

Mayor's Water Quality Committee Agenda
For March 5, 2020

- a. Call to order;
- b. **Roll call**; Steve Bartush, Jim Bartley, Tom Closter, John Crespo, Diane Lauricella, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Chris Malik, Harry Rilling, John Romano, Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer
- c. **Communications**;
DEEP, - None
Eversource, - none
Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish Comm.
- d. **Public comments**
- e. **Old business**;
Shellfish commissioners workshop – Dept. of Aquaculture
 - 1) Potential to start WQ monitoring
 - 2) Testing of shellfish and fish for PFAS and PFOS
 - 3) Letter to ban pesticides and herbicides, Louise to deliver to Hartford. See next page
- f. **New business**;
 - 1) Ridgefield Fox Hill flood control dam
 - 2) Letter to the officers of Shorehaven, Silvermine and Oak Hills requesting that if they use Chlorpyrifos, to cease doing so as it is harmful to the environment, and will eventually make its way to LIS.
 - 3) Anything else?
- g. Reading and approval of minutes from Feb. 6, 2020 –
<https://www.norwalkct.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/15724>
- h. Next meeting April 2, 2020.
- i. Adjournment.



SUPPORT SB 301, An Act Concerning the Use of Chlorpyrifos

CHLORPYRIFOS (klor·pee·ruh·faas)

Chlorpyrifos is a **highly toxic pesticide** (a substance used to kill, repel or control pests) derived from a nerve gas that has been banned from indoor use since 2001

DANGERS OF CHLORPYRIFOS

- Scientific studies have linked chlorpyrifos to brain damage in children, autism, cancer, Parkinson's disease, and a whole host of other negative human health issues.
- Healthy pregnancies and fetal brain development are particularly vulnerable to harm from chlorpyrifos and other organophosphate pesticides.¹
- Chlorpyrifos is also known to be extremely harmful to wildlife, namely birds, fish and pollinators. Federal scientists have concluded this pesticide poses a risk to about 1,800 critically threatened or endangered species.²
- Farmers, farmworkers, rural communities and communities in close proximity to golf courses are especially at risk of immediate and long-term adverse health impacts due to direct exposure to chlorpyrifos.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAILED TO TAKE ACTION

- In 2015 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed banning chlorpyrifos after decades of scientific studies led to the conclusion that there is **no safe amount of chlorpyrifos for any use**.
- Despite overwhelming evidence demonstrating the health and environmental dangers of chlorpyrifos, the federal government has refused to follow through with the ban.

INDIVIDUAL STATES MUST BAN CHLORPYRIFOS

- Since the federal government has abdicated its duty, state governments are taking action. Thus far, **Hawaii, California and New York have taken steps to ban chlorpyrifos**. The EU has also banned chlorpyrifos.
- **Chlorpyrifos is still being used throughout Connecticut on golf courses, farms and plant nurseries putting CT residents at risk and harming our environment.**
- According to DEEP's own data, farms only account for 10.8% of chlorpyrifos used in CT. Golf courses account for 86% of chlorpyrifos use, totaling more than 590 gallons in 2019. The 8 largest users in the state are all golf courses. One farm alone accounts for 1/3 of chlorpyrifos use by farms in CT.
- The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has a strong history of implementing laws passed by the CT General Assembly that regulate pesticides.³

The Following Organizations, Businesses and Farms Endorse Banning Chlorpyrifos NOW:

Altraform, LLC

¹ Hertz-Picciotto, I., Sass, J. B., Engel, S., Bennett, D. H., Bradman, A., Eskenazi, B. et al. (2018). Organophosphate exposures during pregnancy and child neurodevelopment: Recommendations for essential policy reforms. *PLoS medicine*, 15(10), e1002671. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002671>

² Lipton, E. (2019). Interior Nominee Intervened to Block Report on Endangered Species. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/26/us/politics/endangered-species-david-bernhardt.html>

³ CT School and Child Care Facility Pesticide Statutes Sec 10-231a, Pesticide Applications at Schools: Authorized Applications. Ban. Exceptions. Sec. 10-231b,

Aspetuck Land Trust
Catch a Healthy Habit Cafe
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT.
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CT-LCV)
Connecticut Families Against Chemical Trespass (ConnFACT)
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)
Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Conservation Coalition
Earthjustice
East Granby Land Trust
Environment Connecticut
Friends of the Earth
Friends of Animals
Friends of Sunrise-Machimoodus Park
GMO Free USA
GMO Free CT
Grass Roots West Hartford
Housatonic Valley Association
Lachat Town Farm
Live Green
Middlesex Coalition for Children
Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee
Norwalk River Watershed Association
Save the Sound
Shundahai Farm
Sierra Club Connecticut
The Pollinator Pathway
The Connecticut Audubon Society
Wells Hill Farm
Westport Farmers Market
Windham Regional Community Council
Wintonbury Land Trust

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City of Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting January 2, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 6:02 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members: Joe Schnierlein, Diane Lauricella, John Crespo, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Jim Bartley, Chris Malik, Steve Bartush, John Romano
Staff: Thomas Closter
Guests: Deb Goldstein

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to Approve by Pete Johnson, second by Dick Harris. Unanimous Vote.

