The Work Group met with the consultant team at 3:00 PM on November 23, 2020 to kick off the planning phase of the City’s resiliency plan. Because the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is pending, data collection was not attempted during the meeting.

- Welcome and Introductions

  Attendees:
  - Sam Alexander, SCCOG
  - Aundre Bumgardner, Planning and Zoning Commission
  - Scott Choquette, CFM, Dewberry
  - Heidi Comeau, Public Works
  - Sheri Cote, seCTer
  - Leslie Creane, City Planner
  - Erik Freidenfelds, Pfizer
  - Ron Gaudet, Groton Utilities
  - Keith Hedrick, Mayor
  - Bruce Kruszewski, WPCA
  - David Murphy, PE, CFM, Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
  - Cierra Patrick, Economic Development Specialist & Project Lead
  - Noah Slovin, CFM, Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
  - Melinda Wilson, seCTer

- Review of Scope of Services

  David reviewed the scope of services and emphasized that the planning effort would be based on existing published information and resources. The plan should include policy and specific project ideas. Attendees did not have any questions.

- Status of Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

  The QAPP was submitted and the team is waiting for feedback from NFWF and its contractors. Attendees did not have any questions.

- Overview of Schedule

  David reviewed the schedule. Attendees did not have any questions.

- Overview of Proposed Engagement Tools
Noah reviewed the methods of engagement. Attendees did not have any questions.

**Next Steps**

David explained the types of actions that can be undertaken while waiting for QAPP approval. For example, the team could discuss planning horizons. David asked where the City was presently positioned in the POCD lifespan, and Cierra noted that the POCD was adopted in 2019.

Mayor Hedrick explained that the publicity surrounding CIRCA’s sea level rise projects a couple years ago contributed to his interest in advancing resiliency for the City. Some of the City’s concerns include flooding and more repeated submersion of water and sewer infrastructure. The City also needs to understand its obligations relative to protecting property owners in flood zones. The City may consider a policy of not allowing re-building after damage, but this has met opposition in the past. Policies, plans, and programs are all possible outcomes of this resiliency plan. Based on all these concerns, and in light of the CIRCA projections, the Mayor believes that a 2050s planning horizon is appropriate. David agreed, and noted that the planning horizon can be adjusted as needed for specific concept plans as they are developed (for example, if a concept was addressing infrastructure with a longer life span).

David addressed attendees individually and asked if they had any comments or questions. Individuals from seCTer noted that they were eager to learn more about the project and be involved.

Erik explained that Pfizer fit into the resiliency planning through location in the City, but also through its reliance on the City’s infrastructure and the fact that many employees reside in the City. David agreed that these were important factors to recognize, and explained that resiliency of City services such as the City Hall and Public Works Facility may not appear to be coastal in nature, but these services are needed for the community to become more resilient. He recognized that SCCOG funded a critical facility assessment that addressed the City Hall and Public Works Facility several years ago.

Cierra mentioned MS4/stormwater concerns as an area connected to the planning.

Leslie asked for examples of where Zoning Regulations have been modified to drive resilience. David and Scott noted that there are some examples in the State from the flood damage prevention sections of Zoning Regulations, but not many other types of examples. Sam responded that Stonington could be checked as a potential example.

The topic of Community Rating System (CRS) participation was raised by Sam. He recommended that co-benefits between resiliency and CRS point should be recognized if applicable. A brief discussion about CRS ensued. David noted that nearby towns in the program include East Lyme, Stonington, and Norwich.
David asked Cierra if anyone was not able to attend the meeting. Cierra indicated that UConn and Electric Boat representatives were not able to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.