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**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)  
FINANCING AND FUNDING ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE  
WORKING GROUP  
MEETING NOTES**

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**Meeting Date: 10/28/2020**

**Meeting Time: 2-3pm**

**Meeting Location: ZOOM Recording**

[https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/play/FkqL5jZ1jaQ0IZ9BK2P5IbsG9dtrxKgwER\\_JCEZ556OFRzbM8hl\\_uwEL7R11dHVbajajxOAVEloqIrrZ.oWUnKWKcpCJFM9sV](https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/play/FkqL5jZ1jaQ0IZ9BK2P5IbsG9dtrxKgwER_JCEZ556OFRzbM8hl_uwEL7R11dHVbajajxOAVEloqIrrZ.oWUnKWKcpCJFM9sV)

## **ATTENDEES**

Rebecca French  
Bryan Garcia  
Alanis Allen  
Curt Johnson  
Lynn Towill  
Robert LaFrance  
Claire Coleman  
David Sutherland  
Paul Hearn  
Tyler Anderson  
Adrienne Houel  
Dean Audet  
Alexandra Daum  
Max Cover  
Mary-beth Hart  
Jennifer O'Brien  
James O'Donnell  
Alexandra Daum  
Wayne Cobleigh  
Joseph MacDougald  
Lynn Towill  
Patrick Brown  
Kathleen Dorgan  
Tanya Dwyer  
Randall anway  
Huan Ngo

## **AGENDA & NOTES**

Rebecca French: We have not posted all of the written comments online publicly, but it will be coming soon. There was a significant volume of comments. We will be going through the document of compiled comments.

Bryan Garcia: Notes we should address the 2019 Public Act No. 19-77: "An Act Authorizing Municipal Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Funds" in the report and possibly talking to the treasurer's office about this statute. The comment recommends that the treasure act as a fiduciary in managing the funds for towns.

Wayne Cobleigh: Does this act need enabling legislation?

Claire Coleman: Has mentioned it to the state treasurer's office and they wondered if the fund would be a short term or a long-term investment.

Wayne Cobleigh: It may be both a long-term and short-term investment.

Adrienne Houel: Notes that manpower is needed within municipalities to manage the funds and would need vision on what short term and long-term funding is available.

Wayne Cobleigh: Notes it as a good idea if the state can take on some of the responsibility

Wayne Cobleigh: Borrowing ideas from STIF fund for resiliency fund may be a good idea

Bryan Garcia: Proposing meeting with Mr. Finch about comment for details and later down the line talking to the State Treasurer. Joseph and Robert would also join meeting.

Wayne Cobleigh: Notes being more upfront about funding EJ

Kathleen Dorgan: Notes moving financing/funding specifics for EEJ into main report/Executive Summary

Adrienne Houel: Make sure there is a budget for outreach in the Appendix

Curt Johnson: There are already tax incentives to leave forest lands as forest. And has worked for private owners of forest lands.

James O'Donnell: Advises to refer to these incentives as subsidies for forests/ trees as carbon sequestration

Kathleen: These subsidies/incentives for carbon sequestration are missing as a primary strategy and should be a specific finance recommendation

Wayne Cobleigh: Notes that we could add funding mechanisms that already exist to in the table of recommendations

Robert LaFrance: 490 Program Assessor (Change from forest lands to other land uses)

490 Program: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/rpt/2017-R-0160.htm>

David Sutherland: Questions the recommendation of attaching a fee to homeowners removing a tree from their property.

Wayne Cobleigh: City of Hartford asked if we planned to recommend state invest in planting more trees

Robert LaFrance: Comments on the funding of the CT Conservation Corps and the success of the program.

Rebecca French: Notes that we should differentiate between what people want us to fund vs. different funding options. We were asked to tell the governor how to fund strategies.

Rebecca French: Notes the 40% set aside for LMI communities advocated for by Connecticut Citizens Action Group (CCAG). Other states such as NY and CA have implemented it.

Wayne Cobleigh: Suggests basing CT's percentage of funding set aside for vulnerable communities as a minimum percentage base on the population living in distressed areas.

Bryan Garcia: Notes the vulnerable communities definition from bill recently passed in the fall special session that Rebecca worked on should be the foundation to this response.

Suggest there should be a minimum of 40% of fund investment going into vulnerable communities using the aforementioned definition.

Rebecca French: Suggests this issue should be elevated to the council for further discussion. Also has question about the percentage often being related to mitigation funding as well,

Curt Johnson: Notes new programs only may not be sufficient and should apply set-aside to existing programs.

