

**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions**

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 15, 2022

Meeting Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Zoom Recording: [Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE: GC3 Working Group Members in bold

Name:
Samuel Alexander
Alanis Allen
Michelle Andrzejewski
Dominic Antonio
Tyler Archer
Joe Aresimowicz
Paul Aresta
Marina Astitha
Dean Audet
Megan B. Raymond
Steph Bahramian
Thomas Baptist
Hannah Beath
Ashley Benitez
Rick Bennett
Todd Berman
Amy Blaymore Paterson
George Bradner, Co-chair
Mary Buchanan
Becky Bunnell
Rania Campbell-Bussiere
Alicea Charamut
Russell Clark
Wayne Cobleigh
Louanne Cooley
David Dickson
Rebecca French
Matthew Fulda, Co-chair
Bryan Garcia
Amber Garrard
Nicole Govert
Megan Granato
Kevin Grigg, Co-chair
Eric Hammerling
Donna Hamzy Carroccia
Paul Hearn
Michael Hogan

Christopher Kelly
Jonathan Kinney
Robert LaFrance
Alysse Lembo-Buzzelli
William Lucey
Laura Magaraci
Joseph Marrone
Jack Matthias
Katharine Morris
Sara Morrison
David Murphy
Rick Newton
James O'Donnell, Science and Technology Liaison
Yaprak Onat
Cierra Patrick
Mary Pelletier
Malaquias Peña
Meghan Portfolio
Bonnie Potocki
Emily Pysh, Co-chair
Ian Reilly
Emely Ricci
Kim Rice
Chadwick Schroeder
Lisa Shanahan
Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet
Hailey Simpson
Emily Slotnick
Kevin Spinella
Tom Swan
Patty Szczys
Tyler Theder
Eric Thomas
Brian Thompson
John Truscinski
Mark Urban
Sarah Watson, DEEP Liaison
Joanna Wozniak-Brown

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome: Sarah Watson, DEEP Liaison

Ground Rules:

- Meeting is recorded and a link will be posted
- Announcement that the chat is public record, but may be used for questions and comments by working group members
- Working group members are asked to post their names and affiliation in the chat
- Reminder that the discussion portion is reserved for working group members
- Announcement that non-working group members should mute and turn video off until public comment

Introductions of Co-chairs and Overview of Working Group Goals and Outcomes:

George Bradner, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Insurance; Kevin Grigg, CEO, Fuss & O'Neill; Matt Fulda, Executive Director, Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments; Emily Pysh, Connecticut Department of Transportation

- Emily Pysh presents overview of goals for the working group
 - How should nature-based solutions be incorporated into infrastructure projects?
 - How should they be funded? How can they be funded?
 - Explore reporting to DEEP that comes with IIJA funding
- Kevin Griggs leads discussion on prioritization of projects
 - Announces subgroup for those interested in determining recommendations for prioritizing projects as funding becomes available
 - Asks for volunteers
- Emily Pysh provides overview of funding opportunities
 - Notes that many programs are coming from federal Department of Transportation, but that only a few have a resiliency element, which she will focus on
 - PROTECT Program: Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation
 - Formula funding program (dedicated funding for CT)
 - CT will receive \$90 million over the next 5 years
 - Guidance and funding became available in August
 - CT DOT is still interpreting guidance, but the intent is to provide funding for resiliency of DOT projects, including updating existing projects
 - Competitive grants tied to the program that can provide additional funds for transportation, including for planning and for at-risk coastal infrastructure
 - More information is forthcoming on this program
 - Emergency Relief Program: part of federal infrastructure bill
 - When repairs are being made to CT infrastructure, resiliency can and should be taken into account and federal reimbursement will be made available

Presentation, Connecticut and Federal Legislative Update: Brian Thompson, Director of Land and Water Resources and Rebecca French, Director of Office of Climate Planning, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Emily Pysh, Connecticut Department of Transportation

