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**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)  
Working and Natural Lands  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Date:** September 29, 2020

**Meeting Time:** 4:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Zoom

**[Meeting Recording](#)**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Phone Participant 1			√
Phone Participant 2			√
Phone Participant 3			√
Phone Participant 4			√
Phone Participant 5			√
Aaron Budris			√
Aaron goode			√
Alan Poirier			√
Alec Shub			√
Ali Ghiorse			√
Alicea Charamut			√
Alison Baranovic			√
Amanda Clark			√
Amanda Fargo-Johnson			√
Amber Garrard			√
Amy Paterson			√
Anji Seth			√
Bernie Noonan			√
Beth Bernard			√
Bill Hyatt			√
Bonnie Potocki			√
Brent Peterkin			√
Brianna DeVivo			√
Bryan Garcia			√
Carlos Esguerra			√
Carol Youell			√
Cary Lynch			√
Charles Leigus			√
Chelsea Gazillo			√
Chet Arnold			√
Chris Donnelly			√
Chris Martin			√
Connie Manes			√
Connor Rockett			√
Cynthia Rabinowitz			√
David Bingham			√
David Blatt			√
David Dickson			√
David Gumbart			√
deb denfeld			√
Denise Savageau			√
Diane Hoffman			√
Diane Lauricella			√
Doris Johnson			√
Ed Brolin			√

Edith Pestana			√
Eileen Fielding			√
elina griggs			√
eliza little			√
Emily Wilson			√
Eric Hammerling			√
Eric Hansen			√
Frank Cervo			√
Gerald Torres			√
Harvey Pessin			√
Hector Prudhomme			√
Holly Lalime			√
Jamie Sydoriak			√
Jamie Vaudrey			√
Jane Brawerman			√
Jane Seymour			√
Jeremy Clark			√
Jerry Milne			√
Jill Humphreys			√
Joanna Wozniak-Brown			√
John Hudak			√
Jos Spelbos			√
Joseph Gresko			√
Joseph Orefice			√
Julia Cartabiano			√
Katherine Kemen			√
Kathy Fay			√
Katie Lund			√
Kayleigh Royston			√
Kelsey Sudol			√
Kevin Woodin			√
Kimberly Stoner			√
kip Kolesinskas			√
Lee Cruz			√
Lee Dunbar			√
Leslie Maclise-Kane			√
Lilian Ruiz			√
Lindsay Larson			√
Lisa Hayden			√
Lisa Wahle			√
Lisette Henrey			√
lynne bonnett			√
Marcia Wilkins			√
Mary Pelletier			√
Mary-beth Hart			√
Mason Trumble			√
Megan Macomber			√
Meral Prewitt			√
Michael Jastremski			√
Michael Rouleau			√
Nicole Lugli			√

pat piano			√
Patricia Taylor			√
Patrick Comins			√
Paul Hearn			√
pete Aarrestad			√
Peter Hearn			√
Peter Picone			√
Peter Sonia			√
Rachel McLoughlin			√
Ralph Jones			√
Rebecca French			√
Rick Jacobson			√
Rick Newton			√
Robert Bell			√
Robert Fahey			√
Sandy Tosi			√
Shanté Hanks			√
Shelley Green			√
Stanley Nolan			√
Starling Childs			√
David Michel			√
Stephanie Bahramian			√
Steven Walleit			√
Susan Barney			√
Susan Hibbard			√
Susan Masino			√
Susan Peterson			√
Tanner Steeves			√
Thomas Worthley			√
William Cavers			√
Zell Steever			√

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome and Announcements

Rebecca French commenced the meeting at 4:02 pm and began by reviewing the agenda, which includes a brief overview of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3), followed by presentations by co-chairs of the working group, Working and Natural Lands.

Rebecca French provided a brief overview of the GC3. Overview and summary can be found [here](#). The GC3 process has been ongoing since December of 2019 and is now in a period of public review from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup>. Following the conclusion of the public review period, the working groups will consider public feedback and revise their reports before sending them to the council. The final report and recommendations will be submitted to the governor by January 15, 2021.

