

WAXB THIRD QUARTER 2017

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

Each program is 30 minutes

Each program aired on the date indicated from

0600 - 0630

**DIALOGUE 2017 QUARTERLY REPORT: JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER  
GUESTS AND SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTIONS**

**July 2, 2017 – Kevin Lembo – State Comptroller**

**Subject Matter:** Lembo discussed in detail the state's continuing budget deficit crisis. The fiscal year began July 1 with no budget in place, leaving spending decisions up to the Governor for now. The Comptroller detailed some suggestions for the future handling of deficit issues that he has offered to the legislature for the last several years. He also discussed his suggestion that the state better analyze the assistance it offers to companies in loans, grants, and tax breaks to grow jobs in Connecticut. In another area, Lembo discussed his future political plans, including the possibility he might run for governor in 2018.

**July 9, 2017 – Howard Schwartz, communications director for the Connecticut Better Business Bureau (BBB).**

**Subject Matter:** Like the average person, scam artists tend to be more active in the summer. Residents, busy with vacation planning, summer camp arrangements, and outdoor activities may be distracted, or more readily susceptible to con artists. Schwartz advises on how to stay ahead of the scammers, safeguarding credit cards and personal information, and following the old adage, if a deal sounds to be good to be true, it probably is.

**July 16, 2017 – Dr. Philip Armstrong, director of the state's mosquito surveillance program.**

**Subject Matter:** As the summer season unfolds, with long days and more outdoor activity, the threat of being the victim of a mosquito-borne disease rises in Connecticut. Armstrong describes the various illnesses that can be caused by mosquito bites including West Nile Virus, and the potentially more dangerous EEE Virus. He goes into the various varieties of mosquitoes that thrive in Connecticut and which ones pose the greatest disease threat. Armstrong describes the state's mosquito monitoring, trapping, and disease analysis program that helps determine which towns and areas of the state that are seeing disease in the mosquito population. He also discusses how weather conditions can inhibit or propel the size of the mosquito population from year to year. Armstrong also discusses the Zika virus, the newest dangerous mosquito-borne disease and how it may impact Connecticut.

**July 23, 2017 – Bill Hyatt, natural resources bureau chief at the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).**

**Subject Matter:** The interaction of wildlife with the public in Connecticut has been a growing concern in the last decade. Hyatt does into detail on why this

is occurring and how people can deal with it. Each year, TV is full of photos and videos of black bears showing up in suburban and even city neighborhoods. Hyatt describes DEEP's role in monitoring this situation, and he explains the limits of what can be done. Contrary to public opinion, DEEP does not capture each suburban bear reported, and transport it out of state. Coyotes have also become a problem, with people reporting they've been "stalked" by a coyote while walking in their neighborhood, or they've lost their pet dogs or cats to coyote predation. On the positive side, Hyatt talks about the rebounding nesting population of bald eagles in Connecticut—a bird that was a rarity in the state not that long ago when the now-banned pesticide DDT adversely affected their breeding success.

July 30, 2017 – Michael Lawlor, criminal justice advisor to Gov. Dannel Malloy.

**Subject Matter:** Trump immigration policy has been in the spotlight nationwide, and in Connecticut, several well-publicized cases of undocumented individuals with families in Connecticut filled the media, as many individuals faced deportation. Lawlor describes the Malloy administration policy on all this, and the Governor's support for these individuals, their families, and religious organizations offering last-minute sanctuary so legal measures could be taken. Lawlor also discusses the state's continuing effort to lower the crime rate, while adopting improvements such as bail reform and alternatives to incarceration.

August 6, 2017 – U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT).

**Subject Matter:** The Senator offers his view on the controversial and emotionally-charged Congressional debate over what to do about health care in America. Blumenthal has strongly opposed all Republican efforts to do away with Obamacare coverage, describing GOP plans as limited and destructive, in a way that could cause millions of Americans to lose their health care coverage. Blumenthal also weighs in on the immigration-deportation story, describing his efforts to help many Connecticut families facing the deportation of a loved one, whose only crime is not having proper documentation to stay in the U.S. The Senator also comments on the ongoing federal investigation into the influence Russia may have played in the 2016 presidential election, and the potential links between Russian operatives and members of the Trump campaign organization and administration.

August 13, 2017 – Kelly Isenor, spokesperson for the American Red Cross in Connecticut.