- Rebecca French gives overview of Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
- Rebecca French gives brief overview of the report that financing and funding came from
 - Notes that there were 61 recommendations for near-term action recommended by the working group and included in the final report
 - Since then, they have been working on implementation
 - Executive Order 21-3 came out of this and aligned with over 30 near-term actions recommended by the working group
 - One of the actions was to create a Climate Resiliency Fund through DEEP
 - Goal is to support communities in resiliency planning and preparing and build capacity
 - 10 million available in first round, with no match required from DEEP, though there is a required match for federal funds
 - 40% of funds must go to vulnerable communities
 - Two tracks: one for planning and one for project development
 - Track 1 has a \$250,000 maximum
 - Track 2 has no dollar limit
 - *To read more about the Climate Resiliency Fund, please see Resources below*
- Rebecca French and Brian Thompson introduce federal resilience funding opportunities (all programs require non-federal match between 25%-50%)
 - NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund
 - Will award 140 million in FY22
 - Administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 - This fund has been around for several years, but funding levels have significantly increased due to federal infrastructure law
 - Funds can be used for conservation projects, land conservation, and habitat restoration
 - Prioritizing nature-based solutions for:
 - Capacity building and planning
 - Site assessment and preliminary design
 - Final design and permitting
 - Restoration and monitoring (implementation and follow-up monitoring)
 - Funding can be used for planning and scoping, project design, and construction and implementation
 - NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund
 - 10 million available for FY22
 - Prioritizing funding for:

- Clean water and watersheds
- Habitats
- Sustainable and resilient communities
- Science and Management
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC)
 - 2.3 billion available for FY22, which is one of the largest sources in the federal government and grown significantly over the past few years
 - Focused on pre-disaster or to prevent damages before disasters
 - Incentivizes mitigating risks and incorporating nature-based solutions
 - This program will fund:
 - Capability and capacity building activities
 - Hazard mitigation projects
 - Match is lower for rural, vulnerable communities (10%)
 - Communities with a Social Vulnerability Index of greater than or equal to .6 will be prioritized
 - Project partners with DEMHS
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - Only available with qualifying disaster
 - Not nationally competitive
 - This grant program is currently active, and projects related to flooding could be applicable

Questions from working group:

- Joanna Wozniak-Brown: What standards apply to increasing a project to the resiliency level
- Emily Pysh notes that guidance is still incoming, but all questions are being funneled to the federal level
 - Believes projects will be decided on a case-by-case basis
- Amy Blaymore-Paterson: Will more subgroups be created based on specific interests and expertise?
- Rebecca French notes that, historically, subgroups have resulted in siloes and so they aren't the recommended strategy from DEEP anymore
 - Also notes that the working group has limited meeting times, which would make planning subgroups difficult
 - Kevin Grigg agrees
 - Highlights that DEEP defers to preference of co-chairs, so if it is needed, co-chairs can initiate the formation of subgroups
- Mary Pelletier: Wonders if project-based strategy is being emphasized enough with regard to nature-based solutions?
- Todd: Notes that the working group could be charged with working for over a year, so he is hoping that there will be more opportunities to contribute
 - Rebecca French notes that these recommendations and insights can be brought to the full council
- Robert LaFrance: Feels it's important to organize grants information by cycle dates and required information

- Emily Pysh responds to question in the chat to clarify those projects with minimal impact or “typical” activities (Ex. Install of electric chargers) can go forward without a lot of additional requirements and thus should move more quickly through the process
- Jim O’Donnell, Chair of Science and Technology Working Group: Notes that there are many barriers to proposal writing, some of which are scientific and technologically based. He suggests that the Science and Technology working group could be helpful in this regard.
 - Joanna Wozniak-Brown also notes that common policy issues could be the focus of the working group in 2023

Working Group Meeting Topic Selection

- Top survey results:
 - Storm water management, including green infrastructure
 - Resilient nature-based shorelines, including living shorelines
 - Inland river and flood risk management
 - Coastal and flood risk management
- Matt Fulda notes that they will seek expertise from the working group in collaboration with the survey results
- Wayne Cobleigh: Suggests developing story map to update the outdated one, which demonstrates what was learned on prior projects and creates a case history
 - Brian Thompson says he will take this project on

