**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:**

Regular Meeting: Monday,June 13th, 2022 @ 11:00 AM Virtual Zoom Meeting

1. **Welcome and Introductions:**
2. **Sustainable CT Summer Fellow Introduction:** Quin Wolters is MetroCOG’s Sustainable CT Fellow for the summer and will be helping member municipalities with the certification process and sustainable related projects. Please contact qwolters@ctmetro.org for more information and questions.
3. **Regional Programs Update: Legislative Update-**

**Relevant Legislation**

1. Clean Energy Expansion (October 1, 2022)
	1. Doubles the size of existing programs
	2. Maximizes the size of emerging programs
	3. Expansion to Industrial and commercial uses
	4. Hopes to benefit lower-income communities
2. Illuminating Electrical Supply (July 1,2022)
	1. Economic
	2. Transportation
3. Pesticides: SSB116 (October 1, 2022)
	1. Direct notice to tenants regarding pesticide use in bodies of water near their homes (whereas used to be an indirect notice through the newspaper)
	2. Banning chlorophyll on golf courses and other manicured lands
4. Aquatic Invasive Species (July 1, 2022)
	1. Creating an office to manage information surrounding aquatic invasive species, outline a budget, research, policy development, etc.
5. **Sustainable & Resilient Communities: Long Island Sound Outreach- Deborah Visco Abibou**

**Program Priorities**

1. Better coordination of regional response
	1. Communities are different with varying needs
	2. Providing informed support and promoting collaboration
2. Trained community design makers
	1. Tools already exist
	2. Provide trainings and information
3. Infrastructure
	1. What has been impacted and will be impacted?
	2. What needs to be improved to withstand looming climate change related disasters
		1. Wastewater treatment, drainage, etc.
4. Government services
	1. What support is being offered?
	2. Can the government handle disasters?
	3. As storms and other natural disaster worsen, dependability is crucial
5. Facilitate implementation of projects
	1. Creating pipeline of projects

Themes:

1. Social - ecological integration
	1. Systems thinking
	2. Realizing intersectionality
	3. Feedback loops
2. Environmental Justice
	1. Which communities have EJ concerns?
	2. How can we elevate the voices of those most vulnerable?

SRC Needs Assessment

1. Environmental threats
2. Current community goals/actions
3. Barriers to implementation
4. What support is needed
	1. Workshops, trainings

Which ones are most valuable to communities?

Where do the training need to occur?

What topics of are need

* 1. USGS partnership
	2. Project pipeline
	3. Targeting investments
		1. Grant applications
	4. Informal and formal meetings

*How can we advance sustainability efforts in the sound?*

Stakeholders What’s holding communities back?

* Desire to connect more with businesses - Funding/available funding
* Watershed associations - Limited staff capacity
* Environmental nonprofits - Coordination

 -Project influence

Looking for input from the municipalities. Please reach to Deb if you have comments or questions. deb.abibou@uconn.edu

1. **Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species Update: Barbara Thomas**

Current Issues:

* There has been good action on aquatic invasive plants (this year)
	+ Terrestrial side has minimally addressed
* Terrestrial invasive species are arguably more harmful
	+ Terrestrials are essentially invisible
* Lack of education / public knowledge on what is invasive and how to identify it

Update

* Started looking a year ago into this issue
* 97 plants on CT’s Invasive Species Inventory
	+ 2003: CGS establishes council of 9 people to meet 4 times a year → unproductive
	+ 2004: Creation of plant list
	+ 2014: Plan Coordinator abolished due to lack of funding
	+ 2019-present: nonfunctional, little changes made to list
	+ 80 plants are prohibited from buying/selling in CT
		- 17 unregulated → contributes to the endless harmful cycle
* Issue left to the 120 land trusts to deal with
* Invasive plants are a large threat to our environment
* EQ report → perfect futures should be reviewed
	+ Perfect futures was accepted by DEEP earlier this year
* Issues all across New England, not just locally

**Next meeting September 19th, 2022 at 11:00 AM**