



CACIWC

**44th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference
Saturday, November 6, 2021**

ANNUAL REPORT & CONFERENCE BROCHURE

*Connecticut Association of Conservation
& Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC)
(www.caciwc.org)*

*44th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference
“Maintaining Our Conservation & Habitats
Preservation Efforts During the Ongoing
COVID-19 Pandemic”*

*Saturday, November 6, 2021
(A Virtual Conference)*

Schedule for the Day

Welcome & Business Meeting.....	8:45-9:00 a.m.
Keynote Speaker	9:00-9:55 a.m.
Break 1.....	9:55-10:00 a.m.
Workshop 1: Waste Reduction & Recycling	10:00-10:55 a.m.
Break 2.....	10:55-11:00 a.m.
Workshop 2: Wetlands Law: Problem-Solving	11:00-12:25 p.m.
Break 3.....	12:25-12:30 p.m.
Workshop 3: Emerald Ash Borer & Spotted Lantern Fly	12:30-1:25 a.m.
Break 4.....	1:25-1:30 p.m.
Workshop 4: Water 101, Connecticut Water Resources	1:30-2:25 a.m.
Conference Ends.....	2:30 p.m.

Business Meeting Agenda

- Introduction to the Virtual Conference
- Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2020 Annual Meeting
- Reports:
 - Treasurer’s Annual Report FY 2020-2021
 - Budget FY 2021-2022
 - President’s Report FY 2020-2021
- Old Business
- Election of Officers and Directors
- New Business

Keynote Presentation:

For our 2021 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, CACIWC has again scheduled our keynote speaker presentation at 9:00 AM immediately following 8:45 AM Business Meeting and before the workshop sessions. This will permit the conference to end at 2:30 PM.

CACIWC is very pleased to welcome David R. Vallee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Northeast River Forecast Center to serve as our 2021 Annual Conference keynote speaker. For his keynote address, David will present on: "Torrential Rains from Slow Moving Tropical Systems: Is This The New Normal?"

Much of New England has been experiencing an increasing trend in annual average temperature and annual average precipitation over the past several decades. During this same time period, the region has experienced an increasing number of moderate to major flood episodes. These episodes have been associated with a variety of storm types and have affected the region at different times of the year, but the most potent of these have been associated with tropical systems. The common threads in each episode were the ability of each storm system to move slowly and tap into a deep tropical moisture source which resulted in very heavy if not record rainfall amounts. This presentation will review current trends and will examine recent storms such as Florence, Henri and Ida as examples of our increasing vulnerability to such high impact events. The presentation will end with a brief look at new prototype services under development by the National Weather Service to provide forecasts of inundation to Emergency Managers.

About Our Keynote Speaker:

David R. Vallee

David Vallee is the Hydrologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service's Northeast River Forecast Center. The center provides water resource and life-saving flood forecasting services to hundreds of federal, state and local water resource partners throughout New York, New England and neighboring Canada.



David has worked for the National Weather Service for 34 years, serving in a variety of positions including Intern Meteorologist from 1987-1993, Senior Service Hydrologist at the Taunton Weather Forecast Office from 1993-2000 and as their Science and Operations Officer from 2001-2006. David has extensive experience leading hydrometeorological forecast and warning operations and directing weather research and training programs. Research topics have included New England Hurricane Behavior and Climate Change Impacts on Flood Frequency and Severity. David most recently led a Department of Commerce Agency Priority Goal to: Mitigate Flood Impacts by Demonstrating Improved Decision Support Services to Emergency Managers.

Workshops

Our 2021 Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference will include four workshops with topics on waste reduction and recycling, wetlands law updates, the status of the emerald ash borer and spotted lantern fly, along with information to help commissions understand and preserve local surface water, groundwater and aquatic systems:

■ Workshop 1 (10:00-10:55 a.m.)

Municipal Activities to Promote Waste Reduction and Recycling

Presenters:

- Kim O'Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator
- Howard Weissberg, PE, Director of Public Works, City of Meriden
- Doug Colter, CFM, Grants Administrator, Project Manager, and Flood Plain Manager for the City of West Haven
- Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Connecticut is facing a waste disposal crisis. Most of Connecticut's trash is disposed at one of the five waste-to-energy

facilities. One of the largest facilities, the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) in Hartford, which services over 50 Connecticut communities, is scheduled to close in 2022. This will significantly reduce in-state disposal capacity. As businesses and municipalities export more waste to out-of-state landfills and incinerators, costs are expected to rise significantly.