Discussion: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

- Matt Fulda asks for comments and questions regarding the next meeting agenda
- Mary: Are there ways to identify pilot project areas? Suggests using certain typological areas as criteria could be helpful.
 - Matt Fulda says that a nature-based solution lens does take ecological systems into account, and we should ensure that we bring thinking about typological criteria into the survey result topic areas
- Jim O’Donnell notes we should prioritize low-hanging fruit, as in those that have a low permitting bar, and get those things started as soon as possible
- Rebecca French notes there is some confusion about permitting related to nature-based solution
 - Brian Thompson explains there are streamlined processes for common projects, like those related to shorelines, but permitting can become complicated when projects are new or multi-faceted
 - He notes that the design is important and there are wildlife considerations
 - Matt Fulda adds that the ownership and ongoing maintenance of projects can make permitting and regulatory piece more difficult
 - Matt states that as the projects become more common, there will be less skepticism with regard to feasibility and longevity of projects

- Alicea Charamut notes that the regulatory framework does not protect riparian buffers and other features of inland water
 - Also notes that nature-based solutions in their natural state (forests, riparian buffers) do not need to be maintained
- Todd Berman voices concern of timeline and encourages co-chairs to note this for the council
- David Dickson argues that regulations do not always have to be a barrier, but that they can drive projects forward by encouraging implementation
 - Argues that implementation for communities is challenging because funds are not easily accessible
 - Matt Fulda notes that one of the legislative actions that came from the initial GC3 process was the ability for municipalities to create stormwater management and authority
 - These organizations collect fees that should go to implementation
 - Both New London and New Britain have created these
 - Matt notes this is just one lever and there should be others
- Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet says there is a long term trend towards unpreparedness, but in terms of low-hanging fruit, preparedness could be a good place to start
 - A good approach would integrate socio-cultural factors

Public Comments: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

- Kim Rice: I don't want to miss the opportunity to advocate for my district. I am a town councilwoman and represent a low-income, working-class district with several flooding issues and would love to participate in any pilot programs.
- **Denise Savageau:** *Written comments submitted directly to Co-chairs and attached below.*

Closing Comments:

Matt Fulda thanks the working group and GC3 leadership. He notes that the co-chairs are discussing what final deliverables should be and they intend to announce that as soon as possible.

Meeting Adjourned

Resources:

- [Overview of GC3 Charge and Organization](#)
- [DEEP Climate Resiliency Fund](#)

Chat Record

00:17:35 Kevin Grigg: Good morning, everyone. Thanks for attending.
 00:18:41 Brian Thompson CTDEEP: Good morning everyone, Brian Thompson, Director, Land and Water Resources Division at DEEP
 00:18:59 Robert LaFrance: Robert LaFrance, National Audubon Society (CT)

00:19:25 Emily Slotnick: Good morning! Emily Slotnick, Climate Resilience Manager/Director of Env. Permitting at BETA Group

00:19:26 Marina Astitha: Good morning everyone. Marina Astitha, Civil and Environmental Engineering, UConn.

00:19:26 Mary Pelletier: Mary Pelletier, Park Watershed

00:19:27 Nicole Govert, Sustainable CT: Nicole Govert, Sustainable CT. Good Morning!

00:19:36 Michelle Andrzejewski: Hello! Michelle Andrzejewski, City of Norwalk - Planning and Zoning

00:19:36 Todd Berman: Todd Berman - Avangrid

00:19:41 Amber Garrard (she/her), Yale University: Hi all, Amber Garrard, Yale Office of Sustainability

00:19:44 james O'Donnell: Hi. Jim O'Donnell, CIRCA & UCONN

00:19:48 Jonathan Kinney: Good morning everyone. Jonathan Kinney - State Historic Preservation Officer for Connecticut.