- How else can you participate?
  - Read the working group reports, available [here](#)
  - Written comments can be sent to [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)

Rebecca French provided a brief introduction to the Working and Natural Lands work group. The Working and Natural Lands working group was asked to make recommendations for implementing the role of nature-based solutions, for example scaling up the preservation and restoration of forests in coastal wetlands and rivers. Their recommendations apply to both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Rebecca French gave a land acknowledgement: We are in Connecticut, on the traditional territory and lands of the Mohegan, Paugussett, and Pequot, as well as other indigenous peoples.

Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt of the Department of Agriculture thanked DEEP and the governor's office for making sure that agriculture and soils were included in this version of the governor's council on climate change.

### Agenda Item(s)

#### *Agriculture/Soils Sub-Group -Kayleigh Royston, Connecticut Department of Agriculture*

- The Working and Natural Lands working group has four sub-groups:
  - Agriculture/Soils
  - Forests
  - Rivers
  - Wetlands
- Connecticut farm operations account for 380,000 acres of land across the state and 50,000 acres of managed aquaculture beds in the Long Island Sound
- Agriculture is important in the context of climate change for many reasons
  - Agriculture has the potential to become a significant carbon sink
  - Agriculture allows for food security which increases availability of local food, reducing demand for fossil fuels
  - Agriculture increases green spaces and creates green jobs, improving quality of life
  - Reduces health inequities

- Supports community interests
- Engage community
- Economic opportunity

Kayleigh Royston presented the recommendations from the Agriculture/Soils sub-group. The full list and description of each recommendation are included on the presenter slides

- Recommendations for improving agricultural easement programs
- Increase renewable energy adaptation on farms
- Continue to adopt soil conservation practices
- Create soil health targets and track impacts
- Improve land use and planning tools
- Improve land use planning at the state level
- Diversify farm enterprises
- Increase farm planning tools and adaptive management strategies
- Build a sustainable and equitable food system
- Protect urban farms and increase urban agriculture
- Increase infrastructure and marketing techniques

*Forests Subgroup, Eric Hammerling, Connecticut Forest and Park Association*

- There are many complex issues involved in understanding forests and many ways to manage them. The group evaluated a lot of research which, at times came to different conclusions. The group produced a consensus report that includes recommendations that will therefore be debatable. This is also because the charge was to make recommendations on forests primarily through the lens of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
- Connecticut's forests are valuable for carbon storage
  - CT's forests are the densest and have the highest percentage of trees over 100 years old in the northeast
- The overall tree cover in Connecticut is 59%, however, tree cover is much lower in our largest cities
  - Bridgeport: 27%
  - Hartford: 26%
  - New Haven: 38%
- There are considerable areas for potential increases in tree cover in each of these cities
- There is a greater lack of tree cover in lower income black and brown neighborhoods. With less tree cover comes greater heat island effects and greater vulnerability to heat extremes, lower air quality, and other stressors that are key determinants of community health
- One way to start turning around these inequities and health disparities is by making investments to plant, maintain, and replant trees and add green spaces to our cities

The overarching recommendation from the group is to establish a "No Net Loss of Forest Policy" for Connecticut. This plan includes the following goals with further details included on presenter slides:

- Increase forest cover/tree canopy where needed
  - The top priority would be to increase tree cover in urban areas that currently have heat island hotspots that are impacting vulnerable communities
- Avoid losses/conversion of forest

- This can be done through creating incentives for landowners and increasing state/federal support
- Protect and steward resilient forests
- Mitigate “permitted” losses of forest/trees
  - Permitted loss should be offset through reforestation measures or other compensation
- Monitor for resiliency and carbon
  - Establish a monitoring network

In 2016, natural and working lands offset approximately 16% of the greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore, the carbon sink from natural and working lands is a valuable contribution to be considered as part of our overall reporting on goals and targets for emissions.

