Monday 3-13-2023 CTAC Meeting Notes:

Attendees: Karen Burnaska- Monroe Conservation And Water Resources Commission, Tim O’Connor-Fairfield, Almariet Roberts – Groundwork Bridgeport, Rich Rosen – Trout Unlimited, Don Watson, Kelly Kerrigan – Stratford, Nick – Curbside Compost, Anthony Allen – Save the Sound, Ryan Boggio – LiveGreenCT, Mary Hogue – Sustainable Fairfield, John Cottel – Fairfield, Cathy Fletcher – Bridgeport, Deb Adibou – CT SeaGrant Extension, Tatianna Solovey – Trumbull, Gail Robinson- Ash Creek Conservation, Brian Cowden – Trout Unlimited, Tim Bishop – Fairfield

Staff: Devin Clarke – MetroCOG, Hannah Reichle – MetroCOG

**Meeting Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **MetroCOG Updates** **Hannah Reichle,** MetroCOG

Hannah Reichle provided updates to the group on various items.

* *MetroCOG Household Hazardous Waste Collection:* Staff will be contacting public works officials exploring regionalization of hazardous waste collections to hopefully determine feasibility, provide cost savings, and efficiently develop a regional strategy for collecting
* *2023 CT Legislative Session*: Staff continues to monitor House Bills being discussed in the 2023 Legislative Session
  + Bill 664: Managing waste and creating waste authority to manage trash volumes. Diverting food waste from garbage for the protection of wildlife/animals
  + Bill 5616: Improving wetland protections to protect communities in vulnerable watershed area
  + Bill 962: Ban on anticoagulants in rodent pesticides that endangers wildlife that preys on rodents and small rodent like creatures. ie foxes, birds, etc.
* *Long Island Futures Fund RFP*: Applications are now open & due May 10th. Total funding this round is set at $10 millions dollars. All MetroCOG municipalities are eligible, and projects can be focused on Water quality improvement, Nutrient preservation, etc. Project minimum set at $50K and maxes at $1.5 Million. Informational Webinar will be held on March 15th from 10am – 12pm.
* *Connecticut’s T2 Center Green Snow Pro Event*: Event to be held in Fairfield on April 26th. Event will focus on snow management with respect to materials and chemicals for creating a more sustainable approach for storm management
* *National Coastal Resilience Fund:* This program targets enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Prioritizes Restoration Ready Projects that increases nature-based solutions and approaches to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

1. **Mill River Restoration Plan Richard Rosen,** Trout Unlimited

Brian Cowden presented the Mill River Restoration Plan highlighting several sites along the river and various restoration techniques and solutions planned to be implemented. Following the presentation, Rich and Brian answered questions.

**4.** **Other Business Tanner Burgdorf,** Yale School of the Environment

Tanner Burgdorf – not in attendance.

**Deb Abibou,** University of Connecticut Extension

Deb Adibou provided information regarding CT’s Seagrant Extension office’s Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program. Grant writing awards can range from 5K to 10K per award. Awards can only be provided to contractors/firms hired by a municipality or community group. Pre-qualified grant writing contractors and firms can be found under the program’s FAQs. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and only those within the specified geographic area with waterways and tributaries leading to the Long Island Sound are eligible. This does not necessarily mean LI adjacent municipalities qualify. Information Sessions/ Office hours will be held on March 21st from 10-11am and March 22nd from 2-3pm.

<https://seagrant.uconn.edu/2022/11/14/long-island-sound-resilience-grant-writing-assistance-program/>

Contact information for questions: [deb.abibou@uconn.edu](mailto:deb.abibou@uconn.edu)

LiveGreenCT is offering training sessions for municipalities to develop zoning regulations to Electric Vehicle charging and parking stations. Ryan Boggio, informed the group these session will review, and develop zoning regulation language and best practices that may be integrated into existing regulations to best prepare Fairfield County municipalities to tackle and prepare of Electric vehicles. Information Session will be help on March 22nd.

1. **Adjourn**

Next meeting will happen the 3rd week of the month, following the usual schedule.