In response to this looming crisis, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) formed the Connecticut Coalition of Sustainable Materials Management in partnership with municipalities to discuss ways to reduce the waste generated, recycle more, divert materials from traditional facilities and advance programs and policies to implement these actions. Many ideas were discussed and ultimately a Menu of Options was released in January 2021. The CCSMM highlighted food scrap collections, unit-based programs, and extended producer responsibility programs as leading options for tackling our waste disposal problem.

Solutions must include a combination of individual efforts, state and local policies and producer and hauler support and cooperation. Municipalities are moving forward with model programs and working to pass important policies that will help improve long-term stability for these efforts. This panel of local leaders will offer insight into the state's trash disposal crisis and discuss examples of innovative projects and critical policies needed to address this problem.

Presentations will include:

- 1) **Kim O'Rourke**, Middletown Recycling Coordinator will present on "What's Happening with Trash in Connecticut & Middletown's Feed the Earth Program"
- 2) **Howard Weissberg, PE**, Director of Public Works, City of Meriden, will review "Meriden's Solid Waste Co-Collection Waste Reduction Pilot Program"
- 3) **Doug Colter, C.F.M.**, Grants Administrator, Project Manager, and Flood Plain Manager for the City of West Haven, will discuss "Adding Food Waste to Municipal Composting Operations & School Food Waste Education"
- 4) **Jennifer Heaton-Jones**, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Authority, will outline "How Municipalities Can Share Responsibility of Materials Management Through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)"

■ Workshop 2 (11:00 a.m.-12:25 p.m.)

Wetlands Law: Problem Solving 2.0 (second edition)

Presenters:

- *Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC*
- *Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)*

You have taken the original live training offered by CT DEEP (or DEP many years ago), you keep up with changes in the law (statute or case law) at annual training workshops at CACIWC or talks offered at CAWS (CT Association of Wetlands Scientists). You may have joined us at the June 12th CACIWC Mid-Year Conference. If so, you know you will be actively answering poll questions and submitting comments in the Q&A or chat boxes throughout the workshop. In this 90-minute session together we deconstruct and analyze together complicated problems dealing with 1) an enforcement matter that requires remediation the scope of which is unknown at the time the order is issued; and 2) a plan to remove invasive plants: is it permitted as of right or a nonregulated activity (and what's the difference) or does it need a permit?



Photo: Jeffrey H. Mills

Janet Brooks will be assisted by DEEP wetlands municipal liaison Darcy Winther, who will also play devil's advocate. Appropriate for newer and experienced wetlands commission members.

■ Workshop 3 (12:30 a.m.-1:25 p.m.)

Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lantern Fly

Presenter:

- *Claire Rutledge, PhD, Associate Agricultural Scientist, Department of Entomology, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)*

The emerald ash borer was detected in Connecticut in 2012 and has since killed thousands of ash trees. The potted lantern fly was first detected in 2020 and appears to be establishing new populations along highways at a rapid pace. Dr. Rutledge will discuss the history, biology, impact, and management of both these highly invasive insects.

Dr. Claire Rutledge obtained a BA in Biology from Oberlin College before receiving her MS and PhD in Entomology at the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana. After post-doctoral stints at University of Idaho and Purdue University, she accepted her current position at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Her research has focused on wood-boring insects, including emerald ash borer.

■ Workshop 4 (1:30 a.m.-2:25 p.m.)

Understanding the Science of Water to Help You Protect Your Community Resources

Presenter:

- *Virginia de Lima, former Director of the USGS Connecticut Water Science Center*

All water is part of a single resource: surface water, groundwater, and water quality are all interrelated. Originally designed for the Connecticut Legislature's Environment Committee, this presentation provides information to people who are tasked with making important decisions about water resources. Understanding the interconnectedness of water leads to being able to assess the water system as a whole and better anticipate how changes in one component may affect other components.

Virginia de Lima is the former Director of the USGS Connecticut Water Science Center and, though retired, continues to serve on multiple state committees focused on the State Water Plan (SWP). She is co-chair of the SWP Implementation Committee and previously chaired the Science and Technical Committee, which was active during the development of the plan.

