

WAXB THIRD QUARTER 2016

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

Each Program Has a duration of 30 minutes

Each program aired on the date indicated from

0600-0630 hours

Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2016 Guests and Subject Matters
(July, August, September)

July 3rd, 2016 - John Larson – Connecticut First District Democratic Congressman.

Subject Matter: On this week's show, Connecticut First District Congressman John Larson discussed the sit-in protest that had just occurred in the U.S. House of Representatives in trying to force a vote on gun control legislation. Larson told that the idea came from Georgia Congressman John Lewis, an iconic member of the civil rights movement. Lewis had told Larson that he was proud of a few members walking out of the House chamber before a moment of silence was about to take place after the Orlando Pulse nightclub mass shooting. Those members, including Connecticut Congressmen Jim Hines (whose idea it was), Joe Courtney, and Larson, all walked out feeling that being silent isn't the answer anymore to stopping the continued mass shootings in this country. In the U.S. Senate Connecticut U.S. Senator Chris Murphy staged a 15-hour filibuster to get a vote in that chamber on gun control legislation. So Georgia Congressman John Lewis felt the U.S. House also needed to do something ... so they staged an unprecedented all day sit-in as a protest to not having any votes conducted on gun control legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Many Republicans in the House were highly critical of the sit-in, calling it a stunt, that it was disruptive, and broke all kinds of rules about House conduct. Another precedent occurred as well during the sit-in where cellphones were used to stream the sit-in protest so that people could see what was happening and get out their message. This was done after House Speaker Paul Ryan has the TV cameras turned off in the chamber. Congressman John Larson told that it was a dissent over not having the right to vote on pieces of legislation trying to stem gun violence in our country. He says over a thousand mass shootings have taken place since the mass murder occurred at Sandy hook elementary school in Newtown in December of 2012, and in all that time they have not had a vote, nor debate, or dialogue on gun control legislation. Larson said all they've done is stand for moments of silence. So he says they had a sit-in to disrupt things in a good way so they could standup for the right to vote.

A recent national Quinnipiac University Poll found that 93% of people in the

July 3rd, 2016 - (Larson continued) - United States believe there should be background checks on all gun sales. Also in the poll 86% feel that anyone on the U.S. no-fly-terror watch list should not be able to purchase a gun ... no fly-no buy. So with the public feeling this way Congressman John Larson was asked why Congress has not done anything on legislation regarding background checks and no fly-no buy. He says it shows the vast power of the NRA (National Rifle Association) and its lobby. Larson told that there are bipartisan common sense pieces of legislation that should be voted on, but haven't been brought up for a vote in the House, while there have been 3 votes in the U.S. Senate that did not pass. Larson feels one of the reasons they haven't been brought up this year in the House is because it's an election year. But he says they are going to continue to push the issue with House Speaker Paul Ryan and put pressure on him to allow a vote, either up or down on common sense legislation on gun control. Congressman Larson says more and more people are demanding something be done and maybe they'll have a viral effort to get it done, like what happened with the ice bucket challenge to call attention for research dollars to try and find a cure for ALS-Lou Gehrig's Disease.

July 10th, 2016 - Tom Tyler – State Parks Director.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Park's Director Tom Tyler discussed the situation with state parks this summer due to state budget cuts impacting things. One of the tough decisions Tyler says they had to wrestle with was coming to the decision that they needed to close three state park campgrounds due to the budget cuts. He told that there are 14 Connecticut state park campgrounds with over 14-hundred camp sites available. Tyler says they looked with a critical eye at the different facilities and where they could carve back on expenses and impact the public the least. He says they looked at the occupancy rates at all of the campgrounds across the state and identified 3 state park campgrounds to close early: Salt Rock campground in Baltic, Green Falls in Voluntown, and Devil's Hopyard in East Haddam. Tyler says these 3 campgrounds had the lowest occupancy rates, but are places that also have relatively nearby alternatives for people to go to instead.

Aside from the closing of these 3 campgrounds in the state, Parks Director Tom Tyler also told on the show that the camping season will be ending earlier than usual because of the budget cuts, with the exception of Rocky Neck State Park

July 10th, 2016 - (Tyler continued) - in East Lyme and Hammonasset State Park in Madison. Tyler explained that historically they have offered a number of their campgrounds to be open after Labor Day and as late as Columbus Day weekend. But with the occupancy rate way down after Labor Day and the state budget cuts, they won't be able to offer that this year. So he says only Rocky Neck and Hammonasset will be open for camping after the Labor Day weekend. But Tyler says they believe they have adequate capacity for people who do want to get in some fall camping at Hammonasset and Rocky Neck.

