

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



Zoom Meeting Agenda: Thursday, September 19, 2024, 5:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82474818822?pwd=f6pLuNwYespOCXonFdHCaWpbWR1TAa.1>

Meeting ID: 824 7481 8822 Passcode: 263216 Phone 646-558-8656

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Approval of Meeting Notes for 6/25/24
- Determination of the focus of the Working Group for 24/25
- 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
 - Propose explanatory signage to be placed on equipment
 - Establish 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
 - Review how the phone-app works
 - Outline steps to test before going public
 - Establish media campaign.
 - c. Roadway Flooding – finding solutions for the community.
 - 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 on discussion with John Lust who has volunteered to work up a draft proposal to vet with DEEP.
 - 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 on recent discussions with Tyler Bowne and plan to show him our current presentation on PZC regulatory concepts.
 - Update on discussions with CIRCA regarding establishing a regional approach to detailed regulations that might be employed.

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- Discuss status and next steps on the following 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 still pending.
 - Marshland presentation pending - locating a presenter needed
 - c. Stony Creek CV sub-group – status report
 - Goal: work with the SCA subgroup to initiate actual resilience projects in Stony Creek.
 - Status report – no action
 - d. 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 report – no action

Peter Hentschel, Chairperson