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

Meeting Date: 11/2/2020

Meeting Time: 4:30-6

Meeting Location: ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Wayne Cobleigh
Rebecca French
Evan Dantos
Bryan Garcia
Alexandra Daum
Dean Audet
George Bradner
Max Cover
David Sutherland
Kathleen Dorgan
Alanis Allen
Curt Johnson
Robert LaFrance
Claire Coleman

AGENDA & NOTES

Rebecca: Agenda is going through the spreadsheet we opted for last week and assigning tasks today for the revised final report.

Bryan: Reached out to James Finch. Rob la France had a conversation with him. Claire Coleman sent a revised email to treasurers with respect to this comment. Could the office take a role in managing coastal resilience fund

Rob La France: A big issue is whether the additional legislation is needed to amend the Public Act No. 19-77. We should make the recommendation, but should figure out if the treasurer's office is comfortable with the recommendation first.

Bryan: Suggests to wait for a response with treasurer's office

Bryan: Insurance items. Importance of disclosure. National Association of Insurance Commissioners taking up cause of voluntary disclosure in Connecticut and California. Disclosure to address climate change and issue of investing in fossil fuels. Had a call with Rebecca, Commissioner Mays, Patrick Brown, and Bryan about the importance of disclosure.

George: Suggests having more conversations with the industry to get them to do more in this area. Right now, it's a sensitive issue.

Bryan: The recommendation would be turning the public comments made about insurance into a public facing event where certain commitments might be made regarding disclosure

Curt Johnson: The comments about insurance are coming from a couple of advocacy groups that are pushing insurance industry towards strong climate action. Push for disclosure.

Bryan: Suggests George write up recommendation pertaining to an event on insurance discussion.

Bryan: Notes Frogard's comment on structural racism and including it in the report

Rebecca: Suggests the group should defer to the Environmental Justice and Equity Working group on disproportionate Impact language and referencing EJ

Bryan: Assigns David making changes to EJ language in Executive Summary

David: Notes that the report should include references to flaws with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) so we don't imply that we are adopting the NFIP.

Bryan: Suggests George, Wayne and David to work on any clarifications in the flood insurance section.

Rebecca: Defer response to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds comment to next year, based on the ongoing discussion over forest management practices and carbon sequestrations

Curt: Agrees with postponing this recommendation wouldn't want to see a significant amount of RGGI money being put towards even worthy causes

Bryan: Notes sticking to the recommendations for no less than 40% going to vulnerable communities.

Curt: Notes an additional \$500,000 would be necessary. There needs to be a specific investment in a combination of EJ and community capacity building around organizations that work in these communities for long term building of these voices. Currently we included in the appendix annual funding for EJ and community capacity. Supports moving elements from appendix to the main report regarding this.

Bryan: Suggests adding that with outreach and capacity building grants from the state first \$500,000 would go to vulnerable communities.

George: Landlord charges more after improving buildings dealing with asbestos, improving health and safety of the community, etc. How do you protect these communities from being priced out of these homes?

Kathleen: We should look at moving towards large scale programs for resiliency, carbon reduction as it pertains to housing

Rebecca French: Vulnerable communities encompasses a lot of groups not just income. Refers to the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group definition and Vulnerability Mapping.

Rebecca: Suggests work on the municipal authorities with regard to Flood and Erosion Control boards to include resilience.

Wayne: Should address in the report why we didn't pick a top three, and instead have a long list of recommendations in response to the CIRCA recommendation to prioritize where money should be spent.

Robert: There may be federal funding to be able to support something like the CT conservation Corps

Rebecca: Suggests Jim make edits related to his own CIRCA comments

George: Notes catastrophe bonds applied to resilience, rebuilding, and repairing coasts.

Rebecca: Suggests having a discussion in endnote discussing the criticism of the insurance industry

No public comments

Chat Record

00:44:03 Rebecca French: I will send the template to you George for the write-up.

00:48:23 Rebecca French: I would like to take advantage of the ability to redline the same version of the report in Teams (or other shared document program - does Google Docs work better?) This should speed up our report editing process.

00:49:49 Dean Audet: Agree \$2000 is incorrect, that number shouldn't be used. We do a lot of dam work.

00:51:52 Rebecca French: Restoring Rivers, Reducing Flooding
Remove high hazard dams. Pictured below is the transformation of a hazardous dam that was removed to restore its natural landscape and water flow. A severe storm could have destroyed the dam, disastrously flooding Westville, New Haven. In place of that hazard, there is now a beautifully restored West River with a new walking trail and improved fish life. There are over 400 such state-owned dams that could receive this permanent solution. We can improve sediment transport and create cooler stream temperatures, allowing threatened coldwater fish species to survive longer in the face of rising water temperatures brought on by climate change.

This is not a theoretical concern. In May of this year, one such high hazard dam collapsed in Michigan, causing an estimated \$175 million in damages. Additionally, the cost of maintaining any dam is about \$2,000 annually. Repairing or replacing a collapsed dam costs between \$10 and \$500 million dollars.

00:52:18 Rebecca French: Above Dams reference is in our report, but perhaps the original number came from the Rivers report? Does anyone recall? Max?

01:21:47 Curt Johnson: I am very comfortable with the change that David is proposing regarding the \$2,000 language around dams. Not sure where that figure came from, and feel it is worth softening.

01:23:26 Curt Johnson: I need to jump out now. Thanks all.

01:39:32 Robert LaFrance: (1) "Environmental justice community" means (A) a United States

census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States census, for which thirty per cent or more of the population consists of low income persons who are not institutionalized and have an income below two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level; [,] or (B) a distressed municipality, as defined in subsection (b) of section 32-9p;

01:39:42 Robert LaFrance: From HB 7006

01:40:15 Robert LaFrance: (7) "Vulnerable communities" means populations that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to, low and moderate income communities, environmental justice communities pursuant to section 22a-20a, communities eligible for community reinvestment pursuant to section 36a-30 and the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, 12 USC 2901 et seq., as amended from time to time, populations with increased risk and limited means to adapt to the effects of climate change, or as further defined by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in consultation with community representatives.

01:44:43 David Sutherland: Gotta go; great work, all!

01:49:50 Robert LaFrance: PA 490 link:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Land-Taxation/Classification-of-Land-as-Forest-Land>

01:51:08 Rebecca French: <https://www.artemis.bm/news/swiss-re-nature-conservancy-partner-for-parametric-coral-reef-insurance/>

01:52:45 Robert LaFrance: Folks -- I have to leave. Thanks to all.

01:54:40 Dean Audet: goodbye everyone