*Rivers Subgroup, Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut*

- The rivers sub-group did not just consider rivers in their report but actually considered all inland waters including wetlands and lakes
- The group worked through the lens of ecosystem services, which refers to the many ways in which ecosystems support and benefit individuals and communities
- Previous projections of climate change from 2011 are our current conditions
  - We are seeing an increase in short term duration precipitation events, droughts, and temperature increases
  - Taking bold action cannot be postponed any longer

There three main recommendations from the rivers sub-group:

- Protect the future of ecosystem services value of inland waters
  - Employ mainstream nature-based solutions at scale
    - Low impact development
    - Green stormwater infrastructure
    - Habitat improvement and flood mitigation
    - Rivers naturally help us become more resilient to things like flooding and drought. A lot of these recommendations involve getting the rivers back to their natural state where they can naturally provide resiliency for communities.
  - Re-establish free-flowing character and connectivity of inland waters and hydrological connectivity
    - Road crossings, culverts, and dams should be looked at more holistically as a program that would help to reestablish connectivity
    - It will be better to invest in existing hydro that will last for a long time rather than incentivizing new hydro
  - Create safe, equitable opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to access and enjoy freshwater resources
- Safeguard water quantity for both “fish and faucet” through more balance water use decisions
  - Promote demand-side water conservation and water reuse
    - Adopt and implement a state water hierarchy that includes water conservation, capture, storage, and re-use to reduce demand on rivers and

inland waters such that enough water is available during droughts without causing low-or-no flows in inland water bodies

- Further develop policies, education/outreach, research, and funding opportunities that encourage protections for inland waters
  - Fund and enhance stormwater management programs
  - Fund and enhance education, outreach, and research
    - Establish a funding mechanism like the Massachusetts water quality monitoring grant program to assess rivers and streams for water quality issues and impairments
  - Address funding deficiencies for wastewater infrastructure and barrier to wastewater solutions

#### *Wetlands Subgroup, Leslie Kane, Audubon Connecticut*

Leslie Kane began with an overview of wetlands, outlined on presenter slides.

The sub-group mostly focused on tidal wetlands, defined as areas which border on or lie beneath tidal waters and are subjected to tidal action.

For discussions around mitigation and resiliency for climate change, there are differences in the qualities between coastal wetlands and open water wetlands.

Historically, wetlands have been misunderstood. They have been filled and built upon which has reduced their natural benefits like mosquito control and resulted in adverse impacts like increased flooding. These inexpensive lots are health hazards because of increased risk of mold and rot. In cities these are often the most affordable lots, bringing up an environmental justice aspect.

Wetlands play an important role in climate change mitigation. They reduce disease borne vectors and are important for carbon storage and sequestration. They accommodate flood water and reduce impacts of heavy rain events.

#### Tidal Wetlands

- Tidal wetlands are the single most vulnerable natural resource in the face of a changing climate and rising sea levels
- They help to reduce storm impacts to coastal urban communities
- Therefore, keeping coastal wetlands healthy and resilient is vital to vulnerable communities and vital to achieving our climate mitigation objectives in Connecticut
- They are very biologically productive and therefore important habitats to maintain

#### Inland Wetlands

- Inland wetlands are essential to an adequate supply of surface and underground fresh water
- They provide control of flooding and erosion
- Converting land back to wetlands and restoring ecosystem services can serve to protect vulnerable communities from unsustainable practices which often result in direct harm to community health, economic prosperity, and stability

Recommendations (details included on presenter slides)



- Protect and enhance the ecosystem services value of wetlands using sound science and adaptive management strategies
- Communicate the value of wetlands to Connecticut home and business owners through engagement on climate resilience efforts
- Further develop policies that encourage protections for wetlands

### *Breakout Sessions*

Participants of the public forum were then moved into separate breakout session rooms by Marybeth Hart, to discuss the details of the topics presented by each of the working group teams. The breakout session themes included: Agriculture & soils, forests, rivers, and wetlands. Each session was moderated by the respective presenter of each topic.

Breakout sessions officially concluded at 6:00 pm but the rooms were left open to accommodate additional conversation.

**NOTE:** All meetings, minutes, recordings, and working group reports can be found [here](#)

### ***Chat Record***

16:10:32 From Patrick Comins : There are several breakouts I would like to participate in. Bill Hyatt will try to participate in the rivers one and I the Forest one. The wetlands one is also very important to our group.

16:11:18 From Chris Donnelly : There are several great breakouts. Will all 4 be recorded for later viewing / listening?

16:18:26 From Rebecca French : All breakout sessions will have minutes taken for reviewing after the forum.

16:20:55 From Starling Childs : Last slide had "agricultural conversation easements" Maybe a typo.