00:19:54 Amy Blaymore Paterson: Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, CT Land Conservation Council

00:19:57 Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet: Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet, Dept of Anthropology, UCONN

00:19:58 Megan Raymond: Hi, I am Megan Raymond, Principal Scientist, Wetlands and Waterways Lead at SLR Consulting.

00:20:00 Alicea Charamut - Rivers Alliance: Hello all! Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

00:20:08 David Dickson: Dave Dickson, UConn CLEAR & Extension

00:20:11 Bryan Garcia: Good morning all. Bryan Garcia - Connecticut Green Bank

00:20:14 William Lucey: Bill Lucey - Long Island Soundkeeper - Save the Sound

00:20:25 Chadwick Schroeder: Chadwick Schroeder, City of Bridgeport, Sustainability Manager

00:20:25 Thomas Baptist: Thomas Baptist, Town of East Hartford CT, Project Manager - Chief Sustainability Officer

00:20:26 Mark Urban: Mark Urban, Center of Biological Risk and UConn Dept. of Ecology and Evolution

00:20:30 Yaprak Onat: Hi everyone, Yaprak Onat - UConn CIRCA

00:20:33 Dean Audet: Hello, Dean Audet from Fuss & O'Neill

00:20:34 Samuel Alexander, SCCOG: Sam Alexander, SCCOG

00:20:40 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: Rebecca French, Director Office of Climate Planning, CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection

00:20:47 Jack Matthias: Jack Matthias, Audubon CT

00:21:05 Russell Clark: Russell Clark, Urban Forester, PlanIT Geo

00:21:11 Joanna Wozniak-Brown: Good morning! Joanna Wozniak-Brown, Climate Policy Development Coordinator for Office of Policy & Management

00:21:12 Lisa Shanahan: I am Lisa Shanahan. I am a Common Council member for the City of Norwalk, Chair of the Ordinance Committee as well as chair of our Ad Hoc Resiliency Committee. I also sit on the board of the Norwalk Land Trust and the steering committee of Hudson to the Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership

00:21:23 Megan Granato: Good morning! Megan Granato here - I am the Sustainability and Resilience Manager for the Town of Groton. Listening in as an interested member of the public.

00:21:34 Louanne Cooley: Good morning! Louanne Cooley UConn CIRCA, CT Siting Council, Town of Mansfield PZC

00:21:38 Laura Magaraci: Good Morning Everyone. Laura Magaraci, Zoning & IWEO Town of North Haven.

00:21:38 Joseph Marrone: Joe Marrone, Area Leader - Urban and Coastal Resilience with Arcadis

00:21:49 Christopher Kelly: Chris Kelly - Save the Sound

00:21:54 Tyler Archer: Hello all. Tyler Archer, environmental and land use attorney at Shipman & Goodwin

00:22:02 Michael Hogan: Michael Hogan, CTDOT Transportation Principal Engineer, Hydraulics & Drainage and Soils & Foundations Units

00:22:23 Alysse Lembo-Buzzelli: Alysse Lembo-Buzzelli, Associate Director of Financing Programs, CT Green Bank ///// Board of Directors, CT Green Building Council

00:22:30 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: For an overview of the Governor's Council on Climate Change process please see these slides: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/Opportunities-for-GC3-in-2022-060822.pdf>

00:22:39 Sara Morrison: Hello, Sara Morrison, Fuss & O'Neill Business Line Manager - Climate Adaptation

00:23:01 Wayne Cobleigh: Hi Wayne Cobleigh, GZA and CTGBC, note your climate resilient nature based solution sites and buildings can now apply for 2022 CT Green Building Awards applications due Sept 30 info at www.ctgbc.org

00:23:04 Dominic Antonio: Dominic Antonio - CTDOT, Transportation Supervising Engineer, Hydraulics & Drainage

00:23:17 Stephanie Bahramian: Stephanie Bahramian, Environmental Planner with Town of Bloomfield

00:27:49 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: A reminder to Working Group members, please introduce yourself in the chat.

