



**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting: Monday, December 14th, 11 am
Virtual GoToMeeting**

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Zach Giron – MetroCOG
- Devin Clarke – MetroCOG
- Johneil Clarke – MetroCOG
- Mark Hoover – MetroCOG
- Wilhelmina Krahn – MetroCOG
- Lynn Haig – City of Bridgeport
- Sarah Cwikla – Town of Easton
- Misty Beyer – SWR, Fairfield
- Emmeline Harrigan – Town of Fairfield, Planning and Zoning
- Cristin McCarthy Vahey – State Representative, Town of Fairfield
- Michael Zembruski – Town of Fairfield
- Karen Burnaska – Monroe Conservation Commission
- Mary Ellen Lemay – Trumbull Conservation Commission
- Gregg Dancho – Beardsley Zoo, Stratford Conservation
- Jackie Westlein – Beardsley Zoo
- Chris Malik – CT DEEP, Water Planning and Management
- Victoria Brudz – Milone & MacBroom
- Drew Goldsman – The Nature Conservancy
- Ofonime Udo-Okon – Sierra Club
- Mary Hogue – Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
- Richard Rosen – Trout Unlimited
- Kristen Brown – Waste Zero
- Kelly Kerrigan – Town of Stratford

2. Zach Giron, MetroCOG, Regional Trails Application

- Presentation and walk-through of the draft Regional Trails Application Viewer – Trail data will continue to be collected and updated. All member municipalities have provided lists of trails to be included.

- State of CT has decided to move forward with a statewide trail viewer through Trail Finder. Trail Finder has produced similar applications for the state of ME as well as the states of VT and NH collaboratively. The idea in CT is to have the COGs collect updated trail information from their municipalities and provide those updates to the state.
- Gregg Dancho able to promote the trail viewer to through the Arts & Tourism Committee, once finalized.

3. Victoria Brudz, Milone & MacBroom, CIRCA's Resilient CT Project

- Kicking off Phase II of the project where they are identifying pilot projects in coastal and riverine areas. These projects will be something the municipalities would not be able to conduct on their own. Phase III includes the implementation of the pilot projects.
- A few Long-term visions of CIRCA is Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), creating corridors resilient to climate change, and increasing transit connectivity.
- Planning area focused on New Haven County and Fairfield County. In the MetroCOG Region specifically, focusing on Bridgeport, Fairfield, and Stratford.
- They are expanding the Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI), where they can identify different levels of vulnerability throughout the region due to several factors in the built, environment, and social landscapes. Goals include identifying zones of shared risk.
- There are opportunities for the Municipalities and Stakeholders to submit feedback and get information through workshops and emails.
- CIRCA holding the first Stakeholder workshop in Mid-January 2021. Official dates will be announced shortly.

4. Kristen Brown, Waste Zero, Food Waste & SMART Programs in CT

- Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) facility is closing
- The USA has been decreasing landfills across the country, limited capacity for waste removal. There are 70 incinerators in the USA and only one sited in FL in the US in the past 30 years. Incinerator life is approximately 30 years.
- Landfill capacity by 2042 in New England is projected to be zero. With this decrease, the cost for disposal will increase.
- CT pushing the SMART, or Pay-as-you-throw Program as there is evidence that communities have a 40-50% decrease in waste reduction when they implement unit based pricing (UBP) programs. There is a behavioral change.
- State of CT is paying currently \$290 Million annually to manage waste. More jobs in recycling industry than in the waste stream industry.
- CT Vision – achieve 60% diversion by 2024 and create a foundation for success of other waste reduction programs.
- Some grants available through CT DEEP if municipalities are interested in pilot program. Kristen Brown is under contract with the State for another year. She encourages MetroCOG and Municipalities to reach out for assistance with beginning a program.

- SCRCOG has a program where they are taking in all the revenue from UBP and paying all the tip fees for New Haven.
- *Question:* Is there increase in littering and illegal dumping with pay-as-you-throw programs? Some municipalities have noticed that there is illegal dumping of household waste in some public parks. Possible concern for adopting a program. Has this been addressed?
Answer: Part of the revenue coming in from the program goes toward enforcing it.
- *Question:* about State legislature: Municipalities might be able to move more quickly than the State. Is there any legislature plan?
Answer: The Commissioner put together working groups and they have a report coming out on December 15th. Two-fold path to implement these programs includes the Municipal and Regional agencies (COGs) implementing pilot programs, and work at the State level to move things through legislation.

5. Ofonime Udo-Onkon, Sierra Club, Save Remington Woods

- Remington Woods is a 422-acres forest on Paugussett Nation land in Bridgeport and Stratford. It was originally owned by Remington- UMC. Currently owned and being remediated by Corteva (formed by DOW and DuPont merger).
- The goal is to have 422 acres of 100% undeveloped, Bridgeport owned public land.
- 2020 Recap = Relationship Building to form a working group to evolve into a Bridgeport land trust group and allyship with the Aspetuck Land Trust.
- Final thoughts from members of the group - Bring Stratford in the loop, as part of the forest land is in Stratford, connect with Municipal planners and conservation directors in Stratford and Bridgeport. Also bring CT DEEP into the conversation.
- Gregg Dancho, Mary Ellen Lemay – Support a regional land trust to help move projects forward.

6. Other Business

- CT DEEP update: January 14th is the deadline for the proposal applications for the FY2021 Clean Water Section 319 grants. <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/NPS/FY21-Request-for-Proposals-for-Nonpoint-Source-Management-Grant-Program>
- Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) Docket #18-12-25 knocked down the Targeted Risk Management (TRM) as proposed by United Illuminating (UI).
- Public Information Session for information regarding Aquarion Water Co. application for water diversion permit for Southwest regional pipeline. Jan 6th at 3pm – register on DEEP website <https://www.depdata.ct.gov/calendar/viewev.asp?id=7356>

7. Adjourn

- 2021 Meeting Dates – Virtual Until Further Notice

Monday, March 15, 2021

Monday, June 21, 2021

Monday, September 20, 2021

Monday, December 13, 2021