16:21:06 From Patrick Comins : it seems we may have missed a slide

16:21:17 From Patrick Comins : it was energy continued, but we didn't see the first

16:21:45 From Rebecca French : We will have copies of all presentations available on the GC3 site in addition to a recording of the presentation.

16:28:20 From Denise Savageau : In terms of solar installations of prime and important farmland, need to focus on protecting farmland first and foremost. Multiple use, including grazing under solar, should not be the preferred alternative just to allow solar. Normally grazing would not take place on prime farmland in the CT River Valley. We need to have strong recommendations not on soil health but also on the importance of maintaining farmland. Solar should not compete with farmland preservation. We can put solar on rooftops, we can't make more prime farmland.

16:28:40 From Joseph Orefice : I cannot join the agriculture breakout because I need to be in a different one. But I'd like to comment as a farmer in the state and as a farmer in CT: 1. agricultural easements should be coupled with land access for beginning farmers and farm transitions. Funds should be allocated to purchasing easements and not rely as heavily on donations for the purchase of farm easement rights. 2. I am disappointed that agroforestry was not listed in the recommendations for agriculture. Alley cropping and silvopasture both have significant potential to improve carbon storage in farmland soil and provide overyielding per acre of CT's limited

remaining farm acreage. If we can farm under solar panels (as suggested) then we can farm under some trees.

16:28:43 From Patrick Comins : One thing I see missing so far is to assess what farmlands provide important habitat for wildlife and to protect wildlife habitats from things like renewable energy production. e.g. Grassland birds

16:29:49 From Rebecca French : All working group reports:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/GC3-Working-group-reports>

16:30:24 From Meral Prewitt : So very glad you mentioned this Mr. Comins!

16:30:33 From kip Kolesinskas : Agroforestry and silvopasture were recommended, just didn't show up on the slides. Definitely needs to be elevated in the report

16:32:30 From Denise Savageau : VT has a comprehensive Farm to Plate program that could be used as a model for CT. It started as jobs creation legislation.

<https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/>

16:33:46 From Rebecca French : Copies of slides, recording and minutes will be posted here:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Public-Forums>

16:34:34 From Rebecca French : Feel free to use the chat to write comments or ask questions as we go along. The chat will be saved and provided to the working group.

16:39:37 From Katie Lund : Heat stress to farmers and farm workers does not seem to be in the Agriculture report. Erosion was mentioned extensively as a result of declining soil health and extreme precipitation; however, sea level rise and general flooding were not mentioned.

16:41:07 From Rebecca French : If you have not done so already (or answered survey emailed to you) send a private chat to Mary-beth Hart with your choice of break out session: Agriculture/soils OR Forests OR Rivers OR Wetlands.

16:45:36 From Bill Hyatt : What would the definition of "forest" be for a no-net-loss forest policy?

16:46:28 From Rebecca French : We like to learn about successful programs in your community related to the topics tonight. We heard about a model program for Food Systems Director in New Haven and we learned about a KNOX Hartford. Share a chat with programs you know about.

16:47:04 From Rebecca French : <https://www.knoxhartford.org/programs/tfhn/>

16:47:53 From Lee Cruz : Thank you Urban Resources Initiative and City of New Haven for our trees in New Haven <http://uri.yale.edu/maps/street-tree-inventory-map>

16:48:18 From Kimberly Stoner : It isn't Forest or Agriculture, but there is a very successful network creating pollinator pathways across the state. (Pollinator habitat includes trees and shrubs!) [www.pollinator-pathway.org](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org)

16:48:32 From Mary Pelletier : Park Watershed recommends increased protection of forests along riparian corridors, which can provide exponential ecosystem service benefits

16:49:28 From Julia Cartabiano : Consider that replacement trees should be native and adapted to conditions they are being planted in

16:49:42 From lynne bonnett : what happens to all of the damaged trees from storms? Is it sustainably used in some way?

16:49:51 From Rebecca French : US Climate Alliance was formed after federal government pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement. States in the US Climate Alliance pledged to continue to meet the goals of the agreement.

