
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Science and Technology Working Group
Breakout Session
MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date: October 5, 2020
Meeting Time: 5:30-6:00 pm
Meeting Location: Zoom**

BREAKOUT SESSION NOTES

Moderated by Jim O'Donnell and Susan Masino, Science and Technology working group

- 1) Forests role in climate
 - Too much emphasis in report on pro-forestation
 - Main recommendation in report to investigate appropriate reserves
 - Chat messages in main room too
 - Southern New England Forestry report – sent to Forest WG
 - Links and resources with Forest WG
 - Rapid low-cost way to address pro-forestation
 - Two approaches – let forests react and do their own thing, or intervene and have human made solutions

- 2) Ocean keystone species protection
 - Protecting keystone species in the ocean
 - North Atlantic Right Whale disturbances by off-shore wind construction
 - Pile driving vs. concrete gravity base method
 - European companies doing more “ecologically healthy” methods
 - We must have ways to ensure renewable energies don't also harm planet

- 3) Overseeing and decision bodies can be improved
 - Big step back – how does the state make decisions
 - Need to evaluate state decision making processes, include scientific experts at all steps of process
 - Recommend looking at the CT Siting Committee
 - Need more transparency
 - Coordination of state bodies
 - Add scientific experts to decision bodies as advisors
 - Evaluate the powers of each level – what falls under federal/state/local jurisdiction
 - Sort out what towns are/aren't doing with respect to climate preparedness
 - Incentives for initiatives
 - requirements/state minimums in which towns can lose privileges if not met
 - towns can go further than minimums too
 - require town plan of conservation and development (POCD)

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

Chat Record

17:29:57 From Dave Galt : Sorry no audio or video available on this computer. I am a Simsbury, CT resident interested in this process.

17:34:19 From Eric Hammerling : The SAF paper was submitted to the Forests Sub-Group on June 18th: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2020-agendas-and-minutes/GC3_Forests_Yankee_SAF_Position_061820.pdf

17:35:21 From Eric Hammerling : I do see references in that paper from 2019 and 2020, by the way.

17:37:10 From Patrick Comins : here are the forest resources from the forests subgroup, compiled on the CFP website:

- 17:37:12 From Patrick Comins : <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/public-policy/climate-change-forest-resources-forests-subgroup>
- 17:37:27 From Patrick Comins : It does include the SAF paper, so you can take a look at that for yourselves.
- 17:57:30 From Patrick Comins : I found this article from NRDC about an agreement protecting North Atlantic Right Whales with things like seasonal restrictions,
- 17:57:40 From State Rep David Michel : Lotchfield is high risk (fire)
- 17:57:45 From State Rep David Michel : *Litchfield
- 17:57:55 From Patrick Comins : <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/francine-kershaw/landmark-offshore-wind-agreement-protects-right-whales>
- 18:00:08 From State Rep David Michel : Yes Patrick, after the legislation passed, I think that all advocacy groups are in agreement. However the goal of all involved should be to push for the real “clean” techniques and we are cutters.. if Orsted did Concrete base to protect harbor porpoises.. then we should not hold back from pushing for better techniques.
- 18:01:05 From State Rep David Michel : We are customers in the end
- 18:01:16 From Patrick Comins : yes, we certainly want the projects be the least damaging as they can be. I sent more recent communications to your email address.
- 18:02:13 From State Rep David Michel : Thank you very much Patrick
- 18:03:56 From State Rep David Michel : Bidding on offshore energy is done state side. I beg to differ.
- 18:03:58 From Patrick Comins : Since we were buying the power, we could put some protections in the RFP
- 18:04:04 From State Rep David Michel : Yes Patrick!
- 18:04:10 From State Rep David Michel : But RFPs already done
- 18:04:14 From Patrick Comins : yes
- 18:04:31 From Patrick Comins : on this one, so now we can just comment at various junctures now at the federal level
- 18:04:43 From State Rep David Michel : There are still parts of the review process ongoing . We should engage with our Governor’s team and DEEP Commissioner.
- 18:04:49 From Patrick Comins : i’m not not even sure if there are any more federal touch points on VW
- 18:05:06 From Patrick Comins : Please let me know if there is any way I can help on that.
- 18:05:46 From State Rep David Michel : The fisheries are working on Federal. Even the army that has jets flying at low altitude over these waters were not considered in the bill going thru.
- 18:07:10 From State Rep David Michel : Word is that to fishermen particularly in RI and MA were “paid”. But when there will be less food for the Zooplankton (phytoplankton) then the fisheries that are not realizing the potential damage will regret not having fought against it (I know that particularly for RI)
- 18:11:08 From State Rep David Michel : I am very sorry everyone, as I have to go to a zoning board meeting.. (I have been fighting against issues of stormwater here in Stamford for many years) .. So do not hesitate to reach out for stormwater talks and MS4 and Clean Water Act.