



**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting: Monday, June 15th, 11 am  
Virtual GoToMeeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Zach Giron - MetroCOG
- Wilhelmina Krahn – MetroCOG
- Mark Hoover - MetroCOG
- Johneil Clarke – Sustainable CT Intern
- Chris Sullivan – Southwest Conservation District
- Gregg Dancho – Stratford/Beardsley Zoo
- Lynn Haig – City of Bridgeport
- Tara Cook-Littman – Political and Advocacy Consultant
- Karen Burnaska – Monroe CC
- Tatiana Solovey – Town of Trumbull
- Louise Washer – Norwalk River Watershed Assoc. & Pollinator Pathway
- Mary Hogue – Pollinator Pathway
- Chris Malik – CT DEEP
- Cary White – Save the Sound
- Kristin McCarthy Vahey – State Representative for Fairfield
- Rebecca Dahl – CT Land Conservation Council
- Denise Halstead – Inland Wetland Agent/Coordinator for Monroe
- Drew Goldsman – The Nature Conservancy
- Daphne Dixon – Live Green

2. MetroCOG, Sustainable CT Introductions and Upcoming Projects

- MetroCOG continues to work remotely and has been able to provide the same services to its municipal partners as it had previously. MetroCOG has also been coordinating with other COGs and state emergency management officials with COVID-19 related relief/management efforts.
- Johneil Clarke will be working out of MetroCOG's office throughout the summer as the Sustainable CT Intern. Johneil will be assisting the municipalities within the MetroCOG region to become certified through the program. Currently, Bridgeport, Easton, Stratford, and Trumbull have registered for the program. Fairfield currently holds a silver certification, 1 of 14 in the state.

3. Chris Sullivan, Southwest Conservation District
  - Chris Sullivan is the Executive Director for the Southwest Conservation District, one of five districts in the state. The SWCD assists with site plan reviews, water quality monitoring, invasive plant and pest identification, mowing practices for meadows, and grant work such as DEEP 319 funds and NRCS funds. SWCD also assists and promotes Sustainable CT certification in the state. They have also worked on the Farm River Watershed Plan, Tour Des Farms to promote local farming, and the CT Envirothon which hosts high school workshops and field events to have students connect with environmental professionals.
  
4. Tara Cook-Littman, Legislation and Advocacy Efforts Surrounding Pesticides
  - The pesticide Chlorpyrifos has been banned in several states as a health risk to people and the environment. CT still allows the use of chlorpyrifos and it is prevalent in the states golf courses and, to a lesser extent, farms. Within the MetroCOG region, Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield is using the pesticide. The impact is magnified once the pesticide enters the environment and our waterways, eventually making its way to the Long Island Sound.
  - There has been legislative testimony on the banning of chlorpyrifos. Environmental communities are involved as this is an environmental justice issue as well. A map was developed on the use of the pesticide within the state.
  - Representative McCarthy Vahey supports the bill and encourages youths to be more involved in the legislature. Youth perspective on the chemical use has helped move the needle in the right direction.
  
5. Mary Hogue and Louise Washer, Pollinator Pathways
  - The pollinator pathway project promotes corridors of public and private properties that provide pesticide-free native plant habitats to allow pollinator migration. Monarch butterfly and bee populations are down approximately 80-90% because of fragmentation of habitat, pesticide use, light pollution, and climate change. All towns within the MetroCOG region are part of the project and have pathways. Reduce the size of your lawn and mow less, plant native species, and avoid pesticide use. Water conservation also plays a huge role in establishing strong pathways.
  - There are concerns about Aquarion regionalizing the watersheds for increased pumping in certain areas. The regionalization would change how things currently operate as a watershed by watershed management.
  - Drought ordinances within municipalities should be investigated and adopted. Addressing droughts earlier and more proactively would curb harmful ecological impacts. Ordinances need to be tailored to each individual community, for example some towns may rely heavily on the public water supply while others mainly rely on private wells.
  
6. Other Business
  - The slides from each presentation have been sent out to the CTAC mailing list
  - Link to Aquarion's 2020 diversion permit application:  
[https://www.aquarionwater.com/docs/default-source/project-documents/swrp-diversion-permit-application-4-6-20.pdf?sfvrsn=9aa437b2\\_2](https://www.aquarionwater.com/docs/default-source/project-documents/swrp-diversion-permit-application-4-6-20.pdf?sfvrsn=9aa437b2_2)
  - Link to DEEP's website on information regarding water quantity:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Water-Quantity/Water-Quantity>

7. Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:18pm