Kathleen Dorgan: Notes looking at existing and federal grants for additional funding

**New Recommendation:** No less than 40% of resilience and adaptation spending (i.e. funding and financing) be invested in vulnerable communities.

Patrick Brown: Notes the insurance investing in fossil fuels issue is not related to financing and funding.

Alexandra Daum: Notes prioritizing/ rating ideas and comment for discussion then talk about the top comments

Kathleen Dorgan: Notes dividing comments and proposing a response among groups and putting comments in baskets

Curt Johnson: Suggests quantifying comments of different themes.

Rebecca French: Notes that it is not required to respond to every comment. However, for the council we do need to make note of changes between draft and final version at a high level.

Rebecca French: Suggests another meeting at 4pm on Monday

Rebecca French: Notes main thing to deal with is making amendments to report before Nov 6. Decided we are all going to read through all if the comments. Everyone placing them in buckets and which ones should be an amendment.

Kathleen Dorgan: Notes setting up a google doc equivalent on Microsoft Teams so everyone can see each other's opinions and avoid repeats.

## Chat Record

00:17:47 Curt Johnson: At some point in our public comment compilation we should identify total number of comments received and some identification of how many received were focused on what issues.

00:18:36 Bryan Garcia: Can someone put the phone number dial-in for Curt

00:20:09 Rebecca French: on it.

00:24:04 Robert LaFrance: Finch - 203.315.0663

00:30:45 Rebecca French: I heard from George Bradner and Commissioner Mais. Unfortunately they could not make today's call.

- 00:37:27 Bryan Garcia: We should follow-up with them directly on the several insurance related comments to get their observations and guidance.
- 00:41:41 Robert LaFrance: 490 Program - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/rpt/2017-R-0160.htm>
- 00:47:29 Robert LaFrance: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Land-Taxation/Classification-of-Land-as-Forest-Land>
- 00:50:51 Robert LaFrance: Why Connecticut needs a 21st-century civilian conservation corps - Hartford Courant
- 00:51:19 Robert LaFrance: <https://www.courant.com/opinion/op-ed/hc-op-omara-hammerling-conservation-corps-0529-20200529-z2mdp7ny7vctvghdul67fu5lxq-story.html>
- 00:51:39 Bryan Garcia: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice-Communities>
- 00:51:48 Bryan Garcia: DECD Distressed Communities
- 00:53:41 Bryan Garcia: GC2 Recommendation - The FAR Working Groups recommends that no less than 40 percent of funding and financing be invested in vulnerable communities.
- 00:54:43 Huan Ngo: For health, use stats of health inequality currently for the pandemic for these populations.
- 00:55:05 Bryan Garcia: (REVISED) GC3 Recommendation - The FAR Working Groups recommends that no less than 40 percent of resilience and adaptation spending (i.e., funding and financing) be invested in vulnerable communities.
- 00:57:16 Bryan Garcia: DECD Stats on Distressed Municipalities for 2019 - 25 municipalities with 31% of population and households.
- 00:59:06 Robert LaFrance: A bit more history on the workforce development and a CCC Program
- 00:59:11 Robert LaFrance: <https://corpsnetwork.org/blogs/connecticut-conservation-corps-work-recognized/>
- 01:01:20 Alexandra Daum: I have a call with federal partners, but am open to other's suggestions on path forward!
- 01:03:48 David Sutherland: Have to jump on another call. will look forward to hearing next steps.
- 01:05:26 Patrick Brown: Sorry, I do need to hop on another call. Thanks for setting this up, and I will look in my email for the follow-up!
- 01:06:26 Claire Coleman: sorry have another meeting. thanks all
- 01:08:34 Rebecca French: Top priority feedback that would amend the report
- 01:08:58 Joseph MacDougald: Subject to further revision.... 1. Financing specific within our charge and recommended; 2. Important policy, related to to our charge and recommend to further discussion; 3. Important policy outside of our charge; 4. More Granulare within our charge, but lower priority. 5. Granular policy outside of our charge; 6. Outside of our consideration at this time.
- 01:13:13 Joseph MacDougald: You could ask people to list their recommendation in their comments. Might help.
- 01:13:32 Joseph MacDougald: Need to leave at this time - thanks everyone.
- 01:13:48 Huan Ngo: Thank you!

01:14:01 Max Cover: Goodbye all