

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,
guest, Yaprak Onat of CIRCA



Zoom Special Meeting Agenda: Friday, May 2, 2025, 4:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84761694555?pwd=A9iy6kbQmuTrJjdZm35uRhEhxUkGvA.1>

Meeting ID: 847 6169 4555, Passcode: 641123, Phone 646-558-8656

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Discuss status and the 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 by Yaprak Onat of CIRCA regarding status of monitoring system
 - Request by Chief Mahoney for update on status and response
 - Update regarding draft press release by TE
 - b. Community Flood Reporting and Photographic data acquisition - “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
 - Update regarding data provided by John Hoefflerle - survey benchmarks at each of our key monitoring locations to allow calibration of proposed tide-gauge markers
 - Update regarding first tide-gauge installed in Stony Creek – photos of annual peak tide elevations
 - Discuss the next two planned tide-gauge locations.
 - Discuss organizing monitors to photograph key flood events
 - Discuss community engagement and press release?
 - c. Roadway Flooding – finding protective solutions – nuisance flooding 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 John Hoefflerle’s effort to acquire surveying services to support John Lust’s tide wall application to DEEP
 - Update on request to the town engineer for storm sewer mapping at Montowese St and at Thimble Island Rd.
 - 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 Phase II RFQ
 - Update by Paul on grant application

- 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.
 - Notes from Sharon and Peter regarding CIRCA workshop on Wednesday
- Discuss status of other 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
 - Status
 - 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.
 - Marshland presentation
 - c. 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

Peter Hentschel, Chairperson