State Parks Director Tom Tyler told on the show that state budget cuts have also necessitated cutbacks for days in which lifeguards are on duty at state park swimming areas. He told that providing lifeguards at beaches is a very expensive undertaking, so they've looked at the days of the week where they have the least number of people coming out to swimming areas. Tyler says lifeguards will now be on duty 5 days a week at state park swimming areas Wednesday through Sunday, and for 3-days Friday-to-Sunday at Burr Pond in Torrington. He told that across the park system there are 23 designated swimming areas, with 8 of them having lifeguards at areas of the beach. Tyler says they post that info both at the beaches and on their website with the hours and days for lifeguards at those 8 locations. He did say however even if there are lifeguards on duty, that parents or guardians still need to keep a close watch on their kids in the water and not assume that the lifeguards are taking over for them. Tyler also advised that kids and even adult swimmers who are not very strong swimmers could be kept much safer by putting on personal flotation devices while in the water.

Tom Tyler told that this year features the 50th anniversary of Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill with special events happening there all year long. But he also noted that again due to budget cut, some state park museum days and hours of operation may have been cut back, like at Gillette State Park in East Haddam. So he urged people to check on the days and hours of operation before coming out. Tyler says this is true too at some of the nature centers in the state as well.

With Connecticut having 109 state parks and 32 state forest recreation areas across the state, State Parks Director Tom Tyler says Connecticut is a great place to enjoy the outdoors. He urged listeners to come out and enjoy all that Connecticut has to offer at its parks, because one is located right near them, with the state having so many.

July 17th, 2016 - Steven Reviczky - State Agriculture Commissioner.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky talked about how summer crops are doing this year in the state. He told that for a while it was quite difficult for Connecticut farmers with the dry summer weather. Commissioner Reviczky says it seems every year mother nature throws them a curve ball and this year was no different. He says the moderate drought here in Connecticut was a challenge for some growers, but a lot had backup plans with drip irrigation. So Reviczky says it was a lot of work, but now that Connecticut has received sufficient rain things are back on track. The agriculture commissioner says beans, beats, lettuce, cucumbers, summer squash, and delicious sweet corn are all in good shape in Connecticut. Reviczky says however the peach crop in Connecticut was all but wiped out from a cold snap in February, but that this year's apple harvest seems like it'll be good.

State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky told that farmer's markets are in full swing all across the State of Connecticut. He says in most areas of the state people can find a farmer's market nearly any day of the week. Reviczky says it's a good thing for Connecticut farmers to be able to get their product off of the back roads in the state and have a venue where they can develop a relationship with their consumers. He says most of these markets have created a nice little Main Street for Connecticut farm families to be able to sell their product. Then he says there are a number of farms that have farm stands on their farms where they sell their goods. Commissioner Reviczky also says there are a lot of supermarkets that also obtain product from local farms which is nice.

Commissioner Reviczky told that there are 125 certified farmer's markets in the State of Connecticut. He explained that these are markets where the growers work with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, provide them with growing plans, and indicate to the department that all of the product they are offering for sale is Connecticut grown. Reviczky told that at those markets they also are able to accept WIC (women with infants and children) vouchers and nutrition vouchers for qualifying senior citizens. So he says there's an opportunity for people who qualify for assistance to be able to buy Connecticut grown fresh, nutritious, healthy, Connecticut grown fruits and vegetables. Reviczky says it's a win for the consumers and it's a win for the farmers who are able to provide that product to those folks who are in need.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky told on the show that

July 17th, 2016 - (Reviczky continued) - Connecticut has a fairly new Connecticut-Grown labeling law passed last year. He says they will be conducting unannounced surprise inspections at farmer's markets across the state to make sure that product that is labeled Connecticut-Grown is indeed Connecticut grown. Reviczky says the Connecticut-Grown label has value to Connecticut consumers, and they want to make sure that there is truth in advertising so consumers can trust that if product has that label on it, that it indeed is Connecticut grown. He says they'll also investigate any complaints they receive. Reviczky says they'll initially issue warnings and try to educate, but if it happens again a \$100 dollar fine will be issued.

