

**STATE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**  
**MEETING #6 – FACILITATOR’S SUMMARY**  
**August 2, 2012, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Middlefield, CT**

**Attendees:** Kim Barbieri, Tim Bockus, Teri Brown, Ken Bullard, Chris Donnelly, Mark Goetz, David Goodson, Jim Govoni, Eric Hammerling, Jane Harris, Mary Hogue, John Jasinski, Leslie Kane, Kevin Kelly, John Mitchell, John Parry, Karl Reichle, Jeffrey Ward.

**Visitors:** Mikey Hirschhoff, Ken Placko, Pam Klomberg

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force was called to order at 9:30 am. Eric Hammerling chaired the meeting, with notes taken by Chris Donnelly. Bill Logue was unable to attend this meeting of the Task Force.

Eric opened the meeting by introducing Mike Gantick, Public Works Director for the Town of South Windsor. Mike presented a powerpoint overview of the “emergency operations dashboard” that is in use within South Windsor. This is an ArcGIS based computer program that allows citizens within the town both to learn where incidents are occurring and also what town officials are doing to correct problems. For example, if a tree falls across a roadway and has been reported to Public Works, then the problem can be posted up on the internet, overlain on a town map, for people to see on an immediate basis. Likewise, efforts of town crews to deal with these types of issues can also be similarly posted, so that people can also be aware of the status of response efforts.

As Mike explained the system, it consists basically of a computer based interface that interacts with a GIS system being it. The town, working with ESRI, the vendor, is working towards developing an iPhone app, and towards allowing internal and external reporting into the system. Once implemented, members of the public can use the dashboard interface to report problems as well as become aware of them and to track their resolution.

Mike reported that part of the appeal of the system is that it uses technology to leverage resources, particular with respect to personnel time. Among other benefits, it tracks key records regarding an incidence and a response, and also helps reduce duplicate reports and responses from the field.

Eric then introduced Mark Goetz, Task Force member who works for Burns and McDonnell. Mark is a GIS specialist. He gave a powerpoint presentation in which he discussed the role of the GeoSpatial Council in Connecticut ([www.ct.gov/GIS/site/default.asp](http://www.ct.gov/GIS/site/default.asp)), the state of GIS data in Connecticut generally and how helpful that can be to individual communities. Mark also discussed the future of GIS and computing, with cloud data and smaller access hardware, such as tablets, replacing hard drives and laptops.

Following Mark’s talk, Eric moved the discussion to a review of the Draft Task Force Report, which the group went over on a page by page basis. This review took up the bulk of the rest of the meeting.

Following this review, Eric led a discussion on the life of the Task Force following the completion of its report and its submission to the Commissioner of DEEP. Among the topics explored were the role

that DEEP would likely play in moving the recommendations forward and the connection that has now been made between PURA and the Division of Forestry within DEEP. Also discussed was the likely role various non-profit groups such as the CT Urban Forest Council might play in picking up on aspects of the Task Force's work.

Submitted by Chris Donnelly, CT DEEP Forestry