Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)

WORKING AND NATURAL LANDS WORKING GROUP
RIVERS SUB-WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 25, 2020
Meeting Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Meeting Location: Via ZOOM

ATTENDENCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Alicea Charamut	Executive Director	Rivers Alliance of Connecticut	Y
Virginia de Lima	Retired	USGS (retired) & CT Water Planning Council	Y
Mike Dietz	Extension Educator	UConn - Institute of Water Resources	Y
Kirt Mayland	Attorney/President	Reservoir Road Holdings & Mayland Energy	Y
Lynn Werner	Executive Director	Housatonic Valley Association	Y
Eileen Fielding	Director	Sharon Audubon (National Audubon Society)	Y
Shelley Green	Director of Conservation	The Nature Conservancy	Y
Bill Dornbos	Executive Director	Farmington River Watershed Association	Y
Laura Wildman	Director, NE Office, Ecological Engineering	Princeton Hydro	Y (joined partway through)
Jason Vokoun	Professor and Dept. Head	UConn Natural Resources and the Environment	Y (joined partway through)

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Peter Aarrestad	Director	CT DEEP, Bureau of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division	Y
Susan Peterson	Environmental Analyst 3	CT DEEP, Bureau of Water Planning and Land Reuse – Water Planning & Management Division	Y
Cary Lynch	Research Analyst	CT DEEP, Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy – Office of Climate Change Technology & Research	Y (ZOOM support)

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance

- Welcome – Meeting being conducted remotely via ZOOM due to COVID-19 situation

- ZOOM meeting recorded, as it is a public record

- Roll call taken

- Charamut facilitated meeting with PowerPoint presentation (see link at end of minutes)

- *Note – ZOOM technical difficulties occurred around meeting break which disrupted meeting (most participants able to get back on but lost some members)*

Agenda Item(s)

Facilitated by Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance

- **March 9, GC3 Meeting Recap**

  o Charamut provided a summary of the March 9, 2020 GC3 meeting.

- **Ecosystem Services: Defining Objectives**

  o **Definition & Examples of "Objective"**

    ▪ At previous meeting, Rivers Sub-Working Group (SWG) discussed identifying objectives and strategies and working "backwards" from solution

    ▪ Objective: Something toward which effort is directed. Need to keep objectives broad, so will encompass everything. The group will work as Ecosystem Category Teams to first identify broad objectives.

    ▪ Outcomes: Something that follows as a result or consequence

    ▪ Strategy: A careful plan or method

    ▪ Implementation Actions – Should be: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely (SMART)

  - **Categories of Ecosystem Services**

    ▪ Definition of Ecosystem Services and examples - Charamut sent condensed version to Rivers SWG that can use as guide, per info provided by Vakoun. Discussion about using Ecosystem Services as organizational framework.

    ▪ Regulating Services

      □ Regulating Services: The benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes (See PowerPoint Slide)

      □ Example - Erosion – Trends that exacerbate vulnerabilities; Erosion regulations vs.

changes in rain patterns, etc.; May make regulation more difficult and lose ecosystem service; Promoting better stormwater management (example of desired Outcome)

◻ Many things may be overlapping. Will see how many benefits across multiple service areas can get from stormwater control.

▪ Provisioning Services

◻ Provisioning Services: (*Note – Incorrect definition on PowerPoint slide, as is same as definition given for "Cultural Systems". Should be: Products obtained from ecosystems …)*

◻ Categories listed are general and some may not necessarily apply. Stick with "Freshwater".

◻ Rivers SWG to decide what's in/out and what is impacted by climate change

▪ Cultural Services

◻ Cultural Services: The nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation and aesthetic experiences (See PowerPoint Slide)

◻ Long list. Group will need to decide which ones are relevant

▪ Supporting Services

◻ Supporting Services: Supporting services are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services (See PowerPoint Slide)

▪ Charamut has created spreadsheet (table) with the four categories of Ecosystem Services and columns for each re: Services provided, Trends that are exacerbate vulnerability due to climate change, Objectives, Outcomes and Strategies and Implementation actions. (See PowerPoint) Charamut began filling out some of the categories as a guide but made it clear that it was by no means complete.

◻ Will break Rivers SWG into four sub-groups to discuss and fill in table.

◻ Group discussed pros/cons/concerns of using this framework.

Charamut said we should not get bogged down with categories, although may be less familiar mental framework.

Vokoun felt there wouldn't be too many things that don't fit into this framework. Utilitarian aspect is a strength and can be used to reach broadest audience possible.

5 MINUTE BREAK

- **Category assignments**

  o Sub-group category assignments: Regulating, Provisioning, Cultural, Supporting

    ▪ Rivers SWG members were asked to let Charamut know which sub-group they would like to be

in by Friday (3-27-20). It was suggested that everyone make primary and secondary choices to ensure reasonable number of people in each group. Charamut will send out list of sub-group members and work with each to make sure a remote meeting option is available.

- ▪ Members of sub-groups should work together to fill out table for their assigned category. Spreadsheet provided by Charamut to members via e-mail and Google docs link.

- ▪ Sub-group meetings do not need to be publically noticed because are doing work that will be reviewed at upcoming Rivers SWG public meeting(s).

- **What to do with overlap?**

  o There may be duplications but that will make a good case for using this approach (showing interconnections)

Public comments

Jennifer Duff, Princeton Hydro – No public comments

Next Steps and Adjourn

- Rivers SWG members to provide sub-group categories to Charamut by Friday (3-27-20)

- Charamut will get leader to schedule each sub-group meetings and/or she will schedule.

- Sub-groups will work together on categories info, to discuss during April 7 public meeting.

Meeting adjourned ~ 2:48 pm

NOTE: *The PowerPoint presentation (aka: Slides) for this meeting is available on GC3 web page at:* *www.ct.gov/deep/gc3*