On another front, a lot of people may not know it ... but aquaculture is part of the State Department of Agriculture in Connecticut with its own Aquaculture Bureau. Commissioner Steven Reviczky says this involves the cultivation of hard shelled clams and oysters. He told probably most people don't realize that the largest farm in the State of Connecticut is actually under the water in Long Island Sound, where farmers plant seed for clams and oysters and then cultivate those animals for harvest. Reviczky says the state monitors water quality and the meats of shellfish to ensure that those products are safe to eat. Unfortunately, he told that recently the state had to shut down Connecticut's biggest natural oyster bed near the mouth of the Housatonic River after shellfishing boats violated harvesting regulations. Reviczky says they did that to prevent contaminated shellfish from reaching the public after illegal harvesting activities by those boaters.

State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky told that agriculture brings the State of Connecticut 3.5 billion dollars a year to its economy. He says it also generates 28-thousand jobs. Reviczky says they are trying to help new farmers in the state get any loans they need and provide them with necessary information to succeed in farming in Connecticut.

July 24th, 2016 - Dr. Kenneth Long - Professor of History and Politics at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Subject Matter: On this show, Dr. Kenneth Long, Professor of History and Politics at the University of St. Joseph, gave his reaction to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland and his outlook for the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. He told there are really 2-goals for political conventions. One told Dr. Long is to fire up the rank and file, and especially the campaign workers

July 24th, 2016 - (Long continued) - and staff and get them energized for the general campaign. Dr. Long says the more important task is to reach out to prospective voters, introduce their nominees in the best possible light, and try to get people who don't know much about the candidates acquainted with them ... and hopefully pleased with them enough to cast their vote for them. So he says getting the undecided voter to their side is really what the campaign is all about now.

On the Republican National Convention, Dr. Kenneth Long says the Donald Trump campaign had an unfortunate incident right on night one with Trump's wife Melania, delivering a speech that plagiarized the speech of current First Lady Michelle Obama from just a few years ago. Another distraction at the RNC was Ted Cruz not endorsing Donald Trump and another opponent Ohio Republican Governor John Kasich not even attending the convention in his host state. Though Dr. Long doesn't think these situations will hurt Trump in the long run, as he has already fought these rivals during the primary run and his wife's speech was partly the fault of a speech writer. But he says they need to be more professional in their campaign.

During the convention Donald Trump's children took center-stage with four of them giving speeches. Dr. Kenneth Long says that's been pretty common in recent years to bring in children to speak on how good a person their parent is. He says most conventions are also going to bring in other politicians to speak about how well the candidate has done on certain issues over the years. But Dr. Long says Trump hasn't been in politics ... he's been in the business world ... so he wouldn't be in a position to bring in politicians that he's worked with.

On GOP Presidential Nominee Donald Trump choosing Indiana Governor Mike Pence as his Vice-President running mate, Dr. Kenneth Long called it a safe pick. He feels the choice for a Vice-President is not of great importance. Dr. Long told on the show about the comment made by Richard Nixon, who said if you make a smart Vice-Presidential pick it can't do a thing for you, but if you make a dumb pick it can really hurt you. So Dr. Long says the theory is to pick someone safe, with no scandals, who won't be incompetent on the campaign trail. He added that the pick does have to be competent because there will be a Vice-Presidential debate that will be heavily viewed and analyzed.

As for the Democratic National Convention with Hillary Clinton as the Democrats nominee, Dr. Kenneth Long told that Democrats would need to smooth

July 24th, 2016 - (more Long continued) - things over with the Bernie Sanders supporters. He says the Democrats need to appeal to Sanders' supporters to come on board to the Clinton side and not have them disrupt things.

Dr. Kenneth Long told on the show that he thinks the general election campaign between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump is going to be rough and tumble on steroids! He feels it'll be the most negative campaign in modern times, maybe ever. Dr. Long says neither are warm and fuzzy or well liked, as both have high negatives with the voters. So he feels each of them will be looking to win the election by making the other candidate look even less desirable. Long thinks that might wear down many voters to the point where many don't vote, leading to a depressed turnout. Long however told that others disagree with him on this and feel it'll be a high turnout with voters fearing the other candidate might win.

