
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
State Vulnerability Assessment Framework Working Group
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: May 12, 2021

Meeting Time: 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

RECORDING

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/play/u-mVyNsUaiNW4sL2myp7iXSIIhQu3skrbkBftIHVpQ1KV12Txm5GLRhPW0bpQ4Gnxn8WtecMBUbjmI0.j-xdinGxyzFfS4V>

ATTENDANCE

Name	Present
David Barkin (co-chair)	√
Brenda Bergeron (co-chair)	√
Scott Gaul (co-chair)	√
Kimberly Lesay (co-chair)	√
Rebecca French	√
Mary-beth Hart	√
Carolyn Bittner	√
David Murphy	√
Amanda Clark DPH	√
Robert Smith	√
Royal Graves	√
Kevin Grigg	√
Karen Michaels	√
Scott Burns	√
Brian Thompson	√
Mary-Michelle Hirschhoff	√
Carmela Garofalo	√
Michael Urgo	√
John Truscinski	√
Ken Dumais	√
Ian Alexander	√
Steven Walleth	√
David Pajak	√
Jessica LeClair	√
David Ruiz	√
Patricia Taylor	√
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	√
Tanya Dwyer# Esq.	√
Bryan Garcia	√
Todd Berman	√
Robert Bell	√
Lori Mathieu	√
Laura Tessier	√
Andrew Droney	√
Edith Pestana	√
Phone Number 1	√

AGENDA & NOTES

Introductions and Updates

- Roll call of Working Group Co-Chairs and Members
- Identifying a scope of work in the planning meeting

Overview of Proposed Working Group Scope of Work

Proposed Scope of Work:

- Review State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Identify gaps (e.g., Energy, Environmental Justice, GIS data)
- Review CIRCA Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI)
 - Identify which factors are most important to WG's mission
- Use CCVI and gap identification to revise/enhance the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Discussion of Proposed Scope of Work

Brenda Bergeron:

- State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is a good starting point but needs updating
- Such as need to focus more on EJ and other gaps
- The GIS data that was used previously has been updated and improved
- Then review the climate change vulnerability index and see how it mixes with the State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Scott Gaul:

- The State Hazard Mitigation Plan is a good starting point.
- Reads over relevant sections of EO 3 as a refresher

Brenda Bergeron:

- How far do we go with this on a limited timeframe?

David Murphy:

- Discusses what was done in the last State Hazard Mitigation Plan which will be updated again in 2 years (it is updated every 5 years)
- For this project we could take all of the actions and put them side by side with the social vulnerabilities in the climate change vulnerability index to see how each action lines up
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Rebecca French:

- The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan does have a state statute associated with it and it does have a federal budget associated with it as well. It makes sense to capitalize on that planning process as a fairly natural fit. There are gaps in the plan but it is a place where we could seek funding and support. Massachusetts did something similar.

Brenda Bergeron:

- Are we including privately owned public utilities?

Karen Michaels:

- The Natural Hazard Mitigation plan may not have much detail regarding roads and bridges because of security concerns of putting details on critical infrastructure online.

Brenda Bergeron:

- Energy infrastructure should be on the list of facilities covered by the plan

John Truscinski:

- We should discuss the approach of the hazard mitigation plan such as the method to figure out where the vulnerable infrastructure is and compare it to other examples.
- We should try to develop a process or steps agencies can take to address the deliverable

David Murphy:

- The NHMP is just a spatial analysis. Any risk with a spatial component is mapped and the facilities or properties located in those areas are tabulated

Kim Lesay: We should define what we look at for hazards such as storms, flood, biological related

Scott Gaul: Looking at the executive order we are only concerned with climate change adaptation and resilience. We should also settle on a definition for vulnerable assets.

Brian Thompson: The intent in the Executive Order was to cover a high-level look at state owned assets

Brenda Bergeron: Initially we are looking at establishing a framework for vulnerability state owned assets or operations for climate change natural hazards only. I think we need to say, including utilities that support those state-owned assets and vulnerabilities (i.e. energy, water systems and water pollution control authorities.)

Edith Pestana: Advocating the inclusion state and federally recognized tribes in Working Group and Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Matt Fulda: Discussed the need for hyperlocal vulnerability assessments and having this group's framework be able to be used as a template for local vulnerability assessments

Public Comments

Patricia Taylor (from chat): Does this working group anticipate making infrastructure protection recommendations to mitigate the impact of the climate crisis upon our vulnerable residents? Does this working group anticipate providing a framework that will receive federal funding to mitigate the impact of the climate crisis upon vulnerable communities?

Mary-beth Hart: Discusses centering environmental justice and state-owned assets with vulnerable communities such as group homes

Edith Pestana: What about the Department of Corrections and the prison population?

