



Baker Cove Watershed Team Meeting Notes

December 4, 2019

10:00 – 11:30 am

City of Groton Municipal Building, 295 Meridian St.

Attendees:

Keith Hedrick, Mayor, City of Groton
Michelle Maitland, Project Mgmt. Specialist, Public Works, Town of Groton
Joan Smith, President, Groton Open Space Association (GOSA)
Sidney Van Zandt, Vice President, GOSA
Eric Thomas, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Dan Mullins, Executive Director, ECCD
Aundré Bumgardner, Councilor, Groton Town Council
Syma Ebbin, Professor/Research Coordinator, UConn/CT Sea Grant
Anne Roberts-Pierson, Boardmember, ECCD
Rick Stevens, General Mgr, Groton Utilities Water Filtration Plant
Kate Blacker, Watershed patrol, Groton Utilities

Additional Invitees:

Judy Rondeau, Assistant Director, Eastern CT Conservation District (ECCD)
Kurt Sendlein, Airport Manager, CAA Groton-New London Airport
Heidi Comeau, Public Works, City of Groton
Tim Umrysz, Public Works Director, City of Groton
Dennis Godere, Planner, City of Groton
Ron Bata, Watershed patrol, Groton Utilities
John Burt, Town Manager, Town of Groton
Cierra Patrick, Economic Dvlpmt Specialist, City of Groton
Jonathan Reiner, Planning Director, Town of Groton
Deb Jones, Assistant Director of Planning, Town of Groton
Gary Schneider, Public Works Director, Town of Groton
Eric Morrison, Shennecossett Golf Course manager, Town of Groton
Ben Roccapiore, Facilities operations & Building Services, UConn Avery Point
Tessa Getchis, Extension Educator, UConn/CT Sea Grant
Judy Preston, LIS Outreach Coordinator, UConn/CT Sea Grant
Judy Benson, Communications Coordinator, UConn/CT Sea Grant
Joellen Anderson, Member, Avalonia Land Conservancy
Stephen Mansfield, Director of Health, Ledge Light Health Department
Danielle Holmes, Sanitarian II, Ledge Light Health Department
Ed Machinski, Elks Club
Dick Conant, Groton shellfish warden
Seven Groton shellfish commission members
Alissa Dragan, Environmental Analyst II, CT Dept. Agric/Bureau of Aquaculture
Kristin Derosier Banick, Environmental Analyst III, CT Dept. Agric/Bureau of Aquaculture
Eugenia Villagra/Liz Raisbeck, Groton Conservation Advocates
George Vassallo, Manager, EHS Compliance / Regulated Waste Lead, Pfizer

Patrice Granatosky, Mayor, Town of Groton
Mike Sinko, Sr. Mgr of Environmental Resources, Electric Boat

Project Coordinator: Maura Robie, ECCD Conservation Technician

Handouts: Agenda, BaCWaC draft Plan of Work

MEETING NOTES

1) Introductions

2) Review of committee purpose

Maura reviewed Baker Cove Canada Goose Project and Watershed Based Plan and also reviewed watershed committee purpose:

- Continue to build on Baker Cove Canada Goose project
- Improve water quality in Baker Cove by implementing recommendations from the Baker Cove WBP
- Reduce or eliminate sources of pollution such as waterfowl, urban stormwater, marina/boating discharges, and pet waste, chemicals, car fluids, pesticides from residential districts
- Committee to include local government officials, non-profits, commerce, industry, neighborhood groups, school groups.
- Some activities: planning rain gardens & riparian buffers, conducting shoreline clean-ups, outreach & ed. such as workshops, continued efforts to control non-migratory Canada Geese populations

This generated discussion as follows:

- Sydney opened with discussion about former Birch Plain Creek golf course transitioning to farm and Poquonnock River and its connection to Baker Cover around Jupiter Point
- Discussion about names of the sub-watersheds; Eric T. clarified distinction between SE CT Coastal Complexes and local sub-watersheds
- Discussion regarding MS4 Program – Michelle & Eric T. explained MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)