July 31st, 2016 - Lee Sawyer - Project Manager for the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Subject Matter: On this week's Dialogue show they were talking trash ... literally, with Lee Sawyer, Project Manager for the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Mr. Sawyer discussed the State DEEP's new comprehensive strategy on trash as they are looking for ways to reduce trash and increase recycling. He told that for most people once they throw their trash away it's out of sight and out of mind. But Lee Sawyer explained that there is the environmental impact of trash and the economic impact of trash. He told that when they look ahead here in Connecticut they anticipate there's going to be a reduction in the capacity of some of the facilities that take people's trash ... which means that the cost of managing those materials is going to increase. Sawyer says they are also concerned that it could lead to the increase in landfilling trash out of state, which has a bad impact environmentally for greenhouse gases from transportation and from landfilling.

Lee Sawyer with the State DEEP explained that for the past 25 years Connecticut has been using trash to energy plants. He told that there are currently 5 in the state, but that some of them are beginning to reach the end of their useful life and will have to be phased out. Sawyer says for household trash there is no landfill capacity in the state anymore. He explained that over the years Connecticut has phased out landfilling and has capped and sealed those landfills. Sawyer says that's a good thing environmentally and really makes Connecticut a

July 31st, 2016 - (Sawyer continued) - leader in the country. He told that Connecticut made a very positive step when the state moved to trash to energy facilities 25 years ago, but now it's time to move to the next chapter with newer technologies.

In the development of the latest strategy the State DEEP went through a whole process of holding hearings. Lee Sawyer says they did it to coordinate this on the state and local level, working with towns and cities as well as business and residents. So he told that they spent a lot of time talking and listening around the state and tried to understand what issues were most important to residents and local officials. He says people had concerns about the cost of the system, but right now municipalities are spending tens of millions of dollars per year to manage waste materials. Sawyer though says part of their strategy is to try and bring those costs under control. He says the number one action they need to take collectively is to reduce the amount that we throw away, and recycle as much as we can recycle. Every state resident on average generates about 3.5 pounds of trash a day, which Sawyer says is about 13-hundred pounds per year per person.

On the recycling side Lee Sawyer says right now Connecticut recycles about 35% of the materials that we discard. He says that is consistent with the national average. So he says we are on the right track as the state has made a lot of progress over the last 10 to 15 years. But Sawyer says they think we need to do better, as they know there's still a significant amount of recyclable material that is in the trash. He says they've found that over 20% of the material that's in the trash could have been recycled. Sawyer says they are looking at keeping about another 200-thousand to 400-thousand tons out of the waste stream, which would equal out to a savings of about \$25-million per year at least.

Lee Sawyer with the State DEEP says a big component of the state's new materials management strategy will be a big educational campaign. He says unfortunately many people don't realize what can be recycled and what cannot be recycled. Sawyer told for example you should not put plastic bags in your recycling bin, nor should you put things like garden hoses or leaves and grass clippings ... as those are not recyclable either. So he says they want to have a statewide message on what can be recycled and have a central source of information. Sawyer says that most people want to do the right thing if they know what to recycle because it's better for our environment. He says the more we can reduce, reuse, and recycle ... the better our environment will be.

August 7th, 2016 - Dr. Randall Nelson - State Department of Public Health Senior Epidemiologist.

Subject Matter: This week on Dialogue Dr. Randall Nelson, State Department of Public Health Senior Epidemiologist, discussed the Zika virus and what the State of Connecticut is doing to protect state residents from it. Dr. Nelson explained that Zika is a mosquito-borne virus that is especially dangerous for pregnant women to contract because it can cause birth brain defects in the fetus, causing the baby to be born with a smaller head. For the rest of the general population Dr. Randall says many may not even know they have Zika virus because they may not feel the symptoms. He says some could get a rash or feel fatigued. So Dr. Randall says Zika virus is really of great threat to pregnant women or those who may get pregnant. He says Zika virus can be spread through sexual contact with a partner who has recently returned from an infected area. Dr. Randall says the Zika virus can still be transmitted through sexual contact for a period of about 8 weeks. So a woman looking to conceive should not have sexual contact with a partner coming back from a Zika infested area for 8 weeks as the Zika virus could still be transmitted to the female partner and to the fetus through sexual contact.

