

Summary 3/20/2013  
7PM  
Lower Ct River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange  
Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) Office  
145 Dennison Rd., Essex, CT  
[www.lcrclandtrustexchange.org](http://www.lcrclandtrustexchange.org)

Attendees:

Tom Elliott – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust  
Melvin Woody – Ct River Land Trust  
Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust  
David Bingham – Salem Land Trust  
David Brown – Middlesex Land Trust  
Margot Burns - LCRVCOG  
Joan Nichols – CT Farm Bureau  
Richard Potvin – US Fish and Wildlife  
Janice Ehlemeyer – LCRVCOG  
Joe Nochera – Old Saybrook Land Trust

The meeting began with 2 presentations. One concerning the formation of a regional agricultural council by Janice Ehlemeyer of the COG and Joan Nichols of the CT Farm Bureau and the other by Richard Potvin, US Fish and Wildlife concerning the new effort to form a Friend's group for the recently purchased Roger Tory Peterson Division located in Old Lyme. The formation of the regional ag council is in its formative stage but will function as an advisory, educational, and facilitator between farmers and their municipality and region. Discussion focused on 490 farmland designation and its requirements. Rick Potvin's presentation focused on the acquisition of the Roger Tory Peterson Property by the Silvio O. Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge from the Old Lyme Land Trust and the formation of a Friends of Roger Tory Peterson Division to help with the development and care of the property. Discussion concerned how this project could help support other conservation and economic efforts within the region. In example could be the creation of a birding trail using the RTP property as a launching site.

The last part of the meeting concerned the formation of two subcommittees instead of the one that was formed at the February meeting. One committee would pursue the creation of the strategic conservation plan under the auspices of the COG and the other, working independently of the COG, but still responsible for reporting back to the full LTE group, would pursue investigating how an organization might be formed to access outside funding sources unavailable to a single land trust but available for larger land acquisition projects on a regional basis. It was agreed upon by the group that this approach made sense. Discussion concerning this will continue at the next meeting which will be held on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.