

# Meeting of the Governor's Council on Climate Change

March 9, 2020  
1:00-3:00 p.m.



# Agenda

- 1:00 p.m. **Welcome**
- 1:05 p.m. **Working Group Spotlight: Equity and Environmental Justice**
- 1:25 p.m. **Working Group Updates**
- 2:10 p.m. **Table of Contents Discussion**
- 2:30 p.m. **Discussion on Integration Between Working Groups and with Other Efforts**
- 2:45 p.m. **Other Announcements**
- 2:50 p.m. **Public Comments**



# Working Group Spotlight – Equity and Environmental Justice



# Equity and Environmental Justice

- WG held its first meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Sound School in New Haven.
- Well attended – nearly 60 people. Discussed a draft definition of equity for GC3 to use as guidance and held breakout session to discuss equitable processes.
- WG to finalize equity definition, identify EJ representatives to serve on other WGs, and develop best practices for community outreach for GC3.
- Equity should be embedded in all GC3 processes – how do we work with other WGs to ensure that happens?
- Next steps: identify EJ representatives for all WGs, schedule additional community meetings.



# Working Group Updates



# Forests Sub Group

- Experts in academia, land management, forest products, forest science, forest/land policy, urban forests, etc.
- The group has met twice and will be meeting again 3/10.
- Reviewed and prioritized actions set in the 2011 plan, and identified some possible gaps to be addressed.
- Members have contributed relevant scientific literature and information available online.
- Identified and scheduled ~8 meeting topics and will discuss presenters, e.g. Maria Janowiak, USFS climate expert. Next meeting is on changes in science since 2011 and developing a carbon “baseline” for CT forests.



# Rivers Sub Group

- An excellent mix of experts in ecology, geomorphology, engineering, and policy.
- The group has met twice and will meet again on 3/18
- The group will consider all inland waters including groundwater, and utilize an ecosystem services model. Recurring theme: effectively communicating to the public.
- Some overlap with other lands groups and infrastructure (particularly wastewater and drinking water infrastructure)
- Reviewed Background, Context, and Importance sections in Table of Contents. Will evaluate Impact Assessments, Vulnerabilities, and strategies from the 2011 report.



# Wetlands Sub Group

- Great mix of experts in wetland science, planning, infrastructure, climate change, and more.
- The group has met twice and will be meeting again 3/19.
- Reviewed, prioritized, and ranked actions set in the 2011 plan, and identified some possible gaps to be addressed.
- Members have contributed relevant scientific literature and information for the team to utilize, and have created a shared work space.
- Next meeting will focus on a deeper discussion of the Table of Contents and how we envision crafting the wetlands component.





# Ag & Soils Working Group

- A lot of interest in this area and participants are very engaged
- Four focus areas:
  - Farming Practices/Land Use
  - Energy
  - Market Opportunity
  - Innovation & Technology
- Next Steps
  - Regional meetings with a presentation and public hearing



# Science and Technology

- WG is still finalizing membership—need to ensure members represent a variety of perspectives touching on many relevant topic areas
- Anticipate holding first meeting in mid-March
- Will provide support for all other WGs to assist in accomplishing GC3 tasks
- WG next steps:
  - review 2011 *Climate Change Preparedness Plan* and 2018 report *Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut*
  - receive feedback on needs from other WGs



# Adaptation Planning and Implementation

- WG held its first meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Key take-aways
  - Need to coordinate discussions and work across the various working groups. Multi-WG coordination meetings suggested.
  - There are many opportunities to integrate efforts with CIRCA Resilient CT.
  - Funding to implement projects is critical to progress, and should not be tied exclusively to disaster response but need to have shovel-ready projects available when disaster funds become available.
  - Include recreation facilities in Land Use & Buildings discussion
  - Need to consider geography (urban, suburban, rural) when assessing climate impacts and adaptation measures
  - Need input from Science & Technology WG on what scenarios to use as inputs to assessments



# Adaptation Planning and Implementation

- Topic areas for future discussion
  - Clarification of what we mean by indicators, targets, outcomes, objectives and strategies
  - How are we going to quantitatively and qualitatively measure progress on these goals and the goals outlined by the different theme-area work groups?
- List potential areas of overlap with other WGs
  - Funding for adaptation
  - Public health issues related to impacts of climate change and adaptation measures cross-cut all WGs.
- WG next steps
  - Update progress over the last 10 years, working from 2011 report as a base; prioritize and assess future action for 2011 recommendations
  - Compile existing local and regional plans; identify key elements for consideration
  - Identify problems, gaps and needs



# Financing Adaptation and Resilience

- WG held its first meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed strategies already used for financing resilience in CT, and the need to capitalize on successful strategies and develop new, creative financing options.
- Topics for future discussion include nature-based solutions, the insurance industry's role in resilience, municipal financing strategies, and financing planning efforts.
- Will need to communicate with other WGs to ensure financing strategies align with adaptation strategies.
- Next steps: schedule monthly meetings on the topics above.



# Assessing Vulnerabilities in State Assets and Operations

- WG is identifying membership; anticipate holding first meeting by the end of March
- Task is to establish a framework for state agencies to compile and maintain an inventory of vulnerable assets and operations
- Working with Chief Data Officer to identify existing relevant data for all state agencies, and with CIRCA to identify vulnerability assessment tools
- Analyzing Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency state asset survey to help frame CT approach
- Potential areas of overlap with Adaptation, Working and Natural Lands, and Financing WGs



# Table of Contents Discussion



# Discussion on Integration Between Working Groups and with Other Efforts





# Other Announcements



# Public Comments