DISCUSSION

1. 1) Chairman Schnierlein gave an update on Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). He explained what the State of CT is doing to address PFAS. Governor Ned Lamont established the Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force on July 8, 2019 which is led by the Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and contains representatives from a broad variety of State Agencies and is tasked with delivering a PFAS action plan. Joe discussed filters, testing and how Europe has banned PFAS. He talked with DEEP and they will not be sampling for PFAS. Here is a copy of the draft for the action plan, but not the final draft:
https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/pfastaskforce/Draft_CT_Interagency_PFAS_Task_Force_Action_Plan.pdf
2. 2) Chris Malik talked about the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative and met with representatives from the watershed towns on December 5, 2019 @ 3:00pm at Wilton Town Hall. Items discussed were DEEP funding, projects in Wilton for Schools and dams and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2020 at Wilton Town Hall @ 3:00pm.
3. 3) Chairman Schnierlein discussed the Department of Transportation turbidity results for the Walk Bridge and the implications on water quality. Concerns centered on how measuring devices are fixed and don't move with the tides, no automatic closures, and no way to view results on-line. EPA has established protocols for monitoring that should be followed. Earthplace has turbidity baseline data at the Bridge in digital format that may be helpful. Harbor Management and Shellfish Commissions have a Consultant that is reviewing the data and will make recommendations.
4. 4) Chairman Schnierlein said there has been no communication with Eversource and their plans for the transmission line relocation project. Committee members are still very concerned about the path and method. He noted work has started near the Police

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Station and will follow up to see if proper permits were taken. Joe will try to gain more information on Eversource's plans.

5. 5) Diane Lauricella said there is a public information meeting regarding Ridgefield's Fox Hill flood control dam on January 29, 2020 @ 6:30 in the Ridgefield Recreation Center.

6. 6) Dick Harris said that shellfish harvesters are finding mitten crabs and will be monitoring the spread of this invasive species. The burrowing activity can undermine infrastructure and significantly increase the occurrence of stream bank erosion.
7. 7) Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 6:00pm in the Health Department.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dick Harris, second by Pete Johnson 6:58pm Minutes by Thomas Closter

NRWI letter

Please join me in urging Mayor Rilling to add Norwalk to the growing list of cities and towns expressing support for a bill to overturn the State Pesticide Preemption law. This will give towns and cities the right to set their own restrictions on toxic substances. Please take a few minutes to email Mayor Rilling yourself or on behalf of your organization and urge him to sign on to the letter below. The more of us he hears from, the better. This should be a no-brainer! Feel free to use the email text below and edit it as you like. Please forward to anyone you think might like to help.

Thanks for all that you all do for the Norwalk River!

Louise Washer

Norwalk River Watershed Association

203-856-1497

Begin forwarded message:

From: Louise Washer <lbwasher@gmail.com>

Subject: Please sign on to this Pollinator Pathway initiative

Date: February 3, 2020 at 2:14:22 PM EST

To: Harry Rilling <hrilling@norwalkct.org>

Dear Mayor Rilling,

This year there will be a bill in Hartford to overturn the State pesticide preemption law. This change would simply give municipalities the right to make their own decisions about pesticide applications in their own towns. As it stands now, municipal restrictions are preempted by State requirements, so if a town would like to restrict a toxic pesticide, but the state allows its use, the town's restriction would be preempted.

Many of the Pollinator Pathway towns and cities are signing on to a letter of support that was sent out to Mayors and First Selectmen by CCM on January 21 and which I have attached here. I am writing to encourage you to sign on to the letter in order to help us get this bill passed. The bill gives municipalities options only, and does not require specific action. The attached brochure explains the issue in further detail. Restricting certain pesticides is something Norwalk may need to be able to do in order to protect the shellfishing and aquaculture industries as well as drinking water and the environment. Let's ask to have that option.

Thank you so much for supporting the Pollinator Pathway and clean water in Norwalk. I hope we can count on Norwalk to join the growing number of towns signing on to this letter. My goal is to get all 6 Norwalk River Watershed towns in CT to sign on.

Sincerely,

Louise Washer

President, Norwalk River Watershed Association

Member Mayor's Water Quality Committee, Norwalk

Pollinator Pathway Steering Committee
203-856-1497