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

Meeting Date: February 27, 2020
Meeting Time: 9:00 am. – 12:00 pm
Meeting Location: deKoven House
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Alicea Charamut	Executive Director	Rivers Alliance of Connecticut	X
Andrew Fisk	Executive Director	Connecticut River Conservancy	X
Eileen Fielding	Director	Sharon Audubon – National Audubon Society	X
Bill Dornbos	Executive Director	Farmington River Watershed Association	X
Mike O’Neill	Associate Dean	UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources	X
Laura Wildman	Director, NE Office, Ecological Engineering	Princeton Hydro	X
Virginia DeLima	Retired	USGS (retired) & CT Water Planning Council	X
The following people attempted to participate via “ZOOM” but were not able to, due to technical difficulties:			
Lynn Werner	Executive Director	Housatonic Valley Association	
Rick Jacobson	Chief	CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources	

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Peter Aarrestad	Director	CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division	X
Cary Lynch	Research Analyst	CT DEEP Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy – Office of Climate Change Technology & Research	X
Susan Peterson	Environmental Analyst 3	CT DEEP Bureau of Water Planning and Land Reuse – Water Planning & Management Division	X

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance

- Welcome and introductions
- Member of public welcomed and invited to provide input during meeting since group was small.
- Technical difficulties occurred with “ZOOM” remote participation option. Two people who tried to participate via this platform were dropped. Will work to resolve issue for next meeting.

Agenda Item(s)

Facilitated by Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance

- Schedule Review
 - Charamut solicited comments on the proposed Rivers SWG meeting schedule. She noted that it was difficult to find dates which all SWG members could attend. She picked dates that worked for the greatest number while trying to strike a balance and make sure that no one person had to miss too many meetings. However, this was challenging as some people were not available for extended periods of time.
 - Correction – The June 25th meeting is a Thursday, not a Tuesday as listed in the proposed schedule.
- Review and refinement of SWG objectives and operating procedures
 - 2011 recommendations do not convey a sense of “urgency”. We no longer have the luxury of time and must find a way to convey this.
 - Concern about rushing things. It takes time to plan and set things up.
 - Some items identified relate to rivers but are beyond the scope of Rivers SWG. Need to communicate with other GC3 groups that have more ownership of these items and find a way to strike a balance.
 - Need to keep in mind “end goal”. All GC3 groups will be developing recommendations and there will be opportunities to review/comment. In the end, recommendations are about what we should do as a State.
 - Rivers will be affected by Climate Change but they don’t “cause” Climate Change. However, there are things we do have control over things that affect rivers (eg. - development and increased impervious surfaces, etc.)
 - Run ideas through “SMART” filter (Sustainable, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timebound)

- Need to identify economic impacts. How do we go about doing this?
- Incorporation of brainstorm and 2011 Climate Plan Recommendations Tool
 - Charamut incorporated brainstorming ideas from 2-4-20 meeting into a “Dynamic Outline Draft”. She sorted ideas under major category headings (ie. - Background & Context, Importance, Impact Assessment & Vulnerabilities) identified in the draft outline for the “Statewide Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resiliency Report”. (All WNLWG subworking groups will be contributing content to this report.) Charamut noted that items can be added and/or moved around.
 - Group discussed 2011 recommendations and brainstorming ideas. Charamut modified the content of the “Dynamic Outline Draft” with input from those in attendance at the meeting.
 - Charamut also put together a table, based on the “CT Climate Preparedness Plan 2011” – “Table 1: Climate change adaptations for specific habitats” (p. 57). She tried to match brainstorming ideas to identified strategies in the 2011 table per the defined habitat types. This was done to help analyze what 2011 strategies have or have not been implemented, etc.
 - Ecosystem Services info from Jason Vakoum was shared with group. Charamut suggested using this as a tool to help review and think about issues we have already listed and/or make sure we identified everything.
- Identify broad discussion topics for subsequent meetings & revisit schedule
 - Discussed “Critical Information Gaps” and related concerns, including:
 - Fleshing out recommendations
 - Identifying what are other groups doing, so don’t duplicate
 - Overlap between groups and technical jargon
 - Getting speakers on specialized topics
 - Identifying existing resources and references that have info we need (eg. – State Water Plan, 4th National Climate Assessment, etc.)
 - Sharing documents
 - Need to fill out impacts/vulnerabilities spreadsheet next and identify data needed to back up assertions.
 - Suggestion to use pictures and photos to help communicate our message.
 - Need to start coming up with recommendations with regard to identified risks. Suggestion to envision “best world” recommendations, and then “backward engineer” to determine what needs to be done to get to that ideal place.

Next steps:

- Review 2011 recommendations (eg. – strategies and BMPs) and assess with regard to “How are we doing?”

Public comments

Jennifer Duff, Princeton Hydro

- Duff contributed to general meeting discussion, along with Rivers SWG members.

NOTE: *Identify if slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page:* www.ct.gov/deep/gc3