16:50:33 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : I'm hoping there will be an effort to increase education of the public who are not tuned in or likely to see the recordings of these presentations. Tree cutting, especially, is something that happens all the time so that lawns can be expanded, view-sheds etc. Education is critical and goes hand-in-hand with government programming and regulatory efforts.

- 16:51:44 From Chris Donnelly : Cynthia - yes. We cannot focus all of our efforts on public entities. The private tree owners, including individual home owners, need to play a role.
- 16:52:08 From Denise Savageau : Great presentation on negative emissions. It is so important .
- 16:52:13 From David Bingham : Eric
- 16:52:21 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : Thanks, Chris, and I think the home builders association could be a good group to include in this outreach effort.
- 16:52:43 From David Bingham : Eric
- 16:52:46 From Kathy Fay : That education is important in urban areas as well as other areas. Through my work I have encountered many city residents who are literally afraid of trees, or want them removed to pave backyard areas.
- 16:53:07 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : yes, it's sad.
- 16:54:57 From Doris Johnson : Understand city residents perspectives are base upon history among other variables
- 16:55:41 From Kathy Fay : Yes to what Doris wrote!
- 16:55:47 From kip Kolesinskas : Should also include irrigation water source as well
- 16:55:47 From David Bingham : Eric - was there any discussion of expanding PA490 forest protection to include lots with fewer acres?
- 16:55:58 From Chris Donnelly : Doris - yes. Everyone should know the history of redlining, among other issues.
- 16:56:15 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : That's an excellent point, Doris.
- 16:58:01 From Rebecca French : Have you picked out your break out session yet? They are all critical topics, but we ask you to choose one: Agriculture/soils; Forests; Rivers; or Wetlands. Send a chat to Mary-beth with your choice.
- 16:59:44 From lynne bonnett : saltwater inundation also damages underground infrastructures that rust in the presence of salt water. One benefit of source control is resoration of ground water levels to be a better barrier to increased salt water intrusion; especially in cities such as New Haven that has ground water depletion from years of ground water pumping for personal use.
- 17:00:04 From Doris Johnson : Reassess Kathy Fay after this last storm, I believe a large number of Connecticut residents' fear of trees have increased
- 17:00:15 From kip Kolesinskas : Need to protect headwaters areas, important recharge and discharge areas. We can identify these
- 17:00:45 From Rebecca French : Have you noticed signs in and around a sewer drain in your neighborhood? When they say 'drains to watercourse' they are talking about rivers, lakes, and Long Island Sound.
- 17:00:48 From Jerry Milne : The recommendations for so much passive management of CT's forests will outsource Connecticut's need for wood to other countries with less stringent environmental oversight. The recommendations will also negatively impact wildlife dependent on young forests.
- 17:01:25 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : So, there's a huge crossover with inland-wetlands here. A lot of what is being said about rivers being naturally resilient are actually because of the riverine wetlands and wetlands higher in the landscape of a watershed.
- 17:01:35 From Patrick Comins : Great! Connectivity is so important
- 17:02:55 From Starling Childs : To Jerry Milne How much of the ash and oak currently being sod off of CT State forests and park lands is being processed and utilized here in CT?
- 17:03:07 From Rebecca French : The weather is joining the forum tonight. I am watching the rain fall in West Hartford and thinking about where it goes.
- 17:03:34 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : It's been raining in Bethlehem all day! Woo Hoo! we really need it.

17:04:18 From Patricia Taylor : The health and environmental impacts of our wastewater treatment discharges, especially near our ash landfill and incinerators should be part of the climate change survey of our inland waters.

17:04:24 From Katie Lund : Thank you for highlighting equity issues related to recreation.

17:04:51 From Starling Childs : Most of our high value hardwood ends up being exported over seas or to Canada. Our use of wood for building necessarily comes from forests far from CT because of building codes that are not favorable to local grown wood.

17:05:57 From Rebecca French : Like "fish and faucet"

17:06:29 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : I would be interested in knowing if grey water usage was addressed. I understand some other states have easier regulations about this subject, that make it possible to use grey water responsibly.

17:06:33 From lynne bonnett : Yes, I've been advised that minority populations in New Haven are afraid of our rivers because they can not swim. Some non profit efforts to increase recreational access to our rivers have difficulty recruiting youth to be river guides. It is important that we acknowledge this as you indicated. Most people are probably unaware of this barrier.

