



# Minutes of Meeting

**DATE:** April 23, 2015  
**MMI #:** 2733-14  
**PROJECT:** Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience in Southern Connecticut

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of April 23, 2015 Project Kick-Off Meeting

**LOCATION:** SCRCOG Offices, 127 Washington Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor West, North Haven CT

**ATTENDEES:**

Carl Amento, SCRCOG	Donna Hall, City of New Haven	Abdul Quadir, City of West Haven
David Anderson, Town of Madison	Eugene Livshits, SCRCOG	Christopher Rappa, SCRCOG
John Casey, Town of Stratford	Meg McGaffin, City of Milford	Brian Thompson, CT DEEP
Kim Bradley, GEI Consultants	David Murphy, Milone & MacBroom	Donald Watson (via phone)
Rebecca French, CIRCA	Janice Plaziak, Town of Branford	Adam Whelchel, The Nature Conservancy
Matt Fulda, GBRC	Laura Pulie, Town of Fairfield	

Eugene Livshits welcomed the attendees to the project kick-off meeting. David Murphy presented the project, utilizing a power point slide show as the basis for the presentation. Discussion topics were raised by attendees and are summarized below.

- Adam Whelchel, of the Nature Conservancy, described how the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience will address non-coastal flooding, risk reduction, and resilience concepts through green infrastructure; yet this will be confined to the ten coastal communities which will be consistent with the grant. This prompted municipal representatives to inquire about the boundaries of the coastal area. David Murphy provided an example – the entire Quinnipiac River estuary in New Haven is considered coastal. Examples from Milford and other towns were also provided. David Murphy explained that for the purpose of consultant resource allocation, the field reconnaissance would be confined to coastal waters and estuaries, whereas separate inland flood sources would not be viewed. The CTDEEP Coastal Boundary according to the CT Coastal Management Act may offer some guidance for the project.
- Several municipalities are utilizing their Flood and Erosion Control Boards (FECBs) to plan and implement coastal and inland flood mitigation projects. Fairfield’s FECB is very active with planning, and Milford’s FECB serves as the Community Rating System (CRS) coordinating body. David Murphy and Brian Thompson (CT DEEP) provided background information about the State’s enabling of FECBs and what the boards are entitled to accomplish. Several municipal representatives may be interested in involving their FECBs with flood mitigation planning and the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience.
- Rebecca French, of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA), indicated that CIRCA has significant GIS and spatial data that were developed for the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) Phase I application. Some of this may be available for the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience.



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- Rebecca French believed that the NDRC Phase I results will be available in June or July, and the State might be advancing to Phase II at that time. The timing fits with the schedule for the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience, and the two efforts may be able to share project development ideas and inventories.
- Brian Thompson and Rebecca French described the Crest grant-funded wave monitoring and modeling study that is underway being conducted by James O'Donnell at UCONN.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) resilience funding is potentially on the horizon. An initial \$5 million will be available, with perhaps \$50 million available the next year. The Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience could help position municipalities and the region for some of this NOAA funding.
- Meghan McGaffin from Milford asked if the design process included in the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience will help other designs that are commenced in the future. David Murphy replied that the methodologies, design criteria, and decision support tools used for the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience will help future design efforts. In addition, the project inventory and opportunity assessment phases will result in the development a database of potential projects. The baseline data and information along with decision support tools will align municipalities for grant applications and funding opportunities for projects beyond those selected for final design within the scope of the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience.
- David Murphy requested that available plans, reports, and unsuccessful grant applications be provided to David and Kim by April 30, if possible. Meetings with municipalities will be scheduled during May 2015. Field reconnaissance will be scheduled for June and July 2015. The next advisory group meeting (including all those in attendance here) will be held sometimes in August, or early September. The date will be selected at a later time.