

Summary 11/10/2010
7PM
Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange
CRERPA Office
455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT

Attendees:

Frank Byrne – Clinton Land Trust
Gregg Mirando – Clinton Land Trust
Greg Chasko – East Haddam Land Trust
Richard Harrall – Chester Land Trust
Errol Horner – Chester Land Trust
Harvey Thomas – East Haddam Land Trust
Sarah Keaney – Old Saybrook Land Trust
Kristen Elliot Leas – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
Cindy Sullivan – Haddam Land Trust
Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust
Melvin Woody – Ct River Land Trust
Matt Elgart – Lyme Land Conservation Trust
Moureen Heidtmann – East Hampton Inland Wetlands Commission
Margot Burns – CRERPA
Emery Gluck – DEP Division of Forestry
Tom Worthley – Uconn, Haddam Land Trust
Rick Potvin – USFWS

For the November meeting the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE) was visited by Emery Gluck, CT DEP Division of Forestry, Forester for Cockaponset and Nehantic State Forest, Tom Worthley, UConn Extension Forester, and Rick Potvin, US fish and Wildlife, Director of the Stuart B. McKinney Wildlife Refuge in Westbrook. Tom discussed the various New England Region visioning efforts to keep forests as forests and farms as farms (KFAF), their similarities and the strategies of the State wide Forest Assessment that has specific action steps and priority areas in regards to forest resources in the State. Our region is one of those areas. Tom introduced the since named *Reactions to Community Engagement* grant that CRERPA will be working on with the regions foresters which will focus on working with private forest land owners and their communities.

Emery Gluck presented on the history of Connecticut's forest, maintaining upland forest ecosystem services, how upland forest service ecosystems have been historically maintained, why some are not able to maintain themselves, and the States efforts to maintain them now. Emery emphasized that although mature forest is important we are lacking the young forest habitat that support early successional species like Cedar Wax Wing, Bob Cat, and New England Cotton Tail and that high grading during timber sales and the lack of fire in the forest is changing the forest from that dominated by oak to that of one dominated by maple, beech, and birch. We need to maintain all successional forest stages to support all the flora and fauna that are characteristic of Connecticut's forest through the maintenance of diverse

habitats. Emery handed out *Why We Cut Trees on State Forest* available at http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=322878&depNav_GID=1631

Discussion followed and it was determined of the land trusts present only one had forest management plans for some of their properties but had not acted on them and one had a forester determine the value of the hardwoods on one of their properties for their insurance company in case of a natural disaster such as a fire or hurricane. Emery does have an email list for updates for management activities taking place within Cockaponset.

Questions were asked concerning what DEP Service Foresters can provide? Service Foresters can visit a land owner and make suggestion of directions the land owner can take and direct you to forest land owner resources. Service Foresters for our region include Rob Rocks, Middlesex County, and Dick Raymond for Lyme.

Rick Potvin, Manager of Stuart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, and Silvio Conte in CT, and State Coordinator for Partners in Fish and Wildlife Program addressed the group about a crew ready and available to do a project for wildlife habitat management which requires a match that can be in kind service. Rick also spoke about the New England Cottontail Program of the USFW Service and the difference between the Partners Program and the Service Programs of the USFWS.

Maps were handed out of the Cotton Tail habitat suitability analysis and land trust fee parcels and the group was asked if they would like to participate in the Cotton Tail Project and if they felt they had any parcels that would qualify. Discussion and information was provided concerning the project steps and criteria as outlined from the stand point of the USFWS.

Suzanne Haig presented a follow up from the summer meeting *Where have all the bats gone?* After expenses donations from the meeting totaled \$450.00 which was sent to a non harvested wildlife fund, a Jenny Dickson suggestion. Signup sheets, names and emails will be provided to the group. Suzanne Haig agreed to write an article concerning the meeting to send to the area news papers and town newsletters.

Margot Burns discussed her attendance at a Connecticut Land Conservation Council meeting and a workshop community outreach and conservation marketing given by Judy Anderson of Community Consultants and suggested that the group could consider holding a workshop that all board members of each land trust could attend and that the cost could be split between the land trusts or a grant could be sought to provide funding.

Suzanne Haig gave an update on the draft State Rail Plan and a draft letter stating the position of the CREMPO board concerning the plan was handed out. Discussion concerning the closing of the Chester Ferry took place.

The next meeting date will be January 19th, 2011.