	CT Institute for Resilience and	x
Patrick Brown	Assistant Vice President and Chief Technology Architect	The Hartford	x
David Sutherland	Director of Government Relations	The Nature Conservancy	x
Curt Johnson	President	Save the Sound	

Kathy Dorgan	Principal	Dorgan Architecture & Planning	x
Wayne Cobleigh	Vice President	GZA	x
Dean Audet	Senior Water Resources Engineer	Fuss & O'Neill	x
Robert LaFrance	Policy Director	Audubon CT	x
Adrienne Farrar Houël	President and CEO	Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises	x
Jennifer O'Brien	Program Director	Community Foundation for Eastern CT	
James Albis	Senior Advisor to Commissioner Katie Dykes	DEEP	x
George Bradner	Director, Property and Casualty filings	CT Insurance Department	x
John Truscinski	Director of Resilience Planning	CT Institute for Resilience and Climate	x

Associated Staff & GC3 WG Members	Title	Organization	Present
Brian Basso	GC3 Intern	DEEP	x
Max Cover	Intern	Save the Sound	x
Amy Patterson	Executive Director	Ct Land Conservation Council	x
Louanne Cooley	student	Uconn School of Law	x
Huan Ngo			x
Members of the Public			
Juliemar Ortiz	Connecticut Community & Government Liaison	Vineyard Wind	x
Jonathan Lee	City of New Haven	Yale University	x
Tyler Anderson			x

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements - *Rebecca French*

Agenda Item(s)

- Wayne Cobleigh goes over existing Financing Table
- Alexandra Daum presents on DECD findings regarding new and emerging finance sources
- Go over insurance issues
- Review economic development programs

Recording: https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/play/vZJ5I-iorG43GtTHswSDVP8qW9W4fa2sh3BP-6ZYxE61UHhRMwGlZrpDNLRPTo_olk0cFiO6wkrfNmrY

Wayne Cobleigh

- Goes over updates to the existing financing table and social impact investors under public health and safety and environmental impact bonds to private sources. Adds environmental impacts bonds
- Sets August 7 as deadline to finish the table inventorying funding sources both public and private
- Goes over key screening factors. The goal of the screening factors is for those looking for funding to have a quick way to screen them for their needs.
 - Goes of BRIC program through FEMA and how it can be incorporated into CT finance screening factors
 - What are the community lifelines BRIC identifies?
 - Community Planning and Capacity building Recovery
 - Health and social service Recovery
 - Economic Recovery
 - Housing Recovery
 - Infrastructure Systems Recovery
 - Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery
 - Identifies nature-based solutions under safety of community (ie. Wetlands habitat to reduce storm surge)
 - Identifies how people can access their money
 - Identifies primary and secondary community benefits of each lifeline
 - Key screening factors for financing mechanisms
 - Name of the source
 - Match percentage
 - Funding range/term period/dedicated or discretionary funding
 - Projects completed in CT/administered by CT
 - Pre or Post Disaster Mitigation Adaptation and Resilience
 - Work Phase
 - Cost/Benefit Analysis
 - Fairness to players
 - Equity Impact/Community Lifelines impact
- Discusses how to write up each funding mechanism through an executive summary of each
- Discusses the equity lens (framework: positive, negative, or neutral to equity)

- Discusses the new priority lens that FEMA is using for grant funding and how the group will apply the equity lens to CT specific recovery support functions
- Rebecca French – It's good to stay high level for the purposes of this report

Robert La France

- Sent out to the working groups a request for feedback on the financing equity lens and the possible funding sources the working groups imagine their recommendations would need to pull from.
- Started an analysis table for new and emerging funding sources similar to the table for the key screening factors
- Forests sub-group has provided an example of how they are looking at financing
 - Dealt with existing programs and took a deeper dive into them (ie. Community sources funding)
 - Brought up the idea of a compensatory mitigation fund
 - Addresses how current use can pay for the impacts of climate change?
 - Has a comparison of per capita funding by state in the Northeast
 - Has a good structure breaking down funding mechanisms
 - Title
 - Description
 - Source of funding
 - Action requires
 - Notes
 - *Rebecca French* – we may need to limit the amount we include in the report so that we can include all the content on our condensed timeline
- Need to think about how we realign the grant programs that we have to make more room under a bond cap to make available money for other issues.
- Also need to think about how to keep legislatively delegated funds for climate policy within the realm of policy and prevent it from being swept up to pay for other state government priorities

George Brander

- Insurance rates are going up in response partly to the risk associated with land usage and building practices. We need to think of how to promote climate mitigating land usage and building practices which can lead to lowering of insurance rates.

