

March 8, 2016

Dear Connecticut NERR Partner:

We are pleased to announce that representatives from the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) System will be visiting Hartford, CT to offer information and guidance as we begin an effort to identify and designate a NERR for Connecticut.

The NERR system is a federal/state partnership that establishes a location dedicated to research, monitoring, education, and environmental stewardship. A Connecticut-based NERR would complement and extend many existing scientific and environmental management and education activities through the addition of funding, resources, and expertise; additionally, it would help identify and enable new directions and initiatives by leveraging national programs.

You are invited to a **public information meeting** on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in Hartford, CT. This meeting is designed to be an opportunity for you to hear about what the NERR system is and how Connecticut will be identifying potential locations. In addition, the Manager of New York's Hudson River NERR will share her experiences and highlight the benefits of a NERR site. Come and learn about what a NERR can do for Connecticut and how you can be involved!

An agenda is enclosed with this letter, and the website www.ct.gov/deep/NERR has been developed to provide additional information. **Please RSVP if you will be joining us in Hartford by emailing kevin.obrien@ct.gov or calling 860.424.3432 by April 4, 2016.**

We hope that you are able to participate and look forward to seeing you on April 12th.

Sincerely,

Brian Thompson, Director
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs

James Edson, PhD., Department Chair
University of Connecticut Department of Marine Sciences

Sylvain DeGuise, PhD., Director
Connecticut Sea Grant

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CT National Estuarine Research Reserve Project Kick-off Meeting

Where:

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Gina McCarthy Auditorium – 5th Floor
79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106

When:

Tuesday April 12, 2016 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Agenda:

Welcome	CT DEEP Commissioner/designee	5:30 – 5:35
Introduction – Meeting Overview	Brian Thompson, CT DEEP-OLISP	5:35 – 5:40
National NERR System Overview	NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff	5:40 – 5:55
Why a Reserve for Connecticut?	UCONN/Sea Grant	5:55– 6:05
Perspectives from Local Reserves	Betsy Blair, Hudson River NERR	6:05 – 6:20
Connecticut Process Overview	Kevin O’Brien CT DEEP-OLISP	6:20 – 6:35
Next Steps / Getting Involved	Kevin O’Brien CT DEEP-OLISP	6:35 – 6:40
Q&A / Discussion	ALL	6:40 – 6:55
Wrap-up	Brian Thompson, CT DEEP-OLISP	6:55 - 7:00

Additional Information:

Remote Attendance:

- For those unable to join us in Hartford, a webinar/teleconference will be provided. Please visit the project website www.ct.gov/deep/NERR for information on connecting. (An RSVP is not required if joining remotely.)

Directions and Parking:

- For driving directions and parking information please visit: http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2690&q=322418&deepNav_GID=1511

Questions?

- Please contact Kevin O’Brien (kevin.obrien@ct.gov, 860.424.3432)