Mary-beth Hart: The Department of Corrections is certainly an agency we will coordinate with.

Scott Gaul: The state natural hazard mitigation plan is sort of a good starting point, but also flagging that you know, there might be gaps in terms of the environmental justice. After developing an index there is some sort of qualitative feedback which is how we can get multiple groups to be involved.

Next Steps and Adjourn

Rebecca French: Process suggestion of sending out some homework assignments.

Brenda Bergeron: Would like to see the mission (language from Executive Order 3) on each agenda and the focus of our mission.

Rebecca French: John and I are working to bring CIRCA on in a greater role so they can work beyond Fairfield and New Haven counties.

Brenda Bergeron: David, Karen, Ian, and Ken and whoever Karen thinks from DEEP can look at the plan (NHMP) and give us a sense of what sections would be most appropriate for us to be focusing on.

Rebecca French : Possibly the transportation planner at DoT can be a part of this meeting

Kim Lesay: They will be starting later in the month and will need some time to get them up and running and will soon be fully immersed in this.

John Truscinski: CIRCA can help with the climate change vulnerability index (CCVI) on presenting or implementing it.

Brenda Bergeron: What factors within the vulnerability index, do you think might be the most important for us to accomplish that so that we can narrow that scope as well?
A small group can look at the Massachusetts survey and think about how might want to use that. Maybe someone who has an interest in the equity side of it, particularly. To take a look at that and think about what other things they might put on the survey that aren't there or how we might want to word it.

Rebecca French: I'll take a look at that.

Matt Fulda: I can help as well.

Brenda Bergeron: Patricia and Edith were thinking about the tribes and vulnerable populations issues. What other questions would help get at the point more. You can send questions to Rebecca and Matt that they can incorporate.

Edith Pestana: What about Joanna and her comments with respect to a state-owned asset approach to the impacts of structure instead of population and how we ask with respect to how people feel about disproportionate impact.

Rebecca French: Joanna why don't you write up a paragraph on it you can follow you can follow up with the chairs and send it to them by email I think it's an interesting perspective.

Mary-Beth Hart: Along the lines of what this particular working group can accomplish could that be some sort of a future recommendation if it's not necessarily something that this particular working group can establish a framework for, but if it needs to be flushed out in some other way would that be reasonable as well.

Rebecca French: The plan is to also reconvene the infrastructure and land use working group as well. I think that group could be another home for where these recommendations come from.

Rebecca French: Suggesting a planning meeting with the co-chairs in possibly two weeks, but another working group meeting in a month

Meeting Adjourned

Here is the Mass State Agency Vulnerability Assessment Survey Training video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deAgnu5K5BM&feature=youtu.be>

00:52:09 Patricia Taylor: Will the GIS tool being legislated in HB6647 facilitate the mission of this working group?

00:52:13 Edith Pestana: Are considering Cultural landscapes?

00:52:57 Edith Pestana: AS we plan this we need to consider consulting with SHIPO and the Tribes

00:57:10 Rebecca French: add broadband to that list

01:11:02 David Murphy: https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/01_Programs_Services/Hurricane-Sandy-Program

01:11:26 David Murphy: and

01:11:28 David Murphy: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/06_About_SHPO/Strategic-Plan-Final_hyperlinks.pdf

01:11:59 David Murphy: and one more! https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Hurricane_Sandy_Relief/Website-Stuff/ResiliencyPlanningStatewideGuide_Reduced.pdf

01:13:00 Patricia Taylor: Broadband protections interface with water and wastewater facility functioning.

01:19:52 Rebecca French: The chairs have flexibility to include as many agencies in these conversations as they this is appropriate.

01:20:10 Rebecca French: as they think is appropriate.

01:23:03 Rebecca French: My suggestion for a starting point would be to limit the framework to physical climate impacts described by the Science & Technology Working Group and adopted into the GC3 Phase 1 January 2021 report.

01:26:20 David Murphy: Hi all - we didn't talk about the CCVI. I can provide the fact sheet if anyone is interested. Email me. dmurphy@slrconsulting.com

01:26:52 John Truscinski: Agree we can rely on the science and technology working group report to focus on the climate impacts we have high confidence in occurring. Somewhat more narrow than the hazard mitigation plan.

01:27:33 Joanna Wozniak-Brown: Another way to frame it from a state-owned asset approach could be Impacts on the physical structure of the assets, impacts on the on-site operations including service to the target population (prisoners, park guests), and vulnerability of delivery of services (if applicable) beyond site location. And a further equity lens of how failure of services may result in disproportionate impacts to vulnerable populations.

01:28:21 Edith Pestana: I agree with Joanna's comment.

01:33:42 David Murphy: <https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2761/2021/04/CCVI-Fact-Sheet.pdf>