00:28:13 Megan Raymond, SLR: Sorry, how much money will be available to CT through PROTECT again please?

00:28:40 David Murphy: David Murphy, CIRCA Director of Resilience Engineering; and Principal at Resilient Land And Water, LLC

00:31:32 William Lucey: or better fish passage

00:32:11 Becky Bunnell: Becky Bunnell Fairfield Flood and Erosion control board listening in

00:32:16 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: Working group members - If you have questions for presenters, please put them in the chat.

00:32:25 Joanna Wozniak-Brown, CT OPM: Did they dictate what standards would apply to increasing the project to a resilient-size capacity?

00:34:09 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: For an overview of the Governor's Council on Climate Change process please see these slides: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/Opportunities-for-GC3-in-2022-060822.pdf>

00:35:03 Rick Bennett: Rick Bennett, US Fish and Wildlife Service

00:36:16 John Truscinski: John Truscinski, Director of Resilience Planning, CIRCA

00:38:44 Malaquias Peña: Malaquias Peña, Civil and Environmental Engineering affiliated to the Eversource Energy Center, UConn

00:39:33 Paul Hearn: Paul Hearn, Baralmar Advisors LLC, Stamford, CT

00:40:07 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: Link to the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund: <https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>

00:40:08 Tyler Archer: To clarify, the local match funding is a requirement for federal funding? The state is not requiring a match?

00:41:47 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: @Tyler, correct. No match required for applications to the state fund, but grantees as part of their deliverables for the state fund need to conduct an assessment to identify how they will pay for the match required for federal applications.

00:44:13 Emily Pysh (CT DOT): The PROTECT Program (FHWA) will provide around \$90M to CT in formula funding, and make annually available \$200M in competitive grant funding. There has not been a specific design standard communicated for the program, however, there is expected to be additional guidance issued when the competitive grants are announced.

00:47:21 David Dickson: Why is the CEEP Climate Resilience fund only funding planning and project development. Why not implementation? A lot of communities are struggling to find funding for that.

00:47:42 David Dickson: DEEP not CEEP

00:48:52 David Dickson: Is the idea to set communities up to apply for the federal funding programs?

00:50:35 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: @david yes, we are focused on getting our communities ready for federal funding opportunities for implementation, i.e. construction

00:51:04 David Dickson: ok. Thanks.

00:58:24 Kim Rice: Thank you!

00:58:53 Wayne Cobleigh: Question when would these DEEP grant applications be due for first round?

01:00:17 Joanna Wozniak-Brown, CT OPM: Thanks, Emily!

01:00:52 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: @Wayne - Track 1 planning, final applications due November 10. Track 2 project development, applications accepted on a rolling deadline, with application review beginning Oct 21 and a final deadline is Dec 2. All details are listed in the program description here: <https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>

01:01:36 Megan B. Raymond, SLR: thinking about getting projects shovel ready and funded, how much cepa/nepa involvement do you anticipate with ilja funded projects

01:02:05 Amy Blaymore Paterson, CLCC: Thank you!

01:08:46 Amy Blaymore Paterson, CLCC: Agree with Robert - especially if we are trying to get communities ready for federal funding opportunities for implementation.

01:09:01 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: As part of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund we will try to help with that to some extent

01:09:05 Amber Garrard (she/her), Yale University: Great suggestion, Robert.

01:09:11 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: referring to Robert's comment

01:09:41 Robert LaFrance: Thanks all

01:10:23 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: If you are not a working group member and would like to speak during the public comment portion at the end of this meeting, please send me a direct message and I will add you to the list.

01:14:33 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: @joanna - neutral from DEEP GC3 admin perspective on formation of a policy subgroup...at the discretion of the co-chairs

01:14:37 Megan B. Raymond, SLR: thanks, emily - need to streamline some of these systems for sure

01:17:26 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: Survey Results:

01:19:59 Joanna Wozniak-Brown, CT OPM: Thanks, Rebecca. Good to know!

