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

Meeting Date: August 3, 2020

**Meeting Time: 4:15 -
5:45pm**

Meeting Recording:

https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/play/78J8JOD5qzI3TofHuQSDC_8sW467Jv-s13VK86IFmRmzAiZWMAenb7URZ-tgDXQ5dpQTg2MkKTJVsGeq

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	
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	
Claire Coleman	Undersecretary for Legal Affairs	CT Office of Policy and Management	x
James O'Donnell	Executive Director	CT Institute for Resilience and	
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	x

Kathy Dorgan	Principal	Dorgan Architecture & Planning	
Wayne Cobleigh	Vice President	GZA	x
Dean Audet	Senior Water Resources Engineer	Fuss & O'Neill	
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
Nick Zuba		CT Green Bank	
Eric Hammerling (Working & Natural Lands WG member)	Executive Director	CT Forest and Park Association	
Max Cover	Intern	Save the Sound	x
Amy Patterson	Executive Director	Ct Land Conservation Council	
Louanne Cooley	student	Uconn School of Law	
Huan Ngo			
Members of the Public			
Juliemar Ortiz	Connecticut Community & Government Liaison	Vineyard Wind	
Jonathan Lee	City of New Haven	Yale University	
Diane Hoffman			x

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements - *Rebecca French*

Agenda Item(s)

1. Work Group Report Progress - Facilitated by Co-Chairs and Work Group Members

- Draft report sections to be presented:
 - Work Group Findings (section titles tentative):
 - Need for Financing
 - Climate and the Financial World
 - Barriers to Financing
 - Insurance and Climate
 - Working with Foundations
 - Existing Financing
 - New/Emerging Financing
 - Equity Lens
 - Recommendations

2. Public Comment

Rebecca French – discusses diving into the funding sources that adjacent states are using to finance adaptation and resilience projects, as well as exploring how much money the GC3 will actually need to implement the recommendations of all the working groups

Wayne Cobleigh, George Bradner – discuss inclusion of including the insurance liability of extreme weather events for CT

George Bradner – discusses the importance of the ability of communities to purchase flood insurance for themselves not through FEMA

Alexandra Daum, John Truscinski – review problems associated with flood risk

- flood risk is inadequately priced into a market devoid of adequate regulation?
 - Flood risk turning up in the mortgage market
- Companies should be required to disclose their risk to climate change effects (ie. Flood, storm risk)
 - Emissions are currently not disclosed, which if they were would affect a company's transparency on the market
- Bond rating agencies are starting to require municipalities to disclose their liability to climate risk (ie. if a municipality has a large amount of high value residential homes along the coast, they are now starting to be required to disclose this) As a result CT

must show that it is adequately handling the risk in order to achieve favorable bond ratings

George Bradner – Discusses the insurance implications of climate change

- There is a critical underinsurance problems in the US that will not foreseeably change
- Need to develop the abilities of municipalities to help insure their homeowners, if property owners forgo flood insurance those costs are passed on to the rest of the state
- Need for a tool that allows a homeowner to see the climate and weather liability of a property they are looking to invest in prior to purchase
- *Wayne Cobleigh* – can we get the total amount of property and casualty insurance liability so that if we were going to propose a fee we would know what amount we would need to charge to cover the losses
- Additional equity need to think of how to support people who can't afford certain types of insurance such as flood insurance

Wayne Cobleigh – presents on existing funding sources

- Discusses how to layout this section to keep it concise
- Includes review of federal, state, and private funding programs
 - These will be differentiated by their respective category in a table
 - Then the equity lens can be applied to each in the different categories using a “positive, negative, neutral” criterion
- Explains difference between equity impact and community lifelines impact
 - Equity impact is the impacts on a community of a funding source looked at through the equity lens criteria. The community lifelines impact are the funding sources impact to improve or hinder these services. Moreover, the community lifelines are what FEMA uses when deciding how they will allocate some of their funds.
 - Both are social criteria but you could have a funding source with a positive impact on equity and a negative impact on community lifelines
 - *Bryan Garcia* – emphasizes this section is a work in progress still

Curt Johnson – Presents new and emerging funding sources updates

- 3 focus areas
 - what are the objectives of the working groups and is there a funding component associated with their objectives
 - nature-based solutions and recommendations specific to those
 - funding options that may be unknown to the working groups
- Some of the working and natural lands groups have contributed ideas here and these will be integrated into a spreadsheet similar to the one in existing funding sources

Bryan Garcia – presents on equity lens

- Hope to have a draft by the end of the week
- Hope to tie the background part of this section to EJ's section
- How do the funding and financing mechanisms chosen support equity
- Goal is that the lens would attach some type of equity score to the funding mechanisms and then narrow that down to a page that ranks the funding

- Overarching goal is to have conversations in the community about the funding sources they would like to see be utilized and sought after

Rebecca French – reviews funding mechanism rankings

- Based on the chart of financing mechanisms that were reviewed, the voting showed which mechanisms were in the top 3-5 under each strategy. All other mechanisms will receive a shorter description, but the top 5 will get a fuller analysis
- Strategy 1: top 4
 - State and Federal Funded Projects Should Meet Climate Adaptation and Resilience Standards.
 - Provide Technical Assistance to Municipalities to Compete for Federal Funds for Resilience.
 - Create a Matching Funds Program for Federal Grants.
 - Require the disclosure of climate risks at the state and municipal level.
- Strategy 2: top 5
 - Establish a fee to provide revenue sources for the establishment of resilience and adaptation funds
 - Increase funding for Community Investment Act (CIA).
 - Create guidance to use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts for Resilience.
 - Accelerate the creation of stormwater utilities to strengthen resilient stormwater infrastructure investments.
 - Put a price on carbon.
- Strategy 2 fees: top 3
 - Municipal Conveyance Fee
 - Flush tax
 - Establish a Sewer Use fee
- Strategy 3: top 3
 - State Bond Funding for Resilience and Adaptation Programs and Projects
 - Create a Resilient Infrastructure Bank
 - Implement the 10% of the State Revolving Loan Funds that can be used to finance green infrastructure project
- This is not an exhaustive list, but a start to move forward on
- Public and private foundations not included because its not something the Governor would necessarily have to pass legislation on to seek.
- *Claire Coleman* – what would the start up costs be for a climate resilience infrastructure bank?
 - *Rebecca French* – the recommendations will be more high level and less detailed, but for anything to be formed into legislation their will be a lot more planning involved, outside of the scope of this current task.

Group discusses how to shorten the length of the report to allow adequate time to meet the August 12th deadline. Some ideas proposed

- Combine recommendations or categories – a task force will require individuals from multiple organizations from across the state
- Use thumbnails for the recommendations that are not elaborated on in detail and the matrix on those that are getting more detail

- May be to premature to exclude some financing mechanisms until having a longer conversation with the other working groups to see what they want/need for their recommendations to move forward
- Send to the working groups first to inform which recommendations get more detail
- The report is an ongoing process so even with the August 12th initial deadline, more work will continue to be put into the reports after. August 12th isn't the end of the report.

Public Comment

Diane Hoffman- states the meeting was very valuable and expressed a desire for here municipal leaders to join the conversation