- Fill in information for the Town of Groton regarding septic system requirements?
- Mayor Hedrick - City has list of resident properties with septic, as each is sold, it will move to City sewer
- Michelle suggested Rick Norris (Town of Groton, Director of Sustainability) can provide written comments to the committee
- Maura suggested a public awareness champion: Mayor Hedrick - Groton City can put announcements on cable TV; at least two events were suggested for outreach (Groton City Day and Groton Fall Festival in mid-October)
- Syma can research possible grants
- Rick S. suggested doing a vegetative survey for riparian buffers and that perhaps this is something students at Avery Point can do
- It was suggested that the Town & City Councils endorse the plan which would add legitimacy to our efforts

3) Baker Cove Watershed Work Plan Draft – partner input

- General agreement among group to use Acronym BaCWaC for group name. Sydney suggested adding list of acronyms and web-addresses to workplan
- Discussion of draft Work Plan –
Goals and activities in the draft workplan were discussed in general.
Goals/activities discussed in detail:
 - Maura suggested creating a champion for each goal
 - Maura – ECCD could conduct workshops focusing on non-point source pollution issues – such as the type done for the Canada Goose project inviting speakers with expertise
 - Maura – based on feedback, suggested adding an activity to maintain awareness of and comment on any large development proposals
 - A suggestion was made to engage schools and scouts to address low-hanging fruit (e.g. storm drain stenciling, etc)
 - After much discussion, Syma suggested adding single-use plastic reduction to the workplan; Eric T. advised we stick to the watershed plan as the basis for the workplan

- Michelle suggested asking Kolnasky Elementary school to be a partner; Maura to contact Ben Moon, Stem Coordinator
- Attend Town/City events with educational materials table – Members will compile lists of events
- Regarding participation in a fertilizer behavior change campaign, Syma mentioned determining if this is an issue; a student is doing a fertilizer usage study; Sydney mentioned CUSH has a contractor for green lawns
- Create 'public-friendly' watershed map for handouts and social media posting – Michelle will work on
- Conduct trash clean-up at stormwater outlets behind Big Y with the help of the Town for removal of larger items – Joan/GOSA
- Put BaCWaC project / completed activities write-up on city cable channel 2 – Mayor's office and Maura to follow up on
- Work with Health District sanitarians & town staff to evaluate the residential septic systems in the priority areas as defined by the WBP – Rick S.
- Vegetative Surveys – Evaluate and identify priority areas for buffer establishment or invasive species removal – Rick S.
- Design water quality monitoring program – Rick S. offered to come up with a model that can be used for water quality monitoring
- Groton Councils - resolution to endorse the Baker Cove WBP – Mayor Hedrick and Aundré B.

4) Choose at least 3 activities to work on in 2020

See 3) Baker Cove Watershed Work Plan Draft – partner input:

More than 3 activities were volunteered for

5) Canada Goose Project Partner updates

Rick Stevens and Kate Blacker of Groton Utilities Water Filtration Plant updated the group. 'Do Not Feed Waterfowl' signs were posted on-site. Continue Egg addling and modified mowing practices on dams (minimum 4" – max 1'). Will continue writing management plan and apply for CT DEEP permit for Goose Round-Up. Still planning to work with ECCD for location of vegetative buffer within GU watershed when new filtration plant is

complete in 2021. Mentioned water quality study article that looks at determining source species of bacteria; they are looking into at their lab.

6) To Do's for next meeting:

- ECCD-Baker Cove Watershed Committee webpage
Group members were asked to go to ECCD website where agendas, meeting notes, and other related documents will be posted
www.conservect.org/eastern
Maura is currently working on getting it set up and will send direct link soon
- Share link with 2 colleagues
- Pick activity to work on and report on progress
Group members chose activities to work on as listed in 3)

* Meeting dates for 2020: **Based on feedback after the meeting, we are going to try meeting every 2 months, so new dates are: February 5, April 1, June 3, August 5, October 7, December 2 (10-11:30)**