



**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting: Monday, December 16th, 11 am  
Hanson Room #2, Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport, CT**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Attendees introduced themselves. Sign in sheet attached.

2. Year-in-Review Update

- Mary Ellen Lemay provided an update for Trumbull. There have been two high density developments that circumvent inland wetlands proposed in the town. The developments follow regulations with a 100 foot setback and have gone to the P&Z Commission. Conservation issues and best management practices should still be questioned and adhered to for these projects to move forward. In the process of updating zoning regulations to implement reasonable regulations for conservation practices. It was recommended to explore increasing setback distances as well as looking for training and education opportunities (perhaps through UCONN CLEAR) for planners and commission members.
- Kelly Kerrigan provided an update for Stratford. The town is completing it's 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in the Unified Water Study and hopes to have enough data to start seeing trends and making planning decisions soon. The town has also applied for the Open Space Grant from CTDEEP for some parcel rearrangements and is updating its open space inventory (last updated 2013). The town has a draft Arbor Culture Manual awaiting approval in order to get into Tree City USA. Stratford has been working in close relation with Bridgeport to implement remediation efforts within the Bruce Brook Watershed. There is also a close working relationship with the CT Audubon Society to revitalize coastal habitats. Bridgeport expressed interest in working with the CT Audubon Society. Pollinator Pathways was addressed, recommending pushing out the Pollinator Pathway educational brochure to municipalities.
- Lynn Haig and Steve Hladun provided an update for Bridgeport. The city has updated it's POCD in April, a big focus being on conserving open spaces as well as potentially getting more. Currently collaborating with The Nature Conservancy to build an Urban Forestry Plan for the city. The City is working with the Ash Creek Association to remove invasives near St. Mary's-by-the-Sea. They are currently in the first year of site work and re-vegetation. The Johnson Oak Park project has been completed and positively received in

the East End of Bridgeport. This upcoming year they hope to get started with some historic preservation projects.

- Karen Burnaska provided an update for the town of Monroe. There is a new staff planner with an environmental background as well as new inland wetlands staff. They have started drafting their POCD, using Fitzgerald & Halliday as the primary consultant. An advisory committee has been set up to shepherd the process. There has been a lot of development along route 111 and 25, primarily along the Trumbull border. Town administration have issued a zoning violation for a large quarry that has been a known issue for some time. The town has also developed a set of open space criteria and reestablished its open space and conservation committee.
- Chris Malik provided an update for CTDEEP Watershed Management Program. DEEP will have the new 319 Grant published soon and the deadline for that grant will be early February. There will be a focus on nutrients and nutrient reductions. 2022 will see another large wave of retirements, hopeful to be able to fill the gaps that will be left.
- Drew Goldsman provided an update for The Nature Conservancy. They had received a 319 Grant for Bridgeport and are currently in a revision process to make sure the project stays within budget. TNC continues to host stewardship and tree planting events in Bridgeport and are working to develop an urban forestry plan. There is also a collaboration with Groundwork Bridgeport and their landscape design program to identify sights around the city that could potentially be turned into greenspace. Students work alongside professional designers to build the concepts.
- Cary White provided an update for Save the Sound. There is continued work with the Unified Water Study as well as a Beach Report throughout the state. They have completed residential rain garden projects around New Haven as well as a few dam removal projects. On Long Island they have completed a large parking lot retrofit project.
- Rich Rosen provided an update for Trout Unlimited. Currently there are 15 schools across the state that are participating in the “Trout in the Classroom” (TIC) program. Trout are raised from eggs to juvenile fish in the classrooms and then are released in local streams. There has been a lot of work on the Mill River trying to get rid of invasives. Efforts thus far have been unsuccessful. They have formalized a river stewardship program in order to section the river and test different mitigation strategies, however a volunteer force is needed.
- Mark Hoover provided an update for MetroCOG. An open space inventory for the town of Monroe is in the review process with town administration. An MS4 mapping project for the town of Monroe has been completed in order to adhere to CT MS4 Permit standards and calculate directly connected impervious area contributing to stormwater infrastructure. Currently have a contract with Laserfiche, a document management system, and are actively seeking out projects in the region to implement Laserfiche’s capabilities. Currently Monroe’s Health Department utilized Laserfiche to update their well completion reports and septic as-builds and directly connect them to their GIS viewer. MetroCOG has also applied for the EPA’s Revolving Loan Fund Grant, built a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan StoryMap, and has been working with CTC&D to implement the CT Agriculture GIS Needs Assessment.

3. Mark Hoover, MetroCOG, Agriculture GIS Needs Assessment Update (StoryMap)
  - MetroCOG has been working with CTC&D to administer a grant for a statewide Agriculture GIS Needs Assessment. There have currently been two stakeholder meetings, the first involving data producers and the second involving data users. There has been great feedback and discussion during both meetings as well as several responses to the survey. A draft report will be produced for public comment Sometime in mid-January and a final report will be completed for March 1, 2020.
4. Zach Giron, MetroCOG, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan StoryMap
  - The Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan has been adopted and the final version is available on MetroCOG's website. Along with the document, MetroCOG has developed a StoryMap for viewers to easily navigate through major sections of the report and its findings as well as visualize data through interactive mapping applications. The StoryMap is publicly viewable and MetroCOG hopes to have it up on their website shortly.
5. Other Business
  - Zach Giron, a Regional Planner with MetroCOG, will be taking over as MetroCOG's point of contact for CTAC moving forward.
  - Mary Ellen Lemay discussed a project within the region currently in the stages of developing a living native seed bank. There is no current sourcing of native seeds that can meet the demand, this project will address that need. The possible location for this project is Gilberties Wholesale Farm in Easton. Certified wild seeds will be collected, starting with the top 12 native plants for pollinators.
  - Jackie Westlein discussed The Beardsley Zoo will be hosting an Earth Day event April 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> and if you or your organization would like to be involved in any way please contact her or the Zoo.
6. Adjourn
  - Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm



# METROCOG

Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

## Conservation Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting:

Monday, December 16, 2019 11:00 AM

Beardsley Park Zoo, Hanson Exploration Center, Room #2

1875 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06610

### Sign In Sheet

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Mark Hoover	MetroCOG	mhoover@ctmetro.org	
Zach Giron	MetroCOG	Zgiron@ctmetro.org	203 266 5405
Chris Malik	DEEP	christopher.malik@ct.gov	860-424-3959
Jackie Westlin	Beardsley Zoo	jwestlin@beardsleyzoo.org	
CARY WHITE	SAVE THE SOUND	cwhite@savethesound.org	
KELLY KERRIGAN	TOWN OF STRATFORD	KKERRIGAN@TOWNOFSTRATFORD.COM	
Peggy Drake	STRATFORD ZOO	PeggyDrake@stratfordzoo.org	(203) 355-8510
Drew Goldsman	TNE	drew.goldsman@tne.org	203-568-6273
Karen Burneka	Monroe CC	Karen.bal@earthlink.net	203-261-9243
Steve Hladun	City of Bridgeport Parks	steve.hladun@bridgeportct.gov	203 576 7792
Lynn Haig	City of Bpt - Planning	Lynn.Haig@bridgeportct.gov	203-576-7317