Virginia's technical work at the USGS was in computer simulation of groundwater flow. She taught groundwater modeling for the USGS and also taught Groundwater Hydrology in the Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Hartford.

CACIWC 43rd Annual Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2020

– Our first virtual conference –

Alan Siniscalchi, President and Annual Meeting Chairman convened the meeting at 8:47 a.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. Alan discussed the need to hold this annual meeting as a virtual conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reviewed the conference schedule, and outlined the procedures for this virtual format.

Business Meeting: The meeting convened at 8:50 a.m.

Approval of the 42nd Annual Meeting minutes: Motion and second from the virtual audience to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2019 Annual Meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Annual Report & FY 2020-2021 Budget: Charles Dimmick, Treasurer, reviewed the annual treasurer's report, outlining FY 2019-20 income and expenses in detail

along with the budget for FY 2020-21 as included in the conference brochure.

President's Report: Alan Siniscalchi reviewed the president's report, including progress toward goals for education, outreach, and fiscal management, as included in the conference brochure.

Old Business: No discussion.

New Business: No discussion.

Adjournment: Alan thanked CACIWC contractors, conference sponsors, and all those in attendance and the Business Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen FitzGerald, CACIWC Secretary

President's Report for the 2021 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference

The year 2021 proved to be another challenging year for us as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to overwhelm and alter our lives here in Connecticut and throughout our nation and the world. Other issues also challenged us, including the adverse impacts to our habitats from the growing food and waste crises, poorly planned development, and short-term severe weather patterns, and long-term climate changes. Continued news of social and racial injustice reminded us to bring renewed attention to the environmental justice issues being pursued by many Connecticut conservation commissions. As we enter the last months of this challenging year, we recall an earlier optimistic thought that we would be able to return to an in-person conference within a packed ballroom, breakout session rooms and buffet lines for our 2021 conference.

Looking back to last autumn, the CACIWC Board of Directors extends their appreciation to the many members and guests who were able to participate in our **43rd Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**. This conference, held on Saturday, December 5, 2020, was our first virtual conference, established to protect our member commissioners, staff, and other attendees from the COVID-19 pandemic. While the CACIWC Board of Directors and its Annual Meeting Committee were hoping to schedule an in-person event, the decision to go with a virtual event was widely supported. However, organizing a virtual event required major changes in our approach. Despite not having previous experience

in hosting virtual conference, CACIWC was able to establish a new host contract and recruit a valuable keynote speaker and a wide variety of informative workshops.

The conference theme, "*Promoting Conservation & Preserving Habitats During the COVID-19 Pandemic*," set the stage for many productive discussions through the event.

CACIWC was pleased to welcome **Jason C. White, PhD, Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station** as our 2020 annual conference keynote speaker. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), the oldest Agricultural Experiment Station in the country, supports a wide range of programs of interest to our members. In addition to managing the agency budget of \$12.5 million and approximately 100 scientific staff, Dr. White oversees a research program of \$5.1 million in competitive funding/research. He also serves as the Managing Editor for the *International Journal of Phytoremediation* and sits on the editorial boards of *Environmental Pollution* and *NanoImpact* as well as the Editorial Advisory Boards of *Environmental Science & Technology* and *Environmental Science & Technology Letters*. Dr. White is the Immediate Past President of the International Phytotechnology Society. His primary research program focuses food safety and security, with specific interests on the impact of nanomaterials on agricultural plants and on the use of nanotechnology to



President's Report (continued)

sustainably increase food production and promote global food security.

Dr. White received his Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from Cornell University in 1997 and has secondary appointments at the Harvard University TH Chan School of Public Health, the University of Texas-El Paso, the University of Massachusetts, and Post University. He has published approximately 240 scientific papers that have been cited 11,991 times, as well as authoring eight book chapters. Jason lives in Prospect Connecticut with his wife Michelle and six children.

In his presentation, entitled "*Putting Science to Work for Society: Helping to Protect Connecticut's Environment During the Pandemic*," Dr. White reviewed the history CAES, first established in 1875. The institute is a relatively small but separate agency of the State of Connecticut. While the primary mission of the CAES is research, many educational and outreach programs are also an important function of the agency. These programs help promote the use of new research findings to solve emerging agricultural, public health and environmental problems throughout Connecticut.

