



Baker Cove Watershed Committee (Bacwac)
Meeting Notes
August 12, 2020
10:00 – 11:30 am
ZOOM online meeting

Attendees:

Keith Hedrick, Mayor, City of Groton
Michelle Maitland, Project Mgmt. Specialist, Public Works, Town of Groton
Aundré Bumgardner, Councilor, Groton Town Council
Kurt Sendlein, Airport Manager, CAA Groton-New London Airport
Sidney Van Zandt, Vice President, GOSA
Dan Mullins, Executive Director, ECCD
Judy Rondeau, Assistant Director, Eastern CT Conservation District (ECCD)
Syma Ebbin, Professor/Research Coordinator, UConn/CT Sea Grant
Kate Blacker, Watershed patrol, Groton Utilities

Additional Invitees:

Dick Conant, Groton shellfish warden
Eric Thomas, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Heidi Comeau, Public Works, City of Groton
Rick Stevens, Manager, Water & Sewer, Groton Utilities
Mike Sinko, Sr. Mgr of Environmental Resources, Electric Boat
Joan Smith, President, Groton Open Space Association (GOSA)
Ron Bata, Watershed patrol, Groton Utilities
Brae Rafferty, Chair-Town of Groton Conservation Commission & Sr. Instructor-Project O
Tom Olson, Town of Groton Conservation Commission Member
Rich Palmieri, City of Groton Conservation Commission
Tim Umrysz, Public Works Director, City 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
Stacey Leitch, Public Works Admin Supervisor, Town of Groton
Eric Morrison, Shennecossett Golf Course manager, Town of Groton
Ben Roccapriore, 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
Seven Groton shellfish commission members
Alissa Dragan, Environmental Analyst II, CT Dept. Agric/Bureau of Aquaculture
Kristin DeRosia-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
Town & City Conservation / IWWA Commissions

Project Coordinator: Maura Robie, ECCD Conservation Technician & Watershed Coordinator

Emailed: Bacwac draft Plan of Work - July update, Outreach map V3, Map asset inventory V3, 'What is a Watershed' paragraph & graphic

MEETING NOTES

Greeting

- 1) On behalf of Bacwac, Maura presented a brief on 6/9 to the Town of Groton-Committee of the Whole, referring to the Baker Cove Executive Summary previously distributed to the Committee members. The Town Council (including André B.) unanimously passed a resolution on July 7, 2020 to support the 2011 Baker Cove Watershed-based Plan to achieve water quality standards, including restoring recreational shell fishing for residents of the Town. This is good news to help validate and support the Bacwac's work, improve standing for grant applications and show the citizens of the Town of Groton that the Town officials support the recommendations for improving water quality.

- 2) Updated Bacwac Plan of Work – July
 - Maura - Added Color coding for ongoing/completed activities and there was agreement to move recently completed to **Completed Activities** at end of document.
 - **GOAL 2 Activity:** Implement Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program (MS-4 permits) – Eric T. added to Status -
Uconn CLEAR MS4 program hosted an MS4 update webinar on 6/16 to review tasks to complete by 6/30 and looking ahead to permit tasks in Year 4.
 - **GOAL 4:** Implement on-going water quality monitoring program, especially in bacteria “hot spots” – Eric T. added to Status -
CT 2020 Integrated Water Quality Assessment report draft closed for public comment June 19. Birch Plain Creek is not currently assessed

for designated uses. Baker Cove embayment is assessed as Not Supporting for Shellfish (direct consumption). A future local water monitoring program should consider inclusion of an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) so that data could be reviewed in future CT statewide WQ assessments. Maura added DEEP link to IWQR meeting recording/ppt at bottom of agenda.

3) Committee Member progress reports

- ▶ Create 'public-friendly' watershed map for handouts and social media posting
 - Michelle - Rita R., Graphic Artist created version of map with added labels for schools, waterbodies, boat launches, etc. Committee has worked on Excel spreadsheet - map asset inventory. Map can be in tri-fold format to include educational material on backside. World Rivers Day is 9/27, a few events happening around Groton, good opt'y for outreach & education, i.e. set up table somewhere with public outreach & ed. for Bacwac (map distribution if complete). Maura suggested for Rita to add all elements from inventory possible and then group can remove what may not be needed (to save time).

