
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
WORKING AND NATURAL LANDS WORKING GROUP
RIVERS SUB-WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: April 7, 2020
Meeting Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Meeting Location: via ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

| Working Group Member | Title | Organization | Present |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Alicea Charamut | Executive Director | Rivers Alliance of Connecticut | Y |
| Lynn Werner | Executive Director | Housatonic Valley Association | Y |
| Eileen Fielding | Director | Sharon Audubon (National Audubon Society) | Y |
| Kirt Mayland | Attorney/President | Reservoir Road Holdings & Mayland Energy | Y |
| Bill Dornbos | Executive Director | Farmington River Watershed Association | Y |
| Andy Fisk (alternate: Kelsey Wentling) | Executive Director | Connecticut River Conservancy | N |
| Jason Vokoun | Professor and Dept. Head | UConn Natural Resources and the Environment | N |
| Mike O'Neill (primary: Mike Dietz) | Associate Dean | UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources | Y |
| Laura Wildman | Director | Princeton Hydro - NE Office, Ecological Engineering | Y |
| Virginia de Lima | Retired | USGS (retired) & CT Water Planning Council | Y |
| Shelley Green | Director of Conservation | The Nature Conservancy | N |
| Erik Mas | Environmental Engineer | Fuss and O'Neill | Y |
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| 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 and Roll Call

Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance

Rivers Sub-working Group (SWG) members roll call.

Charamut apologized to the member who accidentally got left off the meeting distribution list for the last two meetings.

Charamut summarized discussions from the 4-6-20 meeting of the Working and Natural Lands Working Group (WNLWG) Chairs.

- Other working groups have discussed “pausing” work since it is very difficult to do public outreach - especially with regard to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities – during the COVID-19 (CV-19) health crisis. Still waiting to hear back from GC3 leads on this issue. In the meantime, WNLWG Chairs agreed it would be good to keep moving forward because we will have better work products to present when public outreach can be conducted in-person again.
- Discussed how to share relevant scientific studies, etc. of mutual interest with other WNLWG SWGs as well as the Science & Technology Working Group.
- Wetlands SWG would like to spend more time on coastal wetlands and asked other WNLWG groups if they would be interested in considering climate change issues associated with some of the other types of wetlands they have identified? Charamut said we will take a look at the list they compiled and determine if any items overlap with concerns identified by the Rivers SWG. However, it makes sense for the group to consider all inland waters.

Charamut noted that as long as the Rivers SWG continues to meet remotely, she plans to schedule (ZOOM) meetings for no more than 2 hours.

Agenda Item(s)

Facilitated by Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance

- **Identifying Objectives – Discussion and Preliminary Team Reports**

Because our guest presenters were already on the ZOOM meeting, it was decided that the discussion of the above topic would be shifted on the agenda and take place after the presentation and break. (See “Continuation of Identifying Objectives Discussion” below.)

- **Presentation by Chris Bellucci (Supervisor, CT DEEP BWPLR-WPMD Water Monitoring Program)**

“Creating a Cold Water Stream Habitat Map for Connecticut”

Charamut introduced Chris Bellucci (Supervisor) and Mary Becker (Environmental Analyst) of the CT DEEP Water Monitoring Program. Bellucci and Becker provided a PowerPoint presentation about an interactive map they are developing for cold water stream habitat in Connecticut. Cold water stream habitat is being

identified via cold water fish indicator species and/or temperature data loggers. Map will reference both historical and more recent data, collected by both CT DEEP and (qualified) volunteer groups. Map is data rich and will have many potential applications for users. When it is ready to roll out, CT DEEP Water Monitoring program plans to share the map and website with the public.

(For more info, see PowerPoint presentation pdf, included with other info for this meeting on the GC3 webpage.)

Rivers SWG members discussed the presentation and agreed that the cold water stream map will have many potential, useful applications with regard to examining rivers and climate change related issues. Bellucci suggested it might also be helpful to reach out to UMass modelers who are really good at running “what if” scenarios. Charamut thanked Bellucci and Becker, and noted that the map will be a valuable reference tool to cite, in future.

5 MINUTE BREAK

- **Continuation of Identifying Objectives Discussion**

(This agenda item revised to: Identifying Objectives – Discussion and Preliminary Team Reports ... and ... Continuation of Identifying Objectives Discussion)

The four sub-groups examining rivers from an Ecosystem Services perspective (Provisioning, Regulating, Supporting and Cultural) reported out on the progress they had made thus far. Some sub-groups had been able to make more progress than others. Charamut noted that this is a dynamic process and we will continue to discuss at the next meeting on April 17th.

The Ecosystem Services spreadsheet that each of the four sub-groups are working to populate can be viewed via this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Zgdzd81yezMUj9arZJYRB4Qhe87sRfN/view?usp=sharing>

Public comments

Jennifer Duff (Princeton Hydro) – No comment

Mary Rickel Pelletier (Park Watershed) – Pelletier asked if issues affecting urban/suburban rivers would be considered by the Rivers SWG? She also asked if it would be possible to provide input into the process? Charamut said, yes, and she could provide more detail at our April 17 meeting. Charamut also noted that the Rivers SWG is using the Ecosystem Services approach to try to capture this type of information. She said that the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the (above referenced) spreadsheets, once the sub-groups have completed their preliminary work.

Charamut noted that, for future Rivers SWG ZOOM meetings, it will be important for members of the public to identify themselves earlier in the meeting, so that she can recognize them and leave more time for public comment. Unfortunately, we have to adhere to our time limit on ZOOM because other groups may be waiting to get on ZOOM for a meeting.

Next Steps and Adjourn

Charamut encouraged Ecosystem Services sub-groups to meet again before the April 17 Rivers SWG meeting.

Charamut said she would send out an e-mail to Rivers SWG members with follow-up links. The PowerPoint from the last meeting can be found on the GC3 webpage. (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Subcommittee-and--working-groups>)

Charamut will reach out to UMass modelers to ask if they would be able to provide a presentation at a future meeting.

The next Rivers SWG meeting will be on April 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon (via ZOOM).

Adjourn: Approx. 12:00 noon

NOTE:

The PowerPoint presentation from this meeting: “Creating a Cold Water Stream Habitat Map for Connecticut” (Chris Bellucci & Mary Becker) is available on GC3 web page at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Subcommittee-and--working-groups>