

Summary 1/16/2013  
7PM  
Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) Office  
145 Dennison Rd., Essex, CT  
[www.lcrlandtrustexchange.org](http://www.lcrlandtrustexchange.org)

Attendees:

Kristen Elliott Leas – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust  
Tom Elliott – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust  
Humphrey Tyler – Lyme Land Trust  
Melvin Woody – Ct River Land Trust  
Gregg Mirando – Clinton Land Trust  
Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust  
David Bingham – Salem Land Trust  
Linda K. Schroeder – Salem Land Trust  
David Brown – Middlesex Land Trust  
Christina Clayton – Old Lyme Land Trust  
Joe Nochera – Old Saybrook Land Trust  
Rob Smith – East Haddam Land Trust, East Haddam Conservation Commission  
Margot Burns - LCRVCOG

Group discussion concerned the formation of a sub-committee to create an agreed upon regional conservation plan and strategy, the need for land trust specific workshops, creation of a regional coop of conservation volunteers, and promotion of the Centennial Anniversary of CT State Parks and Forest as a community outreach too.

It was agreed upon by those present and by John Kennedy and Harvey Thomas who were unable to make the meeting, but sent written communication, that the group should form a sub-committee to create a regional conservation plan and strategy. Members that were interested in serving on the sub-committee include Humphrey Tyler, Melvin Woody, John Kennedy, Tom Elliott, David Bingham, Gregg Mirando, Harvey Thomas, David Brown, Gail Reynolds, and Margot Burns. 2 other examples of Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCP) looked at by the group were the Quabbin to Cardigan RCP <http://q2cpartnership.org/> and the Litchfield Hills Greenprint RCP <http://www.litchfieldgreenprint.org/>. It was agreed that those interested would communicate as to when the date for the first meeting would be to begin to create the road map and mission statement for the plan and strategy. A packet of the *Lower CT River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange* document was handed out for LTE representatives to give to the board members of their individual land trusts when discussing their involvement with the LTE and the creation of the regional conservation plan and strategy. It can be found at [http://www.lcrlandtrustexchange.org/InformationDocuments/lte\\_info010813.pdf](http://www.lcrlandtrustexchange.org/InformationDocuments/lte_info010813.pdf).

The need for specific workshops for individual land trusts was discussed and Tom Worthley, UConn Extension Forester has offered to conduct a workshop concerning forest management planning for any land trust or municipality that is interested. Gail Reynolds offered to send out a management plan template and Haddam Land Trust existing management plan documents to the group.

The group discussed the creation and development of a regional conservation coop volunteer network that could be maintained by the LCRVCOG where member land trusts could post events and activities in need of volunteer help. A good idea was to communicate the corporations and businesses in the region concerning the volunteer needs of our conservation community.

2013 is the Centennial Anniversary of CT State Parks and Forests. It was discussed using this occasion as a topic for community outreach and presentations. Because our Region only falls slightly below the Southeast Region of CT in having the greatest number of acres of CT DEEP lands in the State it is very important for us to endeavor to ensure the maintenance and viability of our CT State Parks and Forests, not only for their conservation value but for their economic value as well. They are the backbone of our conservation lands in our region and need to be stewarded with the same care and attention as our other conservation lands. <http://www.friendsctstateparks.org/FCSP/Welcome.html>

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) will be holding their annual conference at Wesleyan University on March, 23<sup>rd</sup> and information is available at <http://www.ctconservation.org/>. There will be a lunchtime roundtable for those that belong to an RCP or are interested in learning more about them. Also, there is a Thursday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3pm meeting for CT and RI RCP's to get to know each other at CT Forest and Park Association, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT.

The next full LTE meeting is scheduled for Wed., March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, LCRVCOG offices.