**Subject Matter:** Isenor describes the summertime drop in blood supplies, due to vacationing Connecticut residents, and how this creates an urgent need for donors that could last for many weeks. Isenor details the donation process for people who may never have contributed. She also goes into the eligibility process for donors, and the security systems in place to keep America's blood

supply safe from contamination. Isenor also discusses the new “sound the alarm” campaign by the Red Cross to promote fire safety in the homes of Connecticut families.

August 20, 2017 – Kevin Sullivan, State Revenue Services Commissioner.

**Subject Matter:** Sullivan goes into detail about the specifics of the annual “sales tax free week” in Connecticut, that occurs in late August, when families are spending plenty of money outfitting kids for the new school year. Sullivan explains that this special week not only helps consumers; it benefits local merchants by bringing customers into their stores. Sullivan discusses a related issue, the continuing decline of “bricks and mortar” stores vs. online merchants. This impacts the Connecticut economy, and state tax revenues, since many online operations do not charge or collect Connecticut sales taxes due to federal protections. Sullivan offers his views on the state’s desperate overall revenue picture, and what might be done to remedy this deficit-producing problem in the future. He also discusses various scams tied to tax returns and tax filings.

August 27, 2017 – Joe Brennan, president and CEO of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA).

**Subject Matter:** Brennan goes into detail about a five-point plan CBIA has offered on how to spur the Connecticut economy. The plan involves avoiding tax hikes, reducing the cost of state services, focusing on job training and retention, upgrading the transportation system, and making business an equal partner in economic renewal. Brennan also comments on the state budget crisis that has dragged on all summer without a resolution. He offers his views on why the search for a new two-year budget plan has taken so long, and warns of the negative economic impact this will have on the state’s short-term and long-term prospects.

September 3, 2017 – Lori Pelletier, president of the Connecticut AFL-CIO.

**Subject Matter:** On Labor Day weekend, Pelletier discussed the status of organized labor in Connecticut and the nation. Though there is anti-union sentiment in many segments of the nation, Pelletier notes that several benefits all workers have today can be traced back to efforts by unions to secure these benefits including, holidays, pensions, employer-based health insurance, and occupational safety standards. Pelletier also talks about labor’s fight against many Trump administration policies, even though labor and Trump agree on some issues including the negative effects of various international trade accords. The AFL-CIO leader also discusses the state budget crisis and why labor does not agree with many of the options being discussed to balance the budget.

September 10, 2017 – Donna Swanson, executive director of the FOCUS center for autism in Canton.

**Subject Matter:** Swanson explains autism, the so-called autism “spectrum” of symptoms and behavior and why the illness seems to be affecting more and more children these days. Swanson describes the treatment and strategies parents should learn as they cope with the challenges facing each autistic child. She also delves into the specific problems autistic children can have in the education system and offers insight on what special programs can do to help autistic kids adjust to a school environment to bring out their learning abilities so they can have a successful experience.

September 17, 2017 – Mary Sotos, deputy commissioner for energy at the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.

**Subject Matter:** Sotos describes the state’s new comprehensive energy strategy plan—why it is needed, how it will be implemented, and its relevance. She also discusses how Connecticut, with its determined effort to deal with climate change and pollution, must deal with a federal administration under President Trump that refuses to recognize global warming as a real issue. Sotos also talks about Connecticut’s growing reliance on natural gas as a clean energy source for homes, industries and utilities while coping with resistance by many residents to plans for pipelines to extend natural gas supplies into more towns and neighborhoods. Sotos also addresses resistance to some renewable energy sources such as wind farms and installation of solar fields in agricultural settings.

September 24, 2017 – Steven Reviczky, State Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Subject Matter:** Reviczky discusses his election as the head of the National Association of Agriculture Commissioners, the first Connecticut Ag Commissioner chosen for this top post in the 100-year history of the organization. The Commissioner also discusses major challenges facing the dairy industry nationwide due to low milk prices, and its impact on Connecticut, including the sell-off and consolidation of dairy herds. Reviczky also said, that unlike some growing seasons in the recent past, 2017 was a good year for many farmers due to temperate summer weather, and relief from drought conditions. The Commissioner also sounded some warning notes about the ongoing drive for farmland preservation in Connecticut. He said conflicts between state and federal policies on preservation have complicated the processing of potential preservation agreements.

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