



**Baker Cove Watershed Committee (Bacwac)  
Meeting Notes Final  
April 7, 2021  
10:00 – 11:30 am  
ZOOM online meeting**

**Attendees:**

Joseph Summer, Building & Zoning Official, City of Groton  
Tabitha Harkin, Town of Groton Planner/CDBG  
Jamie Lee, Property Manager, Groton Housing Authority and Project Manager, GGRC  
Leslie Creane, Planner, City of Groton  
Jill Rusk, Administrative Assistant to Mayor, City of Groton  
Michelle Maitland, Project Mgmt. Specialist, Public Works, Town of Groton  
Dr. Molly Jacobs, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Project Oceanology, Groton  
Kurt Sendlein, Airport Manager, CAA Groton-New London Airport  
Kate Blacker, Watershed patrol, Groton Utilities  
Rick Stevens, Manager, Water & Sewer, Groton Utilities  
Eric Thomas, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
Heidi Comeau, Public Works, City of Groton  
Sidney Van Zandt, Vice President, GOSA  
Dan Mullins, Executive Director, ECCD

**Additional Invitees:**

Dick Conant, Groton shellfish Commission  
Aundré Bumgardner, Councilor, Groton Town Council  
Joan Smith, President, Groton Open Space Association (GOSA)  
Judy Rondeau, Assistant Director, Eastern CT Conservation District (ECCD)  
Keith Hedrick, Mayor, City of Groton  
Syma Ebbin, Professor/Research Coordinator, UConn/CT Sea Grant  
Mike Sinko, Sr. Mgr of Environmental Resources, Electric Boat  
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  
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 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  
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:** Agenda

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## MEETING NOTES

Greeting – Welcomed new member Joe Summers, Building & Zoning Official, City of Groton. Restated Bacwac goals. Heidi mentioned new City PW Director, Bill Robarge – will invite to June meeting.

**1. Implementation Subcommittee – Work Plan review & update (Maura, Michelle, Heidi, Molly)**

First meeting on April 1 of WISC. WISC will meet every week for an hour until we have good formats for workplan, then meet less often. Next meeting, Thurs. 4/8, 10-11. Michelle asked for wish lists from stakeholders. Sidney talked about GOSA rain gardens at a few locations just outside BC watershed. Jill updated that new trail at Kolnaski school is complete. Working on another school trail. Jamie asked for technical assistance in installing rain gardens at Pequot Village after new apartments built. She will be seeking grants for materials.

**2. Committee Member progress reports**

- i. 'public-friendly' watershed map for handouts and social media posting **(Michelle / Maura/ Jamie)**
  - a. Thanks to Joan, we received educational grant from GOSA to pay for printing of 1000 copies of map brochure. **Dissemination To:** 30+ prop mgr stakeholders, Proj. O, digital – Town (Parks & Rec interest) /City websites, any outdoor events if held this year and TRBP Floating workshop.

- b. draft Letter to property Mgr stakeholders listed on brochure  
Jamie - list of addresses almost complete. We'll mail to 30+ stakeholders on brochure first with letter seeking feedback.
  
- ii. Update on ppt educational slides to GMTV (Maura, **Michelle**)  
Examples of slides modified by GMTV shown – slides to run for a month to 6 weeks in between GMTV programming. Michelle – reaches about 25K viewers through comcast and Thames Valley.
  
- iii. EPOC rain garden grant submittal – Town of Groton, **Michelle**  
Michelle submitted grant to add rain garden at Shenny Par 4 clubhouse & restaurant on previous 600 sf flower garden including partners Project O, Ella Grasso Tech and Beautification committee. Will have high visibility & education component. Maura provided technical assistance. Let Michelle know of other small grants.
  
- iv. Rain garden & Rain barrel projects, City of Groton, **Heidi**  
Heidi working on 295 Meridian Rd – 900 sf rain garden recommendation by UCONN CLEAR Climate Corps. Money in her budget for materials. Maura to provide technical assistance. Working on Rain barrel project through Great American RB Co. with advertising (including about watershed) & pickup location from G.U. Both will have high visibility & education component.
  
- v. Other updates  
City Coastal Resiliency subcommittee – No updates from Heidi. Maura happy to partic. at next meet. looking for oppty's to partner on common goals, based on Leslie asking if Bacwac could provide input on resiliency plan.

Geese mgmt., riparian buffer update - G.U. (Rick/Kate)

Construction on the new Water Treatment Plant project is in final stages. Looking for vegetated riparian buffer (grasses/perennials) recommendations from Bacwac/ECCD – will hold site walkthrough in July and include Project O (teacher workshop in Aug.). Renewed their Federal Migratory Bird Depredation permit with FWS – plans to addle 12 nests (65 eggs). No plans for goose round-up because it needs to be

a regional approach or geese will come back from other areas such as Claude Chester school. Rick mentioned that the mean coliform density testing out of reservoir shows very low levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Discussion of protecting ws above reservoir from a Walmart proposal.

G-NL Airport pavement removal project (Kurt) – received federal grant to reconstruct terminal ramp, remove 68K sf in Fall or 2022. Goes toward Town MS4 DCIA.

### 3. Other Outreach & Ed

#### i. TRBP Floating Workshop –

TRBP is a cooperative effort to share resources and to develop a regional approach to resource protection. Floating ws annual event for last 20 yrs to highlight a theme & partners working together on. On the water tours, usually walking tour, other activity.

Held in June, in Baker Cove area TBD. Maura to talk about Bacwac's work, other topics - Coastal resiliency, maybe eel grass restoration, Groton Open Space Plan, Avalonia land holdings and other topics TBD. Good oppt'y to hand out brochure/map. **BACWAC committee is asked for suggestions or join planning committee.**

#### ii. Local New London business looking for River Clean-up sites within 20 min. drive

Kiewit Construction Co. looking to do streamwalk clean-up end of May or June. Some locations recommended to clean-up trash in BC WBP – BPC North of Thomas Rd & Unnamed Stream 2 along the unused Amtrak spur line. Sidney mentioned TLGV supports clean-ups with funding, GOSA has a # of clean-ups planned.

#### iii. Dan provided update on grant project at Avery Heights/Birch Plain Creek. Deciding on final funding - probably \$207K for storm drain filters, rain gardens, rain barrels and hydrodynamic separator.

#### iv. Eric T. included update in Zoom Chat – FY2021 319 NPS grant round. CT DEEP Final project selections will be made shortly and awarded applicants will be notified.

To Do's for next meeting:

- ▶ Share links
  - ECCD-Baker Cove Watershed Committee webpage  
<https://conservect.org/eastern/watershed-committees/>
  
- ▶ Work on activities and report on progress - let Maura know if have idea and would like assistance in planning
  
- ▶ Let me know if topic interested in hearing about at next meeting

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