



**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting: Monday, June 21st, 11 am  
Virtual GoToMeeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Zach Giron – MetroCOG
- Hannah Reichle – MetroCOG
- Chris Malek – CT DEEP, Water Planning & Management
- Mary Ellen Lemay – Trumbull Conservation Commission
- Karen Burnaska – Monroe Conservation Commission
- Kelly Kerrigan – Town of Stratford
- Lynn Haig – City of Bridgeport
- Rich Rosen – Trout Unlimited
- Kim Bradley – UCONN Extension
- Victoria Vetre – SLR Consulting
- Sean McQuade – Live Green
- Kevin Gallagher - WPKN
- Chris Sullivan – Southwest Conservation District

**2. Zach Giron, MetroCOG, Regional Trails Application Update & Sustainable CT**

- Julia Stevenson has begun working out of the MetroCOG office as the Sustainable CT Intern. She will be working with the municipalities within the region to gain/maintain Sustainable CT certification.
- Data collection is near completion for the regional trail viewer. Plan to complete data collection and post processing within the upcoming weeks. The viewer will then be available to the public through the MetroCOG website. A direct link will also be shared with CTAC members to distribute as well.

**3. Kim Bradley, UCONN, CT Trail Finder Project**

- UCONN Extension runs several programs focused on trails throughout the state, including CT Trail Census, People Active on Trails for Health & Sustainability (PATHS), and the newly developed CT Trail Finder site.
- CT Trail Finder is a interactive website that provides statewide trail data including detailed pages that provide narrative information as well as the direct trail map. There will also be a searchable

database based off activities that you may want to do and the ability to create profiles to save searched information.

- The project is funded by CT DEEP and CT DOT. This resource will be the statewide resource for information on trails and outdoor resources. Currently conducting outreach and data collection. Trail data will come directly from trail managers, including narratives. Council of Governments are also key partners in providing GIS data of trails within their region.
- The webpage has been launched and can be viewed at <https://www.cttrailfinder.com/> . The site will be continuously updated as outreach continues. Currently working on connecting local businesses to a trailside service application that will showcase goods and services provided by businesses along the trails.

#### **4. Victoria Vetre, SLR, Resilient Connecticut Update**

- CIRCA hosted a webinar on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to present Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) and final analysis, including flood and heat. Vulnerability maps for the region have been developed and are being developed into a public viewer.
- Resilience opportunity areas were presented at the MetroCOG workshop on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The CIRCA team is scheduling meetings with individual municipalities to discuss the opportunity areas in greater depth.
- A total of 8 areas along the MetroCOG shoreline were identified and classified as either tier 1 or tier 2 zones. The classification method may shift or be adjusted in the future based on feedback from municipalities and COGs.

#### **5. Other Business**

Sean McQuade – Live Green CT

- The EV Readiness Toolkit Program is ongoing and includes 9 modules or areas of focus: Community Building, Municipal Fleets, Zoning Regulations, Permitting, Multi-Unit Dwellings, Public and Destination Charging, Parking and Enforcement, First Responders, and Shuttles.
- Live Green is hosting clarity sessions with individual municipalities that are interested in the program to provide guidance, access to DOE tools, and identify areas the towns could implement EV readiness projects.
- There will be an electric school bus demonstration on July 29th in Stratford. The location will be announced shortly, all are encouraged to attend.

Kevin Gallagher – WPKN

- WPKN encourages those involved in sustainable projects and initiatives to use them as a resource to bring the information to the public. They host multiple programs dedicated to sustainability and the environment.
- This summer, WPKN will be hosting an environmental film festival at the Bijou Theatre in downtown Bridgeport. Dates TBD.
- WPKN is moving their studio above the Bijou Theatre and will be hosting many interactive and informative programs for the community. If you would like to partner with WPKN and help spread the word for these programs do not hesitate to reach out to the studio.

Chris Malek – CT DEEP

- Working with The Nature Conservancy on a project for Svihra Park and Read School
- Have an application for a watershed plan in Stratford for Bruce Brook. It is in good standing and official announcements will come in the Fall.

**6. Adjourn**