During his keynote presentation, Dr. White also reviewed the many environmental research programs being conducted by the CAES to protect local habitats, including tracking invasive insect pests along with efforts to identify and newly emerging plant diseases. Use of Integrated Pest Management to control insect and plant diseases with minimum use of pesticides will be discussed. He described CAES efforts that contribute to public health including surveillance of diseases transmitted by ticks and mosquitoes including Lyme disease, human babesiosis, West Nile disease and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. He also discussed research into novel and sustainable approaches to increase agricultural productivity to minimize food insecurity.

Recent CAES efforts to study an alternative surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 virus activity, in conjunction with Yale University School of Public Health, were also described. Dr. White also discussed how Connecticut conservation commissions can contribute to important environmental research even during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

CACIWC received very positive feedback on his presentation, which helped inspire conference attendees to continue their important local conservation and habitat protection efforts during the pandemic. We also received many requests for him to return and present an update at a future conference. Thank you again, Dr. White!

Following the keynote presentation, our 2020 annual conference proceeded to our **virtual workshops**. While missing our breakout rooms, the workshops were organized in two tracks, for conservation and inland wetlands topics.

Our first conservation track workshop, entitled "*Updates from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)*," included reviewed the efforts of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG), formed in 1997 as an ad hoc consortium of individuals from various organizations to promote awareness of invasive plants and the use of native or non-invasive ornamental alternatives. The working group collaborates and shares information on the presence, distribution, ecological impacts, and management of invasive plants affecting Connecticut and the region. A panel of five

speakers presented on the work of the CIPWG, including Charlotte Pyle, PhD, Co-chair, CIPWG, who presented on *Why keep working on invasive plants?*, Rose Hiskes, MS, Co-chair, **CIPWG** and diagnostician with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), who presented on a *Porcelainberry update*, along with Bryan Connolly, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology, Eastern Connecticut State University and CIPWG member, who discussed the *New invaders on the horizon*. The panel continued with Joshua Tracy, Invasive Species Management Technician and CIPWG member, who presented on an interesting use of *Drones for mapping invasive plant infestations*, Emmett Varricchio, Co-chair, **CIPWG**, who reviewed *CIPWG's invasive plant management calendar*, and Charlotte Pyle, PhD returned to outline *New projects for CIPWG's Native Alternatives Subcommittee* and lead the panel's response to questions.

Our second conservation workshop, entitled "*Understanding Connecticut's State Water Plan*," was presented by Denise Savageau, Environmental Professional, and Louis Rosado Burch, Connecticut Program Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE). Denise and Louis reviewed the State Water Plan that was prepared by the Water Planning Council and adopted by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2019. They provided an overview of the Plan and our state's water resources, challenges for maintaining water quantity and quality in a changing climate, how the Plan is intended to protect and manage these critical resources including during periods of drought, and steps being taken now to implement the Plan. They highlighted the role of municipalities, including Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions, in implementation of the Plan.

Our first inland wetlands track workshop, entitled "*Wetlands Law — The Decade in Review*," was presented by Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC with Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). In this workshop, Janet and Darcy compared what occurred in the second decade of the 21st century with what happened in the first decade. They also examined changes in the statutes, regulations and developments in the case law. Agency permit denials overturned by the courts due to lack of substantial evidence, thorny exemptions and other greatest hits of the 21st century were also discussed!

In the second inland wetlands track workshop, entitled "2020 Wetlands Law & Regulations Update with Question & Answer Session," Mark Branse, of Halloran & Sage, LLP joined attorney Janet Brooks and Darcy Winther of Connecticut DEEP, to return by popular demand to keep our member commissions current with wetlands law. Changes resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic included a lack of legal cases from this year to review and the challenges of conducting and attending virtual meetings.

The conference ended with a bonus workshop, entitled "*Ecotype Plants-Why the Local Seed Matters and What Conservation Measures Can Help*," presented by **Darryl Newman, Co-Owner of Planters' Choice Nursery**. Darryl is a University of Maryland graduate with a degree in Landscape Management who worked as a Project Manager for prominent landscape design/build

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President's Report (continued)

plants in the Washington, DC area before returning to Planters' Choice in 2004. Darryl is a Past President of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and the 2019 Award of Merit Winner. Darryl has also conducted numerous presentations to various groups ranging from the New York Botanical Garden, UConn, CIPWG, the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, the Connecticut Tree Wardens Association, and others.

