



Baker Cove Watershed Committee (Bacwac)
Meeting Notes
December 2, 2020
10:00 – 11:30 am
ZOOM online meeting

Attendees:

Michelle Maitland, Project Mgmt. Specialist, Public Works, Town of Groton
Judy Rondeau, Assistant Director, Eastern CT Conservation District (ECCD)
Kurt Sendlein, Airport Manager, CAA Groton-New London Airport
Dick Conant, Groton shellfish Commission
Jamie Lee, Property Manager, Groton Housing Authority and Project Manager, GGRC
Tabitha Harkin, Town of Groton Planner/CDBG
Kate Blacker, Watershed patrol, Groton Utilities
Eric Thomas, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Heidi Comeau, Public Works, City of Groton

Additional Invitees:

Keith Hedrick, Mayor, City of Groton
Dan Mullins, Executive Director, ECCD
Syma Ebbin, Professor/Research Coordinator, UConn/CT Sea Grant
Aundré Bumgardner, Councilor, Groton Town Council
Sidney Van Zandt, Vice President, GOSA
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
Roger Sherman & Jay Kane, Co-chairs, Groton shellfish commission
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: Groton WS map interior & Exterior 11-5-20, BC Water Quality Monitoring Map, Property Mgr Draft Map notice letter

MEETING NOTES

Greeting – Welcomed guests Jamie Lee, Property Manager, Groton Housing Authority and Project Manager, GGRC and Tabitha Harkin, Town of Groton Planner/CDBG

1. GOAL 4 Design water quality monitoring program (map handout)

i. Funding

Maura updated - ECCD looking into possible federal 319 nonpoint source block grant technical assistance funds if deemed eligible use of funds. Eric - FY2021 319 NPS grant RFP - submission deadline Jan. 4. DEEP can provide input to a water monitoring plan or components if we give details. Email from Rick – Re: G.U. lab testing as match. Can't do volunteer Sampling (labor) and analysis (time and materials) at this time. Suggested we partner with UCONN Avery Point, Connecticut College, Mitchell College, USCGA, and/or Three Rivers CC for both students to collect the samples, and lab equipment and labor for analysis.

Discussion: Mention of Dr. Craig Tobias, UCONN on shellfish commission – Grad students do lab work & typing for avian or human, could be eligible for funding. Shellfish Area E (Palmer cove) has been shut down by DABA, they will be doing summer survey also. FDA does audits for safety, DABA is directed by them.

Save the Sound Unified Water Study may be able to provide equipment & training for embayments. CUSH volunteers assist in these efforts.

Discussion of who maintains data for MS4 GP, consultants typically host data, but towns want to own. Heidi doing testing on all but 2 sites, keeping track in excel, but would like to have in GIS. Michelle – Town has Consultant, not sure what format data in. Suggested she can talk w/Jenna, GIS person about it. (Note: Post-meeting – Jenna no longer with Town)

Maura verified with Kate that the historic sample locations map is not in GIS format. The data for it can't be found, she thought we could use it to assess locations for our purposes.

ii. GIS map update - Maura

Maura showed new map she created. Judy advised: Added sanitary mains – could have leaks, added sewers - unsewered areas could have failing septic. Pink Town/city MS4 sample sites of outfalls (wet/dry) from 2011 & from 2008 MS4 permit, requirements for outfall sampling changed for new permit. Maura asked if sample sites are accurate for 2020 and can provide addresses of sample sites if needed. Judy may be able to get more recent sewer maps. Map shows only outfalls identified along streams Maura to see if Stormwater outfalls maps can be gotten from Jenna, GIS person for town. (Note: Post-meeting – Jenna no longer with Town)

Judy suggests in-stream Bacteria trackdown survey sampling as a start to get baseline conditions of streams, start at bottom of streams, test below/above confluences of other streams entering to isolate each branch and also test wherever significant land use change.

We want our monitoring to compliment MS4 pgms and share data. Heidi mentioned kickoff meeting for Coastal Resiliency and plans to include other representatives such as Bacwac.

