

# National NEMO Network

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An Occasional Newsletter  
NEMO U-2 Edition

## Dazzling Tourde Force Inside the Beltway

Maine and South Carolina NEMO tell their stories to National Work Group

The National NEMO Network Interagency Work Group met on December 6, 2001 at the Waterfront Centre offices of USDA. The Work Group, for those new to NEMOdom, is composed of representatives from federal agencies and national organizations that support the NEMO concept and the National Network. The group meets annually in Washington to hear about the latest developments, discuss funding and other pressing issues, and advise the Network Hub.

Agencies in attendance included our USDA/CRSEES hosts, NOAA reps from Sea Grant, the Coastal Services Center and Coastal Management Program, and EPA staff from the Nonpoint Source Branch and Smart Growth office. National organizations present included the National Association of Counties (NACo), the American Planning Association (APA), and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). After a lovely breakfast buffet and a welcome by Dr. Ralph Otto, Deputy Administrator of Natural Resources and Environment for CSREES, Chet Arnold and John Rozum took the floor for an update. Chet focused on "new and noteworthy" things going on at the Hub, including new partnerships, publications, and programs (see related articles). That left John to elaborate on what might best be summed up as: *how the Network is kicking hindquarters and taking names.*

To better illustrate this lofty concept, John then turned the remote control over to the Maine and South Carolina NEMO Projects. In a truly impressive display of both teamwork and *Powerpoint* virtuosity, Maine NEMO Director Brad

Guay and NEMO Godfather Don Witherill from Maine DEP gave a thorough overview of the Maine project. Thanks to their leadership, Maine NEMO is ready to expand from its original pilot towns to tackle additional coastal regions farther down East. The Mainers were followed by South Carolina NEMO Director Cal Sawyer, who described the impressive on-the-ground impacts of his pilot project, and outlined a rapidly growing program that threatens to challenge for the NEMO Network Unified Heavy-weight Title.

Work Group members were obviously impressed by the presentations from Maine and South Carolina, which, in true NEMO fashion, pulled no punches in raising both positive points and troublesome issues (read: funding). Discussion of funding issues included: the difficulties of funding existing projects through competitive grants programs; the implications for NEMO of the new 319 program direction toward support of TMDL development; and the need for tapping

charitable foundations. These issues will no doubt be revisited at NEMO U.

Other than the fact that nobody ate the salmon cream cheese, the meeting was a success. Work Group members walked away with a better sense of what it takes to implement a NEMO project: the need for multi-agency cooperation; the ability to present complex information in a simple way to local audiences; and most important, the experience, dedication, and professionalism of our Network troops. Many thanks to our Work Group members who attended, and especially to Brad, Don and Cal for traveling to DC for the meeting. ■ CA

Want to learn more about the Interagency Work Group:  
[http://nemo.uconn.edu/new\\_natl/interagency.htm](http://nemo.uconn.edu/new_natl/interagency.htm)

### In this issue...

- Lead Story: Interagency Work Group
- Progress of CT Muni Initiative
- Network Update
- Geospatial Extension Specialist
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Maine NEMO's Brad Guay and SC NEMO's Cal Sawyer discuss presentation strategy before the meeting, while ME DEP's Don Witherill meditates in preparation.



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# One Town's Journey into the Heart of NEMO

## Municipal Initiative Reaping Dividends in Old Saybrook

Even by New England standards, Old Saybrook, Connecticut is an oddity. Defying the typical industrial pattern of working ports squatting on the outlets of major rivers, Old Saybrook graces the Connecticut River's entrance to Long Island Sound with a quaint, resort-town atmosphere. Home to such notables as Katharine Hepburn, the town's coastal dwellings range from large estates to charming beach cottages tucked away in coastal nooks. This living New England postcard is a town with a truly rich history.

Although its beauty may be unique, the town's problems are not. Like other coastal communities, Old Saybrook is dealing with a growing onslaught of new development that threatens its natural resources and quality of life. Leading the charge to face this challenge is an award-winning town planner, Christine Nelson, and a bevy of committed community volunteers. "Our goal is not to stop growth, but to shape future development so it meets the needs of our community," Nelson observed. "Our work with the NEMO project has been key in helping us develop a strategy that allows us to control growth, and not be controlled by it."