01:20:01 Joanna Wozniak-Brown, CT OPM: I think this WG could have helpful contributions to the format and process for the feeding and tracking of the resilience project pipeline, given the efforts happening across the state.

01:20:07 Joseph Marrone, Arcadis: I think the interaction of flood risk reduction and environmental regulations would be worth talking about

01:21:15 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: Survey Results: 1. Stormwater Management including green infrastructure & drainage improvements, 2. Inland/ riverine flood

risk management, 3. Resilient nature-based shoreline, including living shorelines, 4. Coastal/ tidal flood risk management

01:26:08 Marina Astitha: I have to sign off as I teach in 10min. I am very glad to be part of the group.

01:26:33 Kevin Grigg: Thanks for attending.

01:28:09 Katharine Morris: What types of permitting and regulatory issues

01:28:21 Mary Pelletier: thanks!

01:30:55 Tyler Archer: Thanks all. Would appreciate some clarity from the co-chairs on their vision for the final work product we are anticipated to develop, what it should include, and how the cross-cutting themes will be incorporated?

01:31:29 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: FYI, you can rename yourself in Zoom and add your affiliation. Hover over your name in the "Participants" list and go to "More" and then "Rename". adding affiliations here can help you get to know each other in such a large group.

01:31:40 Mary Pelletier: What about scale, perhaps we ought to look at holistic ecological planning at large scales. Benefits of multiple small scale green infrastructure features can be easily erased by approval of a parking lot/big box store, or synthetic turf field.

01:31:46 Katharine Morris: Thanks

01:32:26 Katharine Morris: Interesting

01:32:56 James O'Donnell: Lets get a list of obstacles...

01:33:03 Katharine Morris: Yea I've heard about that with respect to nature based solutions of solar panel siting to prevent watershed leaching // tracking erosion etc

01:34:12 Katharine Morris: Perhaps collaborating with colleges

01:34:16 Katharine Morris: Like UConn extension

01:34:23 Katharine Morris: Yea great information, thanks!

01:35:24 Amber Garrard (she/her), Yale University: Thanks for these examples! Are there any official processes for collecting and documenting these kinds of challenges?

01:35:53 Katharine Morris: ++

01:36:05 Eric Hammerling, CFPA: Thank you, Alicea! Well said.

01:37:10 Amy Blaymore Paterson, CLCC: To Alicea's point, I encourage folks to look at the subgroup reports from the GC3 Working and Natural Lands WG esp Forests, Wetlands and Rivers. Link to all reports: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/GC3-Working-group-reports>

01:38:51 Louanne Cooley: Would be helpful if regional authorities like COG's could serve as stormwater authorities.

01:38:51 Mary Pelletier: Absolutely agree with Alicea Charamut, the benefits of protecting and revitalization of riparian buffers ought to be recognized as an affordable nature-based solution.

01:38:55 Louanne Cooley: Only New London

01:39:01 William Lucey: To Alicea's point preserving open space, protecting riparian buffers, removing dams, not building in floodplains have low O&M costs.

01:40:16 Brian Thompson CTDEEP: https://www.northeastoceancouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Regulatory-Challenges-and-Opportunities-for-Living-Shorelines-in-New-England_2022.03.04-1.pdf

01:40:58 David Dickson, UConn CLEAR: Rebecca - can DEEP Climate Resilience planning or Proj Development funds be used for exploring/setting up utilities?

01:41:15 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: Thankyou @Eleanor for bringing in an equity lens issue to this discussion

01:41:32 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2761/2022/08/Flood-Climate-Resilience-and-Erosion-Board_fact-sheet-8.24.22.pdf

01:41:42 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: this is in addition to stormwater utility authorization
01:42:06 Katharine Morris: Elle I'd love to see your research//preliminary findings!
01:42:25 Louanne Cooley: Thank you! looking forward to working with the group.
01:42:26 Katharine Morris: Goodluck on the grant!
01:42:28 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: Thank you to the co-chairs!!!
01:42:51 Sarah Watson, CT DEEP: FYI, the first webinar for the DEEP Climate Resilience
Fund will be Friday, Sept 22 from 12-1pm. See the website for all information:
<https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>
01:43:20 Rebecca French, CT Dept. Energy & Env. Protection: General guidance is there NO
written report requirement. An oral presentation to the GC3 is the deliverable.
01:43:47 Amy Blaymore Paterson, CLCC: Thank you for this opportunity. Looking
forward to rolling up sleeves and coming up with strong recommendations.