17:07:08 From Lindsay Larson (HVA) : Echoing Katie Lund- thank you so much for noting the issues around equity in access to natural areas- definitely something we are thinking about over at HVA, in regards to public access along the Housatonic River.

17:07:48 From Michael Jastremski, Housatonic Valley Association : Sorry this is going back to Eric's talk, I was pulled away for a moment- We at Housatonic Valley Association love the idea of a CT Youth Conservation Corps! HVA and our partners developed a similar idea out of the Still River Watershed Management Plan, called Still River Watershed Connections (<https://hvatoday.org/still-river-connections/>). The Connections program has helped install and maintain a variety of watershed restoration projects (including urban reforestation along impaired streams) identified in the Still River Watershed plan, while giving many hundreds of youth from the Danbury area opportunities to learn technical skills and develop a sense of stewardship for their hometown streams. We would love to connect with other organizations doing similar work in CT, and would be glad to help develop the idea of a statewide Youth Conservation Corps.

17:07:53 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : Also, we could be looking at "living machines" better known as biotreatment facilities - which are based on created wetland models. these engineered systems treat sewage and have been shown to produce potable water as end result

17:07:54 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : For some reason, I showed up as Katie Lund.

17:08:18 From Lindsay Larson (HVA) : Oh! \*Echoing Joanna Wozniak-Brown, in that case :)

17:08:21 From Kathy Fay : When doing stormwater management education in the city, I noticed that community gardeners immediately understood what I was talking about and its importance. Another urban group that understands are freshwater fishermen. Perhaps there can be funding to enlist more community residents to educate other community members, with support from State entities.

17:08:22 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : It was Joanna Wozniak-Brown with the comments on equity/recreation and Ag for farm worker heat, adding climate threats of SLR, flooding, drought

17:08:58 From Lee Dunbar : Ever notice that forest trails often parallel a stream or take you to a pond or wetland view? Consider why that is. Streams provide a pathway into and through the forest and act as "gateway drug" for budding naturalists and nature appreciators and advocates for implementing the types of recommendations being put forward.....

17:09:27 From Denise Savageau : At the recommendation of the CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation, DEEP requested and has received funds through the Long Island Sound Study to update the Stormwater and Erosion&Sediment Control Guidelines. This is now in the works.

17:09:43 From Aaron goode : New Haven has had a Youth Conservation Corps in the past, using 'Youth At Work' program funding <https://www.energizect.com/new-haven%E2%80%99s-youth-conservation-corps-canvass-neighborhoods-promoting-importance-energy-efficiency>

17:09:49 From Mary-beth Hart to Joanna Wozniak-Brown(Privately) : LOL I assigned both Katie Lunds to the same group, are you interested in joining a breakout session?

17:10:00 From Julia Cartabiano : The state of Georgia has an outstanding citizen Adopt-A-Stream program that is very useful for monitoring stream health with a small budget

17:10:07 From kip Kolesinskas : Need to specifically manage and reduce impervious surfaces beyond just low impact development principles and practices

17:11:04 From David Blatt : Make stormwater utilities mandatory.

17:11:20 From Patricia Taylor : A great local program that is well-established is Harbor Watch at Earthplace in Westport. They are a great model - <http://earthplace.org/harbor-watch/>

17:11:37 From Susan Masino : I love the comment about urban streams as a gateway drug for budding naturalists :)

17:11:41 From Aaron goode : New Haven attempted to create a storm water authority and user fee in 2010 but bungled the politics and it was never authorized by the city council

17:11:59 From Aaron goode :  
[https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/city\\_moves\\_to\\_take\\_authori/](https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/city_moves_to_take_authori/)

17:13:49 From Rebecca French : Good point Aaron. All of these recommendations require strong governance and participation in the process. What can we learn from New Haven? What went right in New London where they did adopt a stormwater utility.

17:13:49 From Kathy Fay : I like the idea of making stormwater authorities mandatory because it would help get around the local politics and misconceptions people had about "attempting to tax tax-exempt organizations"

17:15:14 From Kathy Fay : Think of what are the local tax-exempt entities with large parking lots...

