



Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)
Land Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 8, 2024 1:00 PM-2:30 PM
[Link to the recording](#)

This is a public meeting and will be recorded and posted on the [Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) website.

Disclaimer: Please note this is not a word for word translation.

1. Welcome

Yaw Darko, Chair of the Land Subcommittee, started the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

2. Roll Call

Yaw conducted roll call for all subcommittee members.

3. Overview of Agenda

4. Presentation on Coastal Habitat Restoration and Land Acquisition Project Prioritization

Mindy Gosselin, Land Acquisition and Restoration Coordinator at CT DEEP
(melinda.gosselin@ct.gov)

- Mindy Gosselin presented on DEEP's Coastal Land Acquisition and Restoration Program and the draft criteria they have been working on. The draft criteria are based on other new grant programs including CT DEEEP Green Plan and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Reginald Fortcolin asked if a group was working in Bridgeport community would that have the same weight as a group from Bridgeport working in Bridgeport. Mindy responded with both groups being weighted the same.
- Lindsay Suhr shared how the previous criteria was generated from the federal grant while the current criteria is being generated by DEEP. Mindy emphasized how the criteria being presented was a draft. Another point was raised about how groups with small land are going to struggle scoring in the category of land.

- Denise Savageau asked for clarification on the climate change value. Mindy responded saying she was mostly looking at this through a resilience perspective and ensuring the projects that are proposed take into consideration climate change.
- Kathy Czepiel made a comment about the issue of small parcels. She then suggested addressing this by counting people instead of acres. Also counting how many people will be impacted by the effort rather than how many acres will be restored.
- Anstress Farwell asked for clarification on the ecological value prioritization criteria table. Mindy provided further explanation.
- Anstress Farwell raised a question around acquiring parcels. Mindy said they have been talking to the Trust for Public Land which has shared similar concerns about properties not being contaminant free.
- Yaw Darko asked whether Mindy will be requiring support letters from the community or other groups since it is helpful in providing records showing how the project can support the community. Mindy said this is something they are considering.
- Mary Pelletier asked if neighborhood flooding should be more of an issue? Mindy said there is a balance between habitats and humans being impacted by flooding. Mary suggested identifying sites that were damaged historically. Mindy shared how they typically do not fund places that have previous structures or contamination.
- Kathy Czepiel asked about one of the EJ and community impact criteria: What does it mean to be a partner on the project?
- Yaw asked if Mindy is working with other agencies which can help identify additional funding. Mindy revealed how they have been looking into collaborations within DEEP and with other agencies but need to explore that further. They also plan on engaging with groups that provide support such as technical assistance.
- Denise Savageau shared how they did a listening session along the coast and one of the things they heard was that providing public access is not enough. Denise encouraged Mindy to build on the idea of access.
- Denise Savageau suggested making sure to have the resiliency piece in the climate checklist. She also flagged how getting through the coastal programming process: Fully designed is one thing fully permitted is another. She suggested Mindy say permissible instead of fully permitted.

5. Announcements, Updates, and Events

- Eric Hammerling, Director of Environmental Review and Strategic Initiatives at CT DEEP, shared information about the CT Siting Council (CSC) Study including an overview and timeline. The CSC Study is required by the state legislation passed this year to study the CT Siting council and whether it as effective as it needs to be.

They will be providing a more in-depth presentation at the next Energy Subcommittee meeting. Eric will publish a report on this at the end of the year. Eric shared the following link in the chat and instructed attendees to see section 12 which further lays out the scope of the study:

<https://cga.ct.gov/2024/ACT/PA/PDF/2024PA-00144-R00HB-05507-PA.PDF>

6. Upcoming Meetings

- ParkScore – Hartford, CT
- Six Lakes Park Coalition and Remediation Sites
- Connecticut’s Green Plan

Full List of Registrants:

Terry Adams
cyrena thibodeau
Julianna McVeigh
Caitlin Daddona
Abbie Winter
Pallavi Mande
Jocelyn Phung
Kallysia Raymond
Sheila Barney
Beth Bernard
Kathy Czepiel
Diane Lauricella
Sarah Watson
Mindy Gosselin
Brian Thompson
Justine Phillips-Gallucci
Ryan Boggio
Aicha Woods
Yaw Darko
Mary Pelletier

Kay Lehoux
Sarah Huang
Maritza Bond
Katherine Bennett
Denise Savageau
Rodrigo Pinto
Rahiem Eleazer
Blizzard Sharod
Reginald Fortcolin
Chris Teter
Cecelia Drayton
Paul Aresta
Eric Hammerling
Jacquelyn Torres
Rebecca Augur
Lindsay Suhr
Anna Pickett
Danica Doroski
Les Welker
Niles Dookie

Harry Yamalis
Camille Fontanella
Jaime Smith
Doris Johnson
Karen Kitsis
Paul O Robertson
Patricia Houser
Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig
Jillian Kara
Emma Cimino
Graham Stevens
Anstress Farwell
Aaron Goode
Akiebia Hicks
inventor eddie oquendo
Leigh Whelpton
Alfredo Herrera
susan halpern