

Resilient Connecticut 2.0 Meeting with Town of Killingworth

4/19/2022

10 am, Virtual via RiverCOG Zoom account

Present: David Murphy (CIRCA), Margot Burns (RiverCOG), Nancy (First Selectman), and ___ (Public Works)

Overview: CIRCA met with the Town of Killingworth and RiverCOG to describe the expansion of Resilient Connecticut into the RiverCOG planning region and provide a forum to the local hazard mitigation plan team to comment on the status of actions in the Killingworth annex of the Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2021. These meeting notes will be provided to the Town and RiverCOG for appropriate filing related to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

David commenced the meeting by providing an overview of the Resilient CT project and Resilient CT 2.0 future plans. During the discussion, the local planning team reviewed the Town’s hazard mitigation actions, and attendees had an open discussion about the Town’s needs related to climate change and natural hazards.

The First Selectman raised concerns about the Town’s control of significant amounts of public water supply watershed early in the meeting, noting that this is a unique concern related to climate change drivers like flooding and erosion. The flood of 1982 (9-10 inches of rain) washed out many roads upstream of reservoirs. The September 2018 flood resulted in a Public Assistance reimbursement of \$300,000 which they have used for the Bethke Road culvert replacements. The Town notes that many culverts are undersized.

Review of Hazard Mitigation Plan Actions:

Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Status Reported by Location Planning Team	Potential for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Characteristics (Low, Medium, High)
1	3-1	Explore and identify tools and technologies to spot and locate remote forest fires more quickly and accurately (for example, unmanned aerial vehicles [UAV, or drone], remote-operated camera systems, networks of sensors [such as “FireBug” or “LALI”], or cameras with thermal imaging)	No progress; remains desired	Medium; changes in wildfire risk are uncertain at this time.

Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Status Reported by Location Planning Team	Potential for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Characteristics (Low, Medium, High)
2	2-1	Acquire all-terrain firefighting equipment to access remote wildland fires	No progress; remains desired	Medium; changes in wildfire risk are uncertain at this time.
3	1-1	Develop a forest management plan that includes a study of access to potential remote wildland fires. Study should identify the best routes and prioritize roads for widening or other improvements to allow access.	No progress; remains desired	Medium; changes in wildfire risk are uncertain at this time.
4	2-1	Upgrade the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School generator to allow it to provide full power to the facility kitchen in addition to the rest of the building.	No progress; remains desired. This is a cooling center, and people will drive there for relief during power outages. The outage after T.S. Isaias was five days in town. This is a regional shelter, and can also handle evacuations from the shoreline.	Medium; depends if this school will be used as a shelter and cooling center
5	1-1	Review the disaster event response planning of local schools to ensure they are up to date.	Uncertain. In May 2022, the State's hurricane tabletop/drill is planned.	Low; this is a current need
6	2-1	Complete road and drainage repair projects to mitigate flooding on Emmanuel Church Road	Ongoing	High
7	2-1	Complete road and drainage repair projects to mitigate flooding on Bethke Road	Complete	High
8	2-1	Complete road and drainage repair projects to mitigate flooding on Roast Meat Hill Road	A State bridge grant might have been for Reservoir Road, and Roast Meat Hill Road may not have been done. Reservoir Road was impacted in 2018 and it flows into the CWC reservoir, so it has been a priority.	High
9	2-1	Conduct a hydraulic study of all culverts and bridges on public roads in Town to guide upgrading of undersized infrastructure	This is done case by case.	High

Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Status Reported by Location Planning Team	Potential for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Characteristics (Low, Medium, High)
10	2-1	Implement mapping and monitoring of catch basins, storm water outfalls, and related infrastructure, and incorporate map files into the municipal GIS system	Killingworth remains exempt from MS4 for the time being, but the Town is looking into retaining an intern to conduct this mapping.	High
11	2-1	Explore options for selling wood scraps generated by tree and limb removal along powerlines to help fund tree maintenance and trimming efforts.	The Town has a site for debris (the transfer station). Woody debris is subject to grinding and given away, but revenue is not captured from this action. A secondary site is available at Parker Hill Extension.	Low
12	3-1	Review the University of Connecticut Stormwise Vegetation management Program (https://stormwise.uconn.edu) to determine whether it is appropriate for Killingworth.	The Town takes tree management very seriously and may be meeting the intent of this program. Lots of maple and oak die-off has occurred.	Low
13	3-1	Implement a public education initiative that includes handouts or pamphlets instructing homeowners on what to look for around their properties that may put their homes at risk, such as trees or branches over power lines, brush and debris close to the structure, the presence of dead trees, etc.	More progress desired.	Medium
14	3-1	Work with Jensen's to encourage renters living in trailers and mobile homes to install building tie-downs to mitigate potential damage due to high winds. This encouragement could be completed through public outreach and education.	Jensen's is now Sunwood/Beachwood. Total of 380 units. New units must be anchored, so this is underway.	Medium
15	3-1	Use Town website and social media accounts to educate the public about municipal hazard mitigation initiatives. Include maps of evacuation routes, storm surge areas, and shelters. Include options for mitigation of residential structures and business recovery and provide links to FEMA, NOAA, State OEM and RiverCOG websites for additional information.	The Town has made some progress but would like to improve.	Low; this is a current need

Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Status Reported by Location Planning Team	Potential for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Characteristics (Low, Medium, High)
16	2-1	Develop a priority list for road reconstruction and elevation for roads which experience frequent flooding or are integral to evacuation. This includes bridges and culverts in need of upgrading or replacing. Work with CT DOT to encourage upgrades of State Roads and Bridges.	This is ongoing. The Town has a rolling ten-year list of CIP projects.	High
17	2-1	Implement an ordinance requiring newly installed generators to be kept a certain distance from buildings.	They will check on this. The effort was for avoiding CO and fires.	Low

Potential Project Ideas: CIRCA facilitated a discussion about potential projects for Resilience Connecticut 2.0.

- Flooding upstream of the public water supply watersheds is a challenge.
- The regional shelter could be improved for meeting greater cooling needs.
- The Town is considering Sustainable CT registration.
- Attendees remain concerned about dams. David recommended working with the water utilities to conduct drills.
- Brian Walsh is the Town's new EMD.
- Deer Lake was raised as a potential development pressure in the public water supply watershed. Nancy would like to coordinate with entities like Save the Sound to look at options for the property.

Follow-up:

- Please take a look at the map viewer for the Zones of Shared Risk and offer any corrections/additions. Link here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9a4f68dd99f44dc58b93fd85bcfe1255/>
- (Note: the Editor tool within the viewer does not always save reliably, so please email mary.buchanan@uconn.edu with any changes you'd like to see reflected in the Killingworth ZSR layer.)