

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: Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 5:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85775873450?pwd=ZPtfarywXQbpD8SRlQzYCFNu1SdqTR.1>  
Meeting ID: 857 7587 3450 Passcode: 718911 Phone 646-558-8656

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Approval of Meeting Notes for 9/19/24
- 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 in Sybil Creek and pending installations in 2 other locations
      - View image of Sybil Creek installation and discuss possible explanatory signage to be placed at each installation
      - 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
      - Review Tutorial
      - Discuss possible changes to the App
      - Set key locations for monitoring and discuss concept of standardized photography
      - Discuss how to involve the public and collect effective information
      - 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 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.

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- Update on discussions with CIRCA regarding establishing a regional approach to detailed regulations that might be employed.
  
- Discuss 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