In this bonus presentation to our annual conference, Darryl discussed why the Ecotype Project was created by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA) and their partners and how that relates to the importance of addressing a critical shortage of habitat and food for pollinators, which is caused by the disconnecting of pollinator corridors through development. A particular focus will be made on how initiatives of different scales can help move this important endeavor forward.

The CACIWC Board of Directors, who have been planning mid-year educational sessions for several years, decided to further support our members struggling with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, by organizing our first **Mid-Year Environmental Conference**. This conference, held on Saturday, June 12, 2021, was also our second virtual conference, again established to protect our member commissioners, staff, and other attendees from the COVID-19 pandemic. Using previous experience in hosting virtual conference, CACIWC was able to establish a new host contract and recruit a valuable keynote speaker and a wide variety of informative workshops. The conference theme, *"Promoting Conservation & Preserving Habitats During the COVID-19 Pandemic,"* set the stage for many productive discussions through the event.

CACIWC was pleased to welcome **State Representative Mary M. Mushinsky, (85th House District)** as the keynote speaker for our first Mid-Year Conference. Our state has long strived to improve its management of municipal waste through more comprehensive recycling and other approaches to waste reduction. A biologist by training, State Representative Mary Mushinsky was recruited for this presentation as she is uniquely qualified to discuss these ongoing efforts as the author and sponsor of major Connecticut environmental legislation enacted during the 1980s and 1990s, including mandatory recycling and packaging reduction. She has also been a long-term advocate for open-space preservation, global warming mitigation and endangered species protection.

Mary Mushinsky was first elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in 1980 on a platform of environmental activism, consumer advocacy and improved energy policies. She served for six years as co-chair of the legislature's Environment Committee currently holds the leadership position of Deputy Speaker.

Mary has held various other leadership positions including co-chair of the legislature's bipartisan Program Review and Investigations Committee, specializing in preparing workforce for a changing economy, retraining older and long-term unemployed workers, apprenticeships, and improving efficiency of state programs. The committee spotlighted and expanded the state's most successful apprenticeship program, Platform to Employment. Mary previously served as co-chair of the legislature's Select Committee on Children for ten years and passed the state's anti-bullying law. She is the recipient of numerous awards for adolescent pregnancy prevention and reduction of child poverty.

In Wallingford, Mary initiated and serves as co-chair of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail Advisory Committee, which works with local, state and federal officials and the community to expand the pedestrian/bicycle trail. She also served on the Wallingford Energy Conservation Commission, which promoted the energy audit and energy management recommendations now implemented by the Town of Wallingford school system. Mary lives in Wallingford with her husband Martin J. Waters and has two adult sons, Martin and Edward Waters.

In her presentation, Mary outlined the steps needed to achieve a wide range of our long-term environmental goals including efforts that Connecticut commissions can take within their communities to raise awareness of environmental justice and climate issues. Mary's presentation and Sherill Baldwin's workshop that followed, inspired us to continue these important discussions with a panel discussion on new innovative municipal approaches to waste management and recycling. Thank you again, Representative Mushinsky!

Following the keynote presentation, our 2021 annual conference proceeded to our three **virtual workshops** designed for both new and experienced conservation and inland wetlands commissions and their staff.

Our first workshop, entitled *"The Importance of Recycling During This Waste Crisis,"* presented by Sherill

Baldwin, Source Reduction & Recycling Analyst with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) followed the focus of the keynote presentation. In her presentation, Ms. Baldwin asked the question, while recycling has always been about conserving resources, is it still a viable option for managing materials as we now face a "waste crisis" in Connecticut. Sherill reviewed projects of the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management and the RecycleCT Foundation designed to increase recycling and reduce contamination of CT's mixed recycling (single stream) program. Ms. Baldwin also shared how CACIWC members can support these initiatives.

