

QUINNIPIAC RIVER FUND FINAL REPORT- 2020

Please complete and submit completed form via e-mail to dcanning@cfgnh.org at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven by March 31, 2020 (or as otherwise stated on the terms of grant).

Date: June 15, 2020

Group/Organization Name: Land Use Law Center/Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program

Address: Pace University, 1 Pace Plaza, New York, NY 10038

Telephone #: 914-422-4034

Project Name: Land Use Leadership Alliance Training

Grant Number: 20190118

Name & title of person completing this form: Tiffany Zezula, Deputy Director

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Please respond to the following statements:

- 1. List the specific objectives/outcomes of the project and tell how they were met during the grant period. Also, provide an update on any special conditions of the grant (if applicable).**

Due to the Covid crisis, the Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program moved to an online platform. The program was conducted for 2-hours each Wednesday for a 4 week period (May 20, May 27, June 3 and June 10). All sessions were recorded and can be posted on the QRF's website, if interested.

Objectives/Outcomes

- 1. Educate 20 local land use decision-makers:** The workshop trained close to 30 local leaders during the 4 week period. *See Appendix A for participant list.*
- 2. Increase development and implementation of watershed protection policies**

and regulations: The workshop reviewed best practices and topics that were tailored to the needs of the participants. Various topics were explored to assist the local leaders in their efforts to develop watershed protection policies, including discussion on the Plan of Conservation and Development, 6 step process for watershed protection, stormwater management, infill development, low impact development, reading a site plan, administrative collaboration, community engagement and intermunicipal cooperation. *See Appendix B for Agenda Topics, Presenters, and link to find all recordings. We can send all PowerPoints to QRF, if interested.*

3. Increase awareness of current provisions that are protective of water quality based on the regulatory review for each community. *See Appendix B.*

4. Increase in knowledge, skills, and step by step process for community engagement and public education. The fourth day of the curriculum focused on the importance of community engagement. Follow-up conversations are scheduled with New Haven and Meriden to discuss technical assistance in public engagement around upcoming watershed protection efforts through municipal development plans.

2. Please share your successes, challenges and any lessons learned through the implementation of your project. Were there any unintended consequences or lessons learned that may affect how you operate your program moving forward?

In January 2020, the staff focused on calling each municipality in the Quinnipiac watershed to discuss the training effort and general watershed challenges. This effort increased awareness and excitement for the LULA program, including securing a representative from 8 of the municipalities. Program logistics were set for a two-day training in the City of Meriden. Due to the Covid crisis the in-person session was canceled. With approval from QRF, the training moved to an online format. An electronic flyer announced the Watershed Wednesday Watch program. *See Appendix C for a copy of the flyer.*

The staff created a program curriculum based on Quinnipiac River program priorities and the needs of the participants. The staff also reviewed planning and zoning documents of participating municipalities, invited technical expertise to assist in training, and determined best practices to highlight in the program. All programs were recorded and all materials, PowerPoints and recordings were sent to the participants after the conclusion of the program day. During each training, participants will be exposed to a number of innovative land use techniques, including practical tools that riverine communities throughout CT use to assess and increase their watershed protection and watershed quality. Content included discussion about local environmental laws, stormwater pollution prevention, low-impact development in site plans, and inter-municipal approaches to watershed protection. Staff facilitated questions and discussions. Participants also learned about citizen engagement, consensus building in a community, and public education -- all critical to implementing land use policies and regulations. Participants will also receive an updated Quinnipiac River Watershed Water Quality Regulation Review report. Staff sent out evaluation surveys to better refine the program for future programs and to understand the technical assistance communities might need.

Overall, the on-line sessions were effective and provided a good opportunity for those in the watershed to discuss ongoing efforts. The Southwest Conservation District benefited from engaging with the local municipal leaders and will be following up with them to discuss future partnerships in funding opportunities, education and joint-planning efforts. Sustainable CT will also be following up with those that were on the training to discuss

certification in implementing watershed protection goals.

3. What are the opportunities and needs of your organization as it continues to move forward with its work to positively impact the Quinnipiac River?

Education for local commission members was a priority concern and topic of those that attended the program. QRF will hopefully be able to continue to assist in these efforts to train volunteer commission members in their power and authority to create innovative policies and regulations in watershed protection.

QUINNIPIAC RIVER FUND FINAL REPORT- APPENDIX A

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