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

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**Meeting Date: March 19, 2020**  
**Meeting Time: 1:30 pm**  
**Meeting Location:**  
Teleconference

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Working Group Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Leslie Kane	Managing Director	Audubon Connecticut	Y
Rick Bennett	Science Director	USFWS	Y
Chris Elphick	Professor	UConn: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Y
Julianna Barrett	Associate Extension Educator	UConn Sea Grant & NEMO	Y
Michelle Staudinger	Science Coordinator	USGS, Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center	N
Kimberly Lesay	Transportation Assistance Planning Director	CT DOT Office of Environmental Planning	Y
Jeff Shamas	Wetland and Soil Scientist	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin	N
Rudy Sturk	Senior Manager	CT Green Bank	Y
Stephen Lecco	CEP, AICP, Senior Analyst	GZA	Y
Alex Croft, Representing Gwen MacDonald	Ecological Restoration	Save the Sound	Y
Denise Savageau	Director	Greenwich Conservation Commission, retired	Y
Jamie Vaudrey	Assistant Research Professor	Department of Marine Science, UConn Avery Point	N
Ann Hartchen, Representing Aicha Woods	City Planning	New Haven	Y
Peter Auster	Senior Research Scientist	Mystic Aquarium	N

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Rick Jacobson	Bureau Chief	DEEP, Natural Resources	N
Jenny Dickson	Division Director	DEEP, Wildlife	Y
Cary Lynch		DEEP, Energy Research and Planning	N
Roger Wolfe	Environmental Analyst	DEEP, Wildlife, WHAMM Program	Y

Public Attendees	Affiliation	Comments
None Present		n/a

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome and Announcements

- Welcome, announcements, and roll call presented by Leslie Kane

### Agenda Item(s)

*Leslie Kane, Sub-Working Group Chair and Managing Director, Audubon Connecticut*

- Review of Table of Contents for final report
  - Sections 7 a-h will need to be completed
  - Implementation and tracking should be included
  - Actions should be divided into 1-year and 5-year timeframes
- Discussion on Table of Contents elements
  - Why are marine waters missing? How do we best address this gap? There are lots of economic impacts and impacts to shoreline communities in this zone. Original suggestion of working to a 10' depth encompassed living shorelines as a tool for coastal resiliency, but it can be changed.
  - How are we addressing issues relating to natural resource management? Are other groups discussing this? We can take it up if no one else is—it is critical to this group.
  - Expansion of scope is fine, but do we also look at changing habitats, permit issues, etc.? We need to beware of creating a Pandora's Box. We need to think about the cost to overall efforts and report timelines of any expansion.
  - This group has the expertise to cover an expanded marine zone; we may be able to shift areas of inland wetland overlap with other groups (e.g. rivers and forests) to create a better working balance within wetlands to allow for this expansion.
  - Current efforts are different from the 2011 report which focused on adaptation. Wetlands have a mitigation component and carbon sequestration overlap; section 7 in the Table of Contents omits mitigation and sequestration—we are charged with addressing both, but they fall under broader cross-sections.
- Next Steps:
  - Juliana will create a list of inland and coastal wetland habitat types, Peter will add marine zones, and it will be added to the Wetlands Google Documents site.
  - Team members will use that information to begin to populate section 7 a-h. Work will be created in areas of expertise across all categories.
  - Members will add more than needed initially and it will be edited down as needed for the

- Citations should follow the Harvard Style which is easy to access from Google Scholar.
- We will seek input from NECASC on the vulnerability sections; they have a lot of existing analyses and information available.
- Spreadsheet discussion and review—was it transcribed properly?
  - Group made edits, corrections, and translations as needed; areas for clarification were identified.

**Wetland Habitat and Marsh Management (WHAMM) Presentation:**

Roger Wolfe, CT DEEP Wildlife

- Overview of many ongoing efforts for marsh management were discussed
- Examples of demonstration sites for marsh management (Avalonia Land Trust, Dodge Point) and thin marsh deposition (Bride's Brook, Rocky Neck State Park) may be good case studies for the final report
- Marsh photos and techniques of management in action photos are available for use in the final report.

**Next steps**

- The Table of Contents document will be added to the shared site; Jenny and Rick will share with other groups and determine way notice availability to public.
- Team will begin to populate the document
- Meeting schedule was discussed including the possible addition of extra, shorter meetings. Team members indicated that current Covid-19 response and adjustments to telework have actually created busier schedules over the next month.
- Next meeting date: Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30- 3:30 pm;  
Topic: two informational presentations (SLAMM and either subaqueous soils, carbon storage in coastal marshes, or tidal wetlands)  
Location: virtual

**Public comments:**

*No public comments received*

**NOTE:** No slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page: [www.ct.gov/deep/gc3](http://www.ct.gov/deep/gc3)