Our second workshop, entitled *"Wetlands Law: Legal Problem Solving 2.0,"* was presented by Janet Brooks, Attorney

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President's Report (continued)

at Law, LLC with Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This workshop built upon previous training offered by CACIWC, DEEP and the Connecticut Association of Wetlands Scientists (CAWS) Conference with an analysis of basic understandings of wetlands law. In their two-hour session they proceeded to deconstruct and analyze complicated problems dealing with: (1) a permit application on a "difficult site" in your town, (2) an enforcement matter that arises from the open forum/public comment portion of a meeting, and (3) farming exemptions arising from a chronically challenging, ever-evolving farm operation. Although conducted in a webinar format, participants were encouraged to type in comments, responses, and questions. A lively discussion resulted with input from both newer and experienced inland wetlands commission members.

The conference ended with a workshop, entitled "*The CAWS Vernal Pool Monitoring Program*," presented by Edward M. Pawlak, MS, Certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), Registered Soil Scientist. In his workshop, Mr. Pawlak discussed the efforts of the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) in sponsored a vernal pool monitoring program since 2007. His presentation reviewed the more than 50 vernal pools, located in 15 towns, within four Connecticut counties, which have been monitored by CAWS volunteers. His presentation covered the elements of the monitoring program, including its rationale, limitations, and important lessons learned. Several case study pools were also reviewed, including an analysis of amphibian population trends and land cover changes around these pools during the monitoring period. Recommendations for conserving vernal pools and their biota on a developing landscape were also explored while those in attendance also enjoyed his striking photographs of Connecticut's amphibians who depend on these important habitats.

We again thank the conference attendees and all those responsible for organizing our first Mid-Year Environmental Conference. Despite it being only our second virtual conference, we received many complements and suggestions for future workshops. Please keep sending us your suggestions for future topics to AnnualMtg@caciwc.org. The board of directors extends its most sincere appreciation to our many 2020 and 2021 conference sponsors, including those listed on the final page of this report.

Even with continuously updated registration systems, the task of organizing our **annual meeting and environmental conference** is a major challenge for our small volunteer board without the benefit of full-time staff. We are motivated to maintain this important event each year guided by the useful feedback we receive from all of you.

Throughout 2021, the board has continued its other efforts to provide **information and outreach support** to commission members and staff through our website, CACIWC.org, and our quarterly publication, *The Habitat*. Other municipal commission and environmental advocacy efforts were pursued in conjunction with various partner organizations.

During 2021, we continued the process of implementing our **Strategic Plan**. One important strategic goal was the **modernization of our financial tracking and accounting system**. Our Treasurer Charles Dimmick and Vice President Peter Bassermann both completed additional efforts to improve our final financial records using an electronic system that allows easily prepare reports and review the status of various fiscal categories.

Another major objective of providing additional training opportunities for our members was achieved with our **first mid-year conference**, described earlier in this report. We received many positive comments from members who appreciated the opportunity to participate in this mid-year continuing education.

The board also continues to review progress toward achieving the all the goals and objectives of our strategic plan in the context of our organizational mission. We thank those of you who reached out to us during 2021 and provided us with important information to help guide our efforts. We remain committed to continue efforts that will enable CACIWC to expand its role as a strong and effective statewide organization in support of you, our municipal conservation and wetlands commissioners and staff.

As we look ahead to 2022, we anticipate that ongoing pandemic will continue to impact our state, and we pledge to maintain our vigilance in the protection of Connecticut's open spaces and important habitats. Those of us whom you entrust to lead CACIWC will maintain efforts to bring you relevant educational programs while informing you of the latest issues affecting your role as one of Connecticut's key conservation and habitat protection assets.

At today's **44th CACIWC Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**, CACIWC is proud to host an exciting opening session, as we welcome David R. Vallee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Northeast River Forecast Center to serve as our 2021 Annual Conference keynote speaker who will present on: "Torrential Rains from Slow Moving Tropical Systems; Is This The New Normal?" We look forward to receiving your feedback on, what we expect to be most timely and informative discussion.

I know that I speak for the entire CACIWC Board of Directors in welcoming you to today's 2021 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference for our now third *virtual* conference in the history of CACIWC. As an epidemiologist and member of our State's COVID-19 response team with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, I am indebted to all of you who continue to follow recommendations to help bring this pandemic to a close. As a member of our dedicated CACIWC Board of Directors, I am equally appreciative of your continued efforts to protect habitats within your towns and wish you the very best during 2022.