Questions - Drop sub-basin names/outlines and show all of Baker Cove ws & Poquonnock ws? Maura suggested 'Wildcat' for unnamed subws (originates at Wildcat Ledge). Is there a formal process to name a subwatershed?

Map content to include the lowest comprehension level of 4-5th grade. 'What is a Watershed' paragraph & graphic provided by Kate B. Discussion: See if Maggie (Lab Technician, G.U.) can fix to add L.I. Sound to graphic, add reference to L.I. Sound to last sentence.

Discussion Poquonnock R. watershed boundary: Maura – Sought input from Kristin DB. & Syma E. regarding any input from Poquonnock R. to Baker Cove. Syma E. – May be some mixing at mouth of BC, but overall tide from river goes out through breach at Bushy Pt. USGS & US Coast Guard maps most accurate regarding flows. Google map inaccurate for

Bluff Pt./Bushy Pt. sand spit connected area - breach over last 30-40 years. Also should add Pine Island to map. (owned by State of CT). Discussion about level of accuracy needed offshore outside of ws.

- ▶ Michelle / Heidi - Review activities under GOAL 6 - Promote good housekeeping practices among municipalities and property owners
 - Went over Goal 6 Activities:
 - Review municipal Good housekeeping practices (GHP)
 - Adopt revised GHPs in priority areas as established by WBP
 - Distribute information regarding GHPs in priority areas as established by WBP
 - Went over Revised/improved good housekeeping BMP's from BC WBP; 1. Street sweeping 2. Trash/Dumpster

Michelle – went over Municipal Good housekeeping practices (GHP) from MS4 permit BMP's checklist. Suggested good housekeeping practices info. for businesses to Chamber of Commerce to distribute to businesses. Mayor to invite Cierra Patrick, City Economic Development Specialist to Oct. meeting.

Heidi submitted comments prior to meeting - what other communities are doing to distribute information regarding Good Housekeeping practices? City of Groton - getting the word out to all residents and businesses is challenging. In past, used Social Media and attended City sponsored events to distribute materials. The recent pandemic is going to make face to face education more difficult, with many events being cancelled.

Maura - ECCD can help with educational matl's on septic system maint/BMP's.

Judy - can provide info. from Eastern CT Stormwater Collaborative.

- ▶ Update on Canada Goose issues:
 - Maura - email from Jane Urban, Environmental Biologist at Navy Subase. She talked with CT College about their resident Goose issues

and both interested in our regional approach project. Sent her Canada Goose project Final Rpt, Matrix with recommendations, link to ECCD/Bacwac webpage. Asked her to contact me to discuss and update us on methods they use.

- Mayor Hedrick – Renewed contract with Honkers (dog hazing) for goose management at Eastern Pt. beach. Found no competition in area for pricing. Maura - Discussed exclusion, habitat modification with plantings, signs, tall grass mgmt. and chemical repellants or lethal control options to consider.

- ▶ **Goal 4 Activity:** Design water quality monitoring program
Ran out of time, tabled for next meeting.

4) Other

Sidney V. – asked about status of riparian buffer plantings along outflow to Poquonnock River at G.U. water treatment plant. Update at next meeting?

To Do's for next meeting:

- ▶ **Goal 4 Activity:** Design water quality monitoring program
- ▶ Eric T: Discussion of local committee review of the current BC WBP, document accomplishments, offer insight on lessons learned, and consideration of a revision or update for the next 10 year period.

Links:

ECCD-Baker Cove Watershed Committee webpage

<https://conservect.org/eastern/watershed-committees/>

2011 Baker Cove watershed-based plan

<https://portal.ct.gov/->

/media/DEEP/water/watershed_management/wm_plans/bakercovewbpdf.pdf

Link to CT DEEP IWQR meeting recording/ppt

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Water-Quality/Water-Quality-305b-Report-to-Congress>

* Meeting dates for 2020: **October 7, December 2 (10-11:30)**