Rebecca French

- We need to get everyone's ideas in this week in order to have enough time to write up the report
- For those with more thoughts concerning insurance, keep report 1-2 pages at the discussion level. If it seems there is a recommendation coming out of this section we can move it over.
- How to engage DECD in this process?
 - Likely a lot of opportunity for DECD to incorporate resiliency into their loan and grant programs

Alexandra Daum

- Not a lot of programs in DECD dedicated to the environment so there is room to grow in this area as a new and emerging funding source
- Businesses are currently not coming to DECD with climate concerns as they relate to their costs
- Currently actively working with Vineyard wind on how they will allocate funds for community development and job growth. Currently no actual commitments. We should possibly start enforcing a standard for what money and what programs they need to fund

Rebecca French

- Goes over how to incorporate recommendations into the Table format and how to narrow down what goes into the table/templates.
- By August 3 have the thumbnail list of the recommendations and then from that list include several mechanisms that are included in the tables. This will ensure the report is not overly long.
- Discusses the difficulties of narrowing down which recommendations to include and focus on and proposes keeping initial recommendations to 10
- Once complete will circulate the draft to the EEJ and Science & Tech working groups. They will provide comments and this can inform which recommendations this group looks at more in depth.

Jim O'Donnell

- We should prioritize winning federal funds
 - Living Shorelines Bill currently being voted on and that includes \$50 million
 - These funds need to be highlighted because they often include a lot of money and we need to go after all the funding sources available to us
- *Robert LaFrance* – We may need a specific task force to track federal funding because of how important these funds are.
- *Adrienne Houel* seconds and adds the need to include accessing multiple funding sources as part of the structure of some of the mechanisms for finding funding for different projects

Meeting Notes

- 08:32:34 From Bryan, Green Bank : So good Wayne - well done!
- 08:34:04 From Bryan, Green Bank : Wayne, maybe one more classification - grant or financing. Is the money free, or does it have to be paid back.
- 08:38:50 From ColemanCl : I agree with BG's comment.
- 08:40:05 From Wayne Cobleigh : I will add grant(G), loan (L),
- 08:42:06 From ColemanCl : awesome, thanks
- 08:46:28 From Amy Paterson : I can get that for you during the call.
- 08:51:17 From Bryan, Green Bank : Great work gang! I have to run to Green Bank board meeting. Have a great weekend.
- 08:55:26 From Adrienne Houel : In terms of state resources, we could adapt the Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credit so that corporations could be encouraged to contribute to specific local programs. The cap for programs is currently at \$150K. Currently businesses can receive 100% credit in the case of certain energy conservation programs.
- 09:02:40 From Wayne Cobleigh : Perhaps Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credit can be expanded for climate adaptation and resilience of privately owned community lifelines
- 09:05:03 From Amy Paterson : Graph on funding came from Spencer Meyer's presentation to the Forest Sub-Group on May 7. To answer Rebecca's question, timeframe is 2004-2014 Citation: Wildlands and Woodlands, "Public Conservation Funding in New England: Recent Trends in Government Spending on Land Conservation."
- 09:27:01 From John Truscinski : How many thumbnail recommendations do we have so far? Do we have a count?
- 09:27:57 From PB80310 : sorry, I need to drop for another meeting. thank you!
- 09:29:42 From Joe MacDougald : <https://www.murphy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/murphy-harris-applaud-passage-of-living-shorelines-act-in-committee>
- 09:29:45 From Wayne Cobleigh : I think equity lens and fairness of payer rank should be in thubnail template

