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**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)  
WORKING AND NATURAL LANDS WORKING GROUP  
WETLANDS SUB-WORKING GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Date: January 29, 2020**

**Meeting Time: 2 pm**

**Meeting Location:**

DEEP Marine Headquarters

333 Ferry Road

Old Lyme, CT

**ATTENDANCE**

| <b>Working Group Member</b> | <b>Title</b>                                | <b>Organization</b>                               | <b>Present</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Leslie Kane                 | Managing Director                           | Audubon Connecticut                               | Y              |
| Rick Bennett                | Science Director                            | USFWS   | N              |
| Chris Elphick               | Professor                                   | UConn: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology           |                |
| Julianna Barrett            | Associate Extension Educator                | UConn Sea Grant & NEMO                            | Y              |
| Michelle Staudinger         | Science Coordinator                         | USGS, Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center | Y, on phone    |
| Kimberly Lesay              | Transportation Assistance Planning Director | CT DOT<br>Office of Environmental Planning        | N              |
| Jeff Shamas                 | Wetland and Soil Scientist                  | Vanasse Hangen Brustlin                           | Y, on phone    |
| Rudy Sturk                  | Senior Manager                              | CT Green Bank                                     | N              |
|                             |   |   |                |
|                             |   |   |                |

| <b>Associated Staff</b> | <b>Title</b>      | <b>Organization</b>                | <b>Present</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Rick Jacobson           | Bureau Chief      | DEEP, Natural Resources            | Y              |
| Jenny Dickson           | Division Director | DEEP, Wildlife                     | N              |
| Cary Lynch              |                   | DEEP, Energy Research and Planning | Y              |

| Public Attendees | Affiliation         | Comments |
|------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Robert LaFrance  | Audubon Connecticut | N        |

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome and Announcements

- Welcome and announcements presented by Rick Jacobson
- Introductions of Sub-Working Group Members

### Agenda Item(s)

*Leslie Kane, Sub-Working Group Chair and Managing Director, Audubon Connecticut*

- Presentation/Refinement of the Charge
  - Charge as presented in E03
  - For wetlands, especially coastal wetlands, is less the opportunity?
- Problem Definition
  - Mitigation component of the report
- Summary of Work to Date
  - Reviewed the work completed relative to the GC3, Subcommittees and Working Groups to date, including the structure of the GC3, draft
- Expected Deliverables (draft table of contents)
  - Question – which sub-group is better prepared to address floodplain forests, Rivers or Wetlands. The suggestion is that Floodplain forests should be addressed by Wetlands. The chair will raise the issue with the other Working Group co-chairs to resolve question.
  - A similar issue may exist with regard to oyster reefs.
  - 1-5 year plans, accessing vulnerable communities, infrastructure, public health
- Identify Preliminary Information Needs
  - Quantification of carbon sequestration potential of wetlands
  - How will we incorporate SLAM (Sea Level Affecting Marshes Management)? Invite Dave Kozak
  - How will we incorporate the Atlantic Coast Joint Ventures (ACJV) Coastal Wetland Conservation Plan? – Invite Aimee Weldon
  - COST? A soil scientist who maps vernal pools?
  - Invite Ed Pollock?
  - Objectives should be measurable, time-sensitive, achievable
    - Existing/potential legislation/regulation and current Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- What are the landscape management processes that most affect wetland adaptation and resilience
  - integrate coastal wetland adaptation and transportation infrastructure
  - riparian buffer (non-regulatory; see CLEAR Riparian Buffer project)
  - floodplain and coastal area adaptation (see Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center)
  - Universal strategies (see Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center) – NRCC & NECASC
- What are other NE coastal states doing in this context (i.e., the three other coastal states identified in the 2018 Climate Mitigation Plan)?
  - *Resilient Rhody* – RI’s resiliency plan and fund allocation
  - MA- DCAMM & Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
- Michelle to share information about work group efforts outside of Connecticut
  - RGGI
  - TCI
  - Climate Alliance
  - CONEG
- Information on climate change impacts on inland wetlands (ask for people working in fens and bogs) Brad Compton UMass; Ethan Plunket UMass; Mike Jones, MassWildlife
- Proposed Timeline
  - See handout “Working and Natural Lands Working Group, and Sub-Working Group (SWG) Schedule”
  - The work of the Wetlands SWG essentially needs to be completed by early June 2020
  - Next meeting in mid-February – date: TO BE DETERMINED

Next steps:

- Develop Meeting Schedule
  - What is the preference of the Wetlands SWG
    - Meeting consistently on one day and time of the week (i.e., Tuesday, 2 to 5 pm)
    - Doodle poll for next four meetings – this is the preference
    - Include a file sharing program of some sort
    - Include Zoom meetings, with video recording features for subsequent viewing

**Public comments:**

***No public comments received***

**NOTE:** No slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page: [www.ct.gov/deep/gc3](http://www.ct.gov/deep/gc3)