EPA Region 1 FREE SW toolkit can be applied for in 2021 to get loaner for 1 year to do some wet weather stormwater outfall testing to assist MS4 efforts. Should work with DPW's. We could get data from outfalls in areas where data from bacteria trackdown tests shows issues.

Michelle suggested creating simple before/after surveys to accompany targeted distribution of map as an outcomes measure re: learning & engagement.

In regards to mention at last meeting of new Shellfish Chair – Maura invited Co-Chair’s Roger Sherman and Jay Kane to meeting for any input on water quality monitoring plan. They have both been on email list of committee members receiving all emails for some time now. Dick resigned as deputy warden and has been appointed to the commission.

2. Committee Member progress reports

- ▶ Create 'public-friendly' watershed map for handouts and social media posting

a. Current version of map brochure (handouts)

Maura went over 11/5 version of map. Final except for minor fixes including Marshes, Shellfish classifications / shellfish Key. Maura got marshes, shellfish section feedback from Tessa, Sea Grant and Alissa, DABA. Asked for input of committee. Eric supports having marshes on map to support marsh migration due to sea-level rise and co-benefits of access, water quality. Dick agreed to put simplified shellfish definitions based on Alissa’s input into 5th grader language.

b. draft Letter to property Mgr stakeholders listed on brochure (handout)

Michelle drafted and Maura made a few changes. Asked for committee input. Eric likes tone, he sent edits.

- ▶ Maura – ppt educational slides for submittal to GATV

Re-vamped versions of Canada Goose info received back from Shawn at GMTV. He thought a Groton Public Works logo for Town should be added. Michelle suggested logos not needed for Public works.

Bacwac info slide – no comment yet from Shawn. Maura suggested running simplified Bacwac info as first slide to explain Bacwac.

- ▶ Review activities under GOAL 6 - Promote good housekeeping practices among municipalities and property owners.

Tasks: Adopt revised GHPs in priority areas as established by WBP.

Distribute information regarding GHPs in priority areas as established by WBP.

Good housekeeping practices for businesses – city/town

Heidi and Maura met with Cierra, Econ Dvlpmt. City doesn't have many businesses in the Baker Cove ws (Kinnesbrook Condos on Meridian St. & EB Parking lot), suggested reach out to Sam Eisenbeiser, Town Econ Dvlpmt. Tabitha offered to assist, she works with Sam.

We provided best management practices (lawncare, dumpster, illicit discharges) – Cierra will incorporate these into the City's efforts with coastal resiliency planning and public outreach to encourage assistance in keeping Long Island Sound clean.

Update on UCONN Climate Corps (Town & City)

Town – Dec. 7. City – Dec. 9. Climate Corps is a program of UCONN CLEAR / The Center for Land Use Education & Research. team of 4 undergrads & grad student looked at 5-6 sites over the last month (The Annex, Poquonnock Park, the Senior Center, Village Lane Sr. Housing, downtown Mystic street sites) piggybacking on work last Spring by another duo. They paired this effort with a review of some City sites.

3. What Goals/Activities to focus on for 2021?

Maura - ECCD revising workplan for Birch Plain Creek stormwater improvement project at Avery Heights Apartment complex. Includes tree filter units / rain gardens & signs, hydrodynamic separators, storm drain smart sponges, workshop on rain gardens and Canada Geese. Will discuss potential roles with Bacwac after draft.

Reviewed 2020 Plan of Work accomplishments, suggested to continue work for ongoing projects and hopefully be able to add outreach projects if Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Asked for group input. Jamie has experience presenting at schools and is available as a volunteer.

To Do's for next meeting:

- ▶ Review Plan of Work and Meeting Notes
 - ECCD-Baker Cove Watershed Committee webpage
<https://conservect.org/eastern/watershed-committees/>

- ▶ Plan of Work:
 - Submit FY2021 319 NPS grant application
 - Finalize Public-Friendly Map
 - Finalize stakeholder (Property Mgrs.) Letter
 - Finalize educational slides for GMTV to run for a month to 6 weeks in between GMTV programming

* Meeting dates for 2021: **Feb 3, April 7, June 2, August 4, October 6, December 1 (10-11:30)**