Subject: Re: GC3 Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Working Group
Date: Friday, September 9, 2022 at 8:46:45 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Denise Savageau
To: Beath, Hannah
CC: French, Rebecca, Watson, Sarah, Allen, Alanis, Matt Fulda, Kevin Grigg, Bradner, George, Pysh, Emily, Thompson, Brian

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi All,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important work group with the GC3. I look forward to working with you all.

I have been invited to speak at the US Water Alliance One Water Summit in Milwaukee on of all things soil and water conservation and the ecosystem services provided by our natural and working lands. Unfortunately, I will not only be away next week at the conference but presenting at the exact same time as the meeting for the GC3 Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Working Group on Sept. 15.

I wanted to let you know that I would not be at the meeting, but also hat if you have any assignments and or information needed from me as a committee member but more importantly, as Chair of the CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation, please let me know. I will be available by email and happy to provide input to the committee that way.

As many of you probably know, I am extremely interested in nature-based solutions including soil health, intact forests and wetland systems, and living shoreline/oyster reefs and was part of the GC3 Working and Natural Lands group. Additionally, having over 20 years of experience reviewing E&S and stormwater management plans at the local level land use level, I understand the stresses being placed on these systems and the complications of combined sewer overflows from even minor storm events. Although we often discuss resilient infrastructure from primarily a flooding perspective, we need to understand the challenges that flashy precipitation is having on water resources quality and quantity. We also need to take a hard look at the role of distributed generation, not only for the deployment of clean energy and resilient micro-grids, but from looking at benefits in cities (solar roofs = less heat effect) and the need to reduce the impacts of large scale solar (impervious cover) on our already stressed watercourses. I also worked in the EOC for the Town of Greenwich including for major storms like Superstorm Sandy and understand the need to maintain stream and storm surge gages that inform not on during storm events but for planning.

The CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation has several resilient projects in the works including:

- Preparation of a state-wide soil health plan across all landscapes (farms, forests, wetlands, residential/commercial developed/developing lands)
- Mapping of the subaqueous soils and near shore soils in Long Island Sound to better inform placement of living shorelines, aquaculture, docks, etc. This is being done by the US Cooperative Soil Survey - USDA NRCS. The Council secured \$5M in Congressionally directed spending for the project.
- GIS analysis of land use on a parcel-by-parcel layer of our public drinking supply watersheds/aquifer protection areas, to determine which lands are best suited for protection and/or best management practices to protect source water protection areas. This coverage is for the whole state. UConn CLEAR is the contractor for the Council on the GIS work being done in coordination with DPH. Expected completion by January 2023.
- The Council is charged with overing the Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines and is working closely with CT DEEP on the update of both the E&S Guidelines and the Stormwater Water Control Manual.
- Assisting Dept of Ag with deployment of its Climate Smart Ag and Forest programs.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I look forward to working with you over the next month or two. I understand there is a short timeframe for this work, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you need anything specific.

Denise

***Denise Savageau, Chair
CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation
cell 203-918-9693***

The Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation is set up by State Statute to assist the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) with the coordination of soil and water conservation, protection, and management across the state. The Council brings together local, state, and federal agencies involved in such matters with its membership including the 5 Conservation Districts, DEEP, Dept of Agriculture, UConn Extension, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, and the CT Resource and Development Council. There is a similar coordinating body in every state, creating a national network of state soil and water conservation agencies providing for technical transfer of scientific knowledge and best practices across the nation.

From: Beath, Hannah <Hannah.Beath@ct.gov>

Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 5:17 PM

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