Alan J. Siniscalchi, President
Saturday, November 6, 2021

**Connecticut Association of Conservation &
Inland Wetland Commissions
Treasurer's Report & Budget: FY 2020-2021**

	Budget(\$)	Actual(\$)	Budget(\$)
	FY '19-20	FY '19-20	FY '20-21
INCOME			
Membership Dues	10,750.00	8,390.40	10,700.00
<i>Habitat</i> – Advertising, Sponsorship	4,000.00	3,269.37	3,200.00
Contributions	2,000.00	550.00	1,000.00
Interest/Reimbursements	8.00	3.56	4.00
Annual Meeting Income	4,500.00	6,542.14	20,000.00 ¹
CACIWC Publication Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	21,258.00	18755.47	34,904.00
EXPENSES			
Education & Information			
Newsletter – <i>Habitat</i>			
Layout, type, edit, graphics	2,500.00	866.00	2,500.00
Printing, collate, staple	3,000.00		3,000.00 ²
Mailing – labels, service, postage	2,100.00		2,100.00
Other – <i>Habitat</i> Advertising Manager	1,600.00	572.94	1,600.00
Website – administration, server fees	850.00		850.00
Listserve Management	200.00		200.00
Board Development	200.00		200.00
Workshops	0.00		0.00
Other Organization Support	300.00	55.00	300.00
IWC & CC Educ & Information	400.00		400.00
Subtotal	11,050.00	1,493.94	1,050.00
Administration and Operations			
Administrative Support – Memb DB Mgt	600.00	220.50	500.00
Administrative (other)	50.00		50.00
Bookkeeping Service	400.00		500.00
Office Rental (DeKoven House)	1,932.00	1,950.00	1,950.00
Office Equipment/Furniture	0.00		0.00
Postage/Supplies	50.00		50.00
Insurance	550.00	574.00	550.00
Auditor/Accountant	0		0.00
Fees/Taxes	15.00	32.74	0.00
Refunds	0.00		50.00
Legislative Action	0.00		0.00
Annual/Mid-Year Meeting Expenses	5,500.00	4,982.75	22,000.00
Subtotal	9,097.00	7,759.99	25,650.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,147.00	9,253.93	36,700.00
GAIN/(loss)	1,111.00	9,501.54	(1,796.00)

¹ Budget for 2021-2022 anticipated an in-person Annual Conference.

² Printing and mailing costs were eliminated with the conversion to an electronic version of The Habitat.

Report of the CACIWC Nominating Committee

November 2, 2021

The CACIWC Nominating Committee places in nomination the following slate of officers and directors for the 2021-2023 term of office for the CACIWC Board of Directors.

Officers

President: Alan Siniscalchi
Vice President: Peter Bassermann
Treasurer: Charles Dimmick
Secretary: Maureen FitzGerald

Directors

Fairfield County:	Alicia Mozian Aleksandra Moch	County Representative Alternate
Hartford County:	Ann Beaudin	County Representative
Litchfield County:	Jeremy Leifert Abby Conroy	County Representative Alternate
Middlesex County:	Marianne Corona	County Representative
New Haven County:	Maria Kayne Kristen Jabanowski	County Representative Alternate
New London County:	Laura Magaraci	County Representative
Tolland County:	Rod Parlee	County Representative

The following positions have not been filled at this time:

Hartford County:	Alternate Representative
Middlesex County:	Alternate Representative
New Haven County:	Alternate Representative
Tolland County:	Alternate Representative
Windham County:	County Representative & Alternate
Alternate-at-Large:	Two (2) Representatives

Respectively submitted by the 2021 CACIWC Nominating Committee: Alicia Mozian, Maureen FitzGerald, and Dr. Benjamin Oke.

44th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference Sponsors

Barred Owl (\$250-\$499)

Ernst Seeds

Alan J. Siniscalchi, CACIWC

Screech Owl (\$100-\$249)

Janet P. Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
Wildnote

Leslie Petrick, Greenwich Conservation Commission

Maureen FitzGerald, CACIWC

Laura Magaraci, CACIWC

Saw-whet Owl (\$10-\$99)

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