

# **Resilient East Haddam Workshop**

October 24, 2024

Location: East Haddam Municipal Office Complex Room 1

## **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The workshop was called to order to discuss the Resilient East Haddam project. Attendees thanked participants for their time and introduced the agenda. The consulting and CIRCA teams were introduced, along with stakeholders present in the room.

## **2. Project Background and Goals**

Nicole Govert from CIRCA, the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, provided an overview of CIRCA's mission and the background of the Resilient Connecticut Program. The program is aimed at addressing flooding impacts in vulnerable areas. CIRCA identified downtown East Haddam, specifically the Succor Brook area, as an area of interest due to flooding risks impacting residential properties, the wastewater treatment plant, pump stations, and facilities related to the Goodspeed Opera House.

## **3. Project Scope and Limitations**

The consulting team presented the study's scope and goals, focusing on data collection, flood modeling, and evaluating present-day and future conditions. It was noted that the study was primarily centered on lower Succor Brook, from the initial crossing at Norwich Road to the Connecticut River, covering key assets within this area.

## **4. Modeling Overview and Calibration**

Dan, the lead modeler, provided a detailed overview of the model calibration process, discussing current and future precipitation data, flow analysis, and floodplain predictions. Observed photos and data from previous storm events were shared to demonstrate recent flooding incidents, particularly around the Goodspeed properties and surrounding residential areas.

## **5. Key Infrastructure Discussion**

The infrastructure assessment emphasized concerns about flooding impacts on residential

properties, the artist village, and critical infrastructure, such as the wastewater treatment plant and pump stations. A notable point was the susceptibility of the propane fuel source at Lumberyard Road during flood events, which could impact local service continuity.

## **6. Future Conditions and Projections**

The model projected increased flood depths for both 10-year and 100-year storm events by mid-century, suggesting a significant rise in flooding risk. Model data also indicated a possible two-foot rise in flood levels around critical points in the Succor Brook area.

## **7. Stakeholder and Community Discussion**

During the open discussion, community members raised concerns about the effects of upstream infrastructure on downstream flooding, the role of the beaver dam, and the accumulation of debris that exacerbated local flood risks. Various potential solutions were discussed, including adjusting road and culvert designs, implementing nature-based solutions, and considering upper watershed interventions to manage flood flows.

## **8. Next Steps and Closing Remarks**

The next meeting is scheduled for early 2025. Attendees were encouraged to continue discussions with the consulting team and provide any further feedback on the project's focus areas.

Respectfully submitted:

E. Ruth Ziobron  
Recording Secretary