State Health Department Senior Epidemiologist Dr. Randall Nelson told that travel is the major risk factor for Connecticut residents contracting the Zika virus. He told the main mosquito that carries Zika virus is the Yellow Fever mosquito, which does not exist in Connecticut. Dr. Randall did say though that Connecticut does have one kind of mosquito that is capable of carrying Zika, the Asian Tiger mosquito ... but he feels the risk in Connecticut is very, very, low. So he says Connecticut residents have to guard against Zika virus when traveling by avoiding mosquito bites and using mosquito repellent that contains DEET. Dr. Randall says so far of the 63 Connecticut people that have contracted Zika virus after traveling, 24 of them had traveled to the Dominican Republic and 12 returned from Puerto Rico, with 13 of the 63 infected pregnant women. He says Connecticut participates in the National Zika Virus Pregnancy Registry, which is coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that is keeping tabs on pregnant women who have been exposed to Zika virus. Dr. Randall also mentioned on the show that the Miami area in Florida now has had mosquitoes testing positive for the Zika virus ... so Florida was the first state in the United States that travelers had to be mindful of for Zika infected mosquitoes when traveling.

Here in Connecticut Dr. Randall Nelson says the State Health Department

August 7th, 2016 - (Randall continued) - works closely with entomologists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven who trap and test mosquitoes across Connecticut. He says they are testing them for Zika virus for the first time this year, as well as two other mosquito-borne viruses that they have been testing for the past few years – West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Dr. Nelson told that they have done quite a bit of planning for Zika virus. He says aside from monitoring for it, they are also making people aware of the dangers and to protect themselves ... especially when traveling. Dr. Randall says they are alerting travelers at Bradley International Airport with print materials and messaging, on their website, and through interviews like on this Dialogue show.

August 14th, 2016 - Michael Bzdyra - Connecticut Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Motor Vehicles Commissioner Michael Bzdyra discussed where the Motor Vehicles Department is at, after all of the computer glitches that kept happening after a switchover to a new computer system. Commissioner Bzdyra actually took over as DMV commissioner when the previous Commissioner Andres Ayala resigned after the switchover had people waiting in long lines for hours. But the problem didn't end there as other glitches in the new system occurred too with people being pulled over and having their vehicles towed for not having proper insurance. The only problem was these people **did** have proper insurance, it was just that the DMV computer system did not pass that info onto law enforcement. Commissioner Bzdyra says they have reimbursed those people for the tickets and towing fees that they had to pay. In the meantime, he says they are not allowing that info to go to law enforcement until they've fixed those bugs and glitches in the computer system.

New DMV Commissioner Michael Bzdyra told that he's been with the DMV for about 5-years and has a knowledge of the agency and what needs to be done going forward. He says he enjoys the job and wants to right the ship and make things much better for their customers. Bzdyra says he knows after all of the problems with the switchover to the new computer system the DMV has a public image problem. He says his whole focus now is to change that and they are looking at how to make it best for their customers. Bzdyra says the goal is to build trust with their customers, cut wait times at their branches, and improve things

August 14th, 2016 - (Bzdyra continued) - overall.

Of course one would think the new computer system would have improved things. New DMV Commissioner Michael Bzdyra told that over 40-million pieces of data had to be converted from the old system over to the new one, and unfortunately the transition did not go well with lines out the door and people waiting for hours to be served. He says now they've gotten those wait times down to roughly an hour ... which is still too long he says. Bzdyra says he'd like to get wait times down to less than half-an-hour. He says one of the things they'd like to do is get more people to do whatever DMV business they can online. He says that way people can go online, instead of waiting in line. Bzdyra told if they can do that it would probably reduce the wait times down to 15-to-20 minutes. He says they'll be doing a marketing educational campaign to inform people what motor vehicles transactions they can do online. Commissioner Bzdyra told that things people can do online are: renew their registration, order vanity license plates, and cancel their registration online. Bzdyra explained that motorists still need to come into a DMV branch to register a used or new vehicle for the first time to get the hard plates to put on their vehicle, if they are not doing it through a dealer. He also says people still need to come into a DMV branch (or a AAA branch) to renew their driver's license.

New DMV Commissioner Michael Bzdyra says they want to get everything on track soon and fix all of the bugs and glitches in the new computer system. Unfortunately, they just had another problem recently that sent some car taxes out taxing people in the wrong town. But he says they are working out those issues with the vehicle owners and towns. Bzdyra says they've fired the computer contractor 3M over all of the glitches, but are still holding them accountable for all of the problems. He told also that Microsoft was brought in to give an overview of the system and advise them what they need to do to make sure the system is functioning as well as possible.

On another issue DMV Commissioner Bzdyra says the DMV has gotten into compliance with motor voter registration, after being sued by the federal Department of Justice. He told that now every person that comes into a DMV branch or an AAA branch for a new driver's license or license renewal has to be asked whether they want to register to vote, and that info is sent to the secretary of the state's office.