

## Branford Coastal Vulnerability ad hoc Working Group

Town of Branford, Connecticut

Paul Muniz, Tracy Everson, Jonathan Waters, Peter Hentschel (chairperson)  
invited: Curt Johnson, Sharon Huttner, James Calderwood, Lauren Ruotolo



Special Zoom Meeting Agenda: Monday, December 2, 2024, 5:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82567717320?pwd=KNPUalnzfEYjSN0kPahcCxOO5yzoOt.1>  
Meeting ID: 825 6771 7320 Passcode: 747457 Phone 646-558-8656

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Approval of previous Meeting Minutes and 2025 Schedule
- Discuss status and next steps on the following primary ongoing initiatives:
  - a. CIRCA sea level monitoring and emergency notification system trials – Branford participation
    - Goal 1: to acquire new data on tidal sea level cycles and resulting road flooding.
    - Goal 2: to allow Branford to use their alert system to put out “micro-alerts” to neighborhoods.
      - Update on CIRCA’s equipment installation
      - Notice of CIRCA team zoom call to discuss status of the system on 12/4
      - Discuss public media campaign.
  - b. Community Reporting Network re Roadway Flooding – “MyCoast” Application
    - Goal 1: to engage the community in the photographic collection of roadway flooding data
    - Goal 2: to work with the MyCoast application software group in CA to facilitate uploading data
      - Discuss implemented changes to the App vis a vis filtering of data
      - Review revised Tutorial
      - Update on roadway monitors – assignments and needed
      - Discuss tide gauge stakes – to be placed at key locations
      - Discuss concepts for standardized photography
      - Discuss public media campaign.
  - c. Roadway Flooding – finding protective solutions / tide walls.
    - Goal: to investigate possible resilience actions, consult with key regulatory authorities including DEEP, and determine DEEP’s response to - protecting low roadways from nuisance flooding by use of low retention walls, etc.
      - Update regarding John Lust, who has volunteered to work up a draft proposal to vet with DEEP.
      - Request to the town engineer for storm sewer mapping at Montowese St and at Thimble Island Rd.
  - d. WWTP vulnerability study – status of Phase 2, preliminary design of conceptual solutions
    - Goal: to promote the “hardening” of the town’s sanitary system and treatment plan.
      - Update from Paul on the Phase II RFQ that the WPCA/CVWG working group is developing.
  - e. Zoning Regulation and Town Ordinance tools - PZC / CVWG joint working group - status
    - Goal: to determine actions to build resilience through ordinances and/or zoning regulations.
      - Update

- Discuss status of secondary initiatives:
  - a. Cattle Crossing flood gate study – status report
    - Goal: to track this project and to determine how AMTRAK has responded to issues regarding flooding against their elevated track beds
    - Update
  - b. Community Presentations – Branford River Neighborhoods presentation and possible marshland presentation
    - Goal to build public awareness, feedback, and public involvement.
    - CVWG presentation on Branford River.
    - Marshland presentation
  - c. CVWG page of Town Website - Q&A portal, Facebook page, FEMA page status report
    - Goal: to make our webpage more interactive and responsive to public needs regarding coastal resilience.
    - Status

Peter Hentschel, Chairperson