17:18:32 From Denise Savageau : Moving forward to 2021, I strongly recommend tackling water resources as ONE Water. with two subgroups. 1) Inland Wetlands and Watercourses (which includes rivers, lakes, etc) in one group and 2) Estuarine Wetlands and near coastal waters

17:18:55 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : Agreed

17:20:29 From Shelley Green : +1 on the One Water approach, Denise.

17:20:56 From kip Kolesinskas : loss of snow pack, less midwinter snow leads to less recharge and the more runoff you mentioned.

17:21:25 From pete Aarrestad : Denise and Cynthia, what is the basis or rationale for your recommendation?

17:21:45 From Rebecca French : In our past wetlands were not always seen as a valuable ecosystem and were often filled in. Have you heard the phrase 'drain the swamp?' Not a good idea when it comes to keeping our water clean and protecting our communities from flooding.

17:23:17 From Lee Dunbar : Any discussion regarding water resources MUST include an accounting for groundwater. Groundwater is linked to flows in surface waters as well as runoff from impervious surfaces that influence groundwater recharge. If policy is to be based on "good science" then groundwater cannot be separated from surface water and wetlands.

17:23:42 From Patrick Comins : also going back to rivers, I want to be sure that the importance of watersheds are covered within the recommendations.

17:23:50 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : Pete, from my perspective as a soil/wetland scientist, I like that our state law regulates open water bodies (streams, ponds, lakes, and intermittent watercourses) under the wetland law. It makes sense when evaluating and assessing wetlands because you can see clearly in the field the connections between all these systems. It is really ONE system as part of the hydrological cycle.

17:24:37 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : Even, the isolated wetlands and vernal pools are connected through infiltration.

17:24:40 From Bill Hyatt : My recollection from the 2011 climate vulnerability assessment is that tidal wetlands and cold water streams were the two most vulnerable habitats.

- 17:24:41 From Patrick Comins : I would change shorebirds to coastal birds. Shorebirds are something specific
- 17:25:00 From kip Kolesinskas : We also now recognize subaqueous soils and can map and interpret them
- 17:25:20 From Rebecca French : Vocab moment - attenuate wave action means soft shorelines like wetlands (as opposed to seawalls and rip rap (rock walls)) absorb energy from waves and make them smaller and reduce their ability to cause erosion.
- 17:27:41 From Kathy Fay : Agree, on One Water, but glad these subcommittees split up in this round and were able to get into this much depth. For the public, it is confusing for rivers and other water systems to be found Working and Natural Lands. Lands and Waters as the overall heading.
- 17:28:01 From Rebecca French : One last reminder to send your break out session selection through a private chat to Mary-beth. Pick one of the four topics you learned about tonight - Agriculture; Rivers; Forests and Wetlands
- 17:28:53 From David Blatt : Any consideration of a statewide minimum setback from tidal wetlands?
- 17:29:23 From Cynthia Rabinowitz : So much of the coastline is already developed, right up to the beach
- 17:29:33 From lynne bonnett : what about weighing in on the airport expansion plans in New haven in a coastal wetland? it's federal - how can the GC3 have input on federal actions?
- 17:29:43 From Rebecca French : David B. - there are recommendations around that topic, but not sure if that was specifically recommended. Please take a closer look and provide feedback.
- 17:29:43 From kip Kolesinskas : Need more training and oversight of municipal IW commissions and staff. We have done an ok job of protecting the "regulated area but not a good job of protecting the hydrology. Changes needed to the regs?
- 17:31:38 From David Blatt : DEEP's statewide IW program consists of one person. We need more resources before considering anything more than tweaks to the Inland Wetlands Act.
- 17:32:01 From Lee Dunbar : I really hate to "go negative" but I think we all need to realize where the resistance will come from. If we "protect" farmland, forest, wetlands, and river corridors where do we propose to allow future development to occur? Can't say "no" to everything everywhere and expect success.
- 17:32:36 From Peter Picone : I would like to get in forestry breakout
- 17:32:36 From Denise Savageau : The CT Council and the Conservation Districts have offered to help DEEP with the inland Wetland Program
- 17:32:37 From kip Kolesinskas : Agreed, DEEP needs more staff and resources in many areas- important to this climate change priority!