
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND USE WG – BUILDING & LAND
USE SUBGROUP
BREAK OUT SESSION NOTES**

**Meeting Date: 10/5/2020
Meeting Time: 5:20-6pm
Meeting Location: ZOOM**

ATTENDANCE

Rebecca French
Lynne Bonnett
Mathew Fulda
Rachel Hiskes
Adam Whelchel
Alexandra Daum
Amanda Clark
Anthony Allen
Brian Thompson
Cheryl Cappiali
Chester Arnold
David Blatt
David Murphy
Doris Johnson
Elizabeth Langhorne
Emma McGraw
Joanna Wozniak-Brown
Mary Pelletier
Mason Trumble
Stephanie Bahramian
William Cavers

AGENDA & NOTES

Adam Whelchel – Provided additional explanation of the recommendation to establish a Connecticut Community Resilience Program. This recommendation is to design a program similar to Massachusetts MVP program or sister program in Rhode Island. Support municipalities with planning process. Design resilience action plans. Create plan tailored for specific needs in communities. Plans focus on what are the aggregate common strengths. Align funding programs to connect state and local needs.

Matt Fulda – Provided additional explanation on what is in the report. There were recommendations to act on now and ideas for what to consider further in 2021 as the Governor's Council on Climate Change process proceeds.

Mary Pelletier – Remarkd that there is a lot of planning happening in the state, but not a lot of funding or support for the implementation process. Asked for more information on implementation. Park Watershed recommends pilot to show exponential benefits that show the implementation of these GC3 recommendations.

Matt Fulda response – delays from COVID. Increased the length of the process through 2021. A community resilience program would be a precursor to obtaining funding for implementation. Decided to stay away from large infrastructure funding for the near term with the hope that we could build out a funding program for end of 2021.

Mary Pelletier – How do we get to comprehensive planning and implementation and not having projects siloed.

Matt Fulda – Financing and Funding Resilience & Adaptation Working Group meant to cross siloes. Funding available for federal funds, non-profits and allows regions/municipalities to leverage that funding.

Rebecca French – The second recommendation of ownership, operation and maintenance number two deals with how to implement projects. We do not have a clear way to deal with the long-term ownership and maintenance of large flood control projects around the state.

Joanna Wozniak Brown – Resilient Connecticut building a resilience framework to help with coordination across different planning efforts and aligning funding options. Planning process identifying areas of resilience transit-oriented development.

Anthony Allen – Happy to hear how this working group was integrated with the Equity and Environmental Justice working groups. When we talk about where we build and what we build with and historically has a way of reinforcing gentrification and displacement in our communities and we add the flood control structures to address flood risk in those communities. How do we center communities of color, marginalized communities, native communities in the recommendations here and across all of the working groups? How do we give them control over the funding decisions and implementation?

Matt Fulda – Responding that working groups used lens to look at all recommendations. The recommendation on establishing an Energy Efficiency and Healthy Homes Equity Fund addressing needs of EEJ into this recommendation. Equity & Environmental Justice Working Group providing feedback all working groups. The Community Resilience Program could also include hyper local planning efforts, down to the neighborhood scale. It is needed at this scale rather only at the municipal-scale. It will require significant community engagement and going out into the community to engage individuals who do not always show up to town meetings. Thinking about Katrina, why did people not evacuate? Doing planning at the local scale could have better addressed that issue.

Amanda Kennedy – Addressing the need to elevate buildings and the governance and funding to do that is absent. Is the concept of retreat part of the report. The Safety plan talks about critical facilities for hurricane evacuation. Noted that many fire stations in Southeast Connecticut are in floodplains and there is a need to relocate community facilities like that. It is a broader issue than just hurricanes.

Matt Fulda – There will be a vulnerability assessment of state assets and their vulnerability. Will include looking at interconnectedness of those critical facilities and cross-pollinating vulnerability assessment with the infrastructure and land use issues. Example of road flooding and access.

Elevating structures was not addressed specifically. One of the ideas for the Community Resilience Program to take an evaluation of their plans and look at elevation and retreat as an option.

Joanna Wozniak Brown – State building code recommendations includes raising buildings for critical facilities. Ask for any additional suggested language in that recommendations.

Mary Pelletier – Need to prioritize altering our commuter culture. Need to make walkable communities. That has put a lot of money into transportation planning that have a full range of services. Hopes the GC3 has a place for that value to be addressed.

Joanna – Part of one of the recommendations was doing a climate vulnerability assessment of the bike pedestrian network. Multisolving solution – what if we put a bike pathway as a berm inside a community as an example.

Amanda Kennedy – Question about review of mitigation recommendations in this working group?

Matt Fulda – Infrastructure and Land Use has also been meeting with mitigation to talk about any nexus issues.

- 17:28:40 From Mason Trumble : Hi Cheryl! how are you?
- 17:30:47 From Rebecca French : You can use the chat.
- 17:41:47 From Anthony Allen : Joanna, where can we find more about that work?
- 17:42:46 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : Thanks, Anthony! The project website is resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu and CIRCA's website is circa.uconn.edu
- 17:48:16 From Adam Whelchel : Will the GC3 working groups stay in tact through 2021 to help advance the recommended strategies that are deferred, if you will?
- 17:50:05 From Rebecca French : Hi Adam - that question is somewhat TBD. I would appreciate your feedback.
- 17:50:57 From Anthony Allen : Thanks Joanna!
- 17:52:55 From Anthony Allen : Re: keeping working groups intact, that seems like a good idea... not necessarily as the body to control implementation, but to continue to flesh out recommendations. The EEJ working group staying intact as recommendations are adopted and operationalized feels most critical, and would be one way to address what Matt and I were just discussing.
- 17:54:09 From Mary Pelletier : Note that there is also a need to focus on the redesign of communities to increase comprehensive walkability, not just T.O.D.
- 17:54:20 From Brian Thompson : Adam, We segregated the recommendations in that way with the intention of continuing the process in 2021, though the process and form might look different.
- 17:54:49 From Rebecca French to Anthony Allen(Privately) : I was looking at North Carolina's resilience page today and they offer both home elevation and buyouts in identified buyout zones
- 17:54:58 From Rebecca French : I was looking at North Carolina's resilience page today and they offer both home elevation and buyouts in identified buyout zones
- 17:55:01 From Adam Whelchel : thank you!
- 17:55:37 From Rebecca French : deep.climatechange@ct.gov
- 17:55:52 From Amanda Kennedy : thanks, nice work
- 17:56:14 From Anthony Allen : When establishing buyout zones and target zones for resiliency projects, perhaps use Flood Factor maps instead of FEMA maps...
- 17:57:56 From lynne bonnett : what about using historical wetlands; they more accurately matched the damage from storms in NY coastal area; not the flood areas
- 17:58:31 From Rebecca French : Thank you Lynne
- 17:59:14 From Anthony Allen : Interesting Lynne! I like that, especially for coastal areas - Flood Factor maps really show the risk to inland communities a lot better than FEMA maps do--that's what was on my mind in making that recommendation. Both/And!
- 18:01:52 From Amanda Kennedy : Are you guys involved in this also involved in the mitigation review process?
- 18:01:52 From Rebecca French : Incidentally, the berms in West Hartford are used for walking paths for recreation.
- 18:02:07 From Mary Pelletier : thanks!
- 18:02:26 From Anthony Allen : Thanks Matt, Rebecca, and all!
- 18:04:51 From Amanda Kennedy : thank you

NOTE: *Identify if slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3*