Old Saybrook has a long association with the NEMO project, from its selection as a pilot town in 1992 to its recent status as a Municipal Initiative pioneer. The Municipal Initiative began in 2000 with the goal of providing in-depth training and assistance to towns committed to resource-based planning. Connecticut NEMO, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Nonpoint Source Program and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, provides education on the basic principles of NPS pollution, the various options available to address nonpoint source issues, and the



Members of the Old Saybrook NEMO Working Group review the demonstration subdivision with the project's developer (far left). NEMO hats are de rigueur. A gratified CT NEMO Coordinator, Laurie Giannottii, is at front right. Planner Nelson stands ready with project's site plan.

connections between these options and other vital community issues like "urban sprawl". To qualify for the initiative program, towns must submit an application demonstrating their ability to assemble a NEMO task force and their willingness to address natural resource issues in their plans and regulations.

After a year in the Initiative program, Old Saybrook has a clear and direct approach to an overhaul of their land use plan and regulations. Old Saybrook's task force, made up of commission members of the wetlands, planning and zoning, conservation, and the Board of Selectmen, has developed

a four-step approach to amending their land use practices. First, they are conducting a **natural resource inventory** to identify which natural resources are important and should be considered for conservation. This information will be available to the town's Economic Development Commission as they develop a complementary **economic inventory**. Second, the work group

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*"Our goal is to shape future development so it meets the needs of our community."*

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### Old Saybrook NEMO Working Group

- Planning and Zoning
- Inland Wetlands and Waterways
- Conservation Commission
- Board of Selectmen
- Town Planner
- Town Engineer
- Local Land Trust

is **analyzing the inventory** data to find strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Public workshops will be held to gain insight on public opinion and to build a consensus on the development of both conservation and economic development strategies. Third, based on what is learned they will develop a **plan for natural resource protection and economic development** by incorporating the goals, policies and programs recommended by the Conservation & Open Space Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan into the Plan of Conservation and Development. And finally, the commissions will **implement these strategies** by giving “teeth” to the town’s land use regulations through changes in the zoning and subdivision language.

“We’ve made amazing progress already,” Nelson enthused. The town has set up a committee that is completely revising the way roads are built, including allowing and encouraging nonstructural stormwater solutions such as swales. Inspired by the committee’s work, the Board of Selectmen has put forth a policy statement that encourages environmentally sensitive development (see box). “This basically tells developers: ‘Hey, you want to build here, this is what we want to see,’” continued Nelson.

And this policy statement has paid dividends. Town staff and commissions are now able to

work with developers to incorporate elements of alternative designs in new subdivision proposals. The fruit of this cooperation is a “pilot” subdivision that demonstrates stormwater management by vegetated swales and infiltration ponds to other developers in town.

Asked how Old Saybrook felt about being the NEMO poster child, Nelson remains confident. “We are fully committed,” she cheerfully shared, “and we expect a long working relationship with NEMO. But I won’t get the tattoo, no matter what you guys say.” ■ *JR*

*Town staff and commissions are now able to work with developers to incorporate elements of alternative design into new proposals.*

**Isn't THAT Interesting...**

John Loudon McAdam (1756-1836) of Ayr Scotland, made a fortune in America. Through either poor judgement or stubborn loyalty to the homeland, John was asked to leave the newly formed U.S. with much of his property confiscated by the American government. But John had connections. His association with the British Navy gave him controlling interest in an iron works and mills that manufactured coal products such as tar for sealing ships. With the modernization of the navy, ships were increasingly sheathed in copper, leading to diminuation of tar for marine purposes.

It was during this time that John started thinking about roads. He noted that a free-draining crushed stone road base was an economical means of producing durable roads. His process involved placing crushed stone without a binder in successive well compacted layers overlying the existing soil subgrade. Keeping the road base and subgrade free of water were considered most important, so he recommended raising the roads above the surrounding grade to improve drainage. He further found that increasing the base thickness increased load carrying capacity.

Ol' John's method became known as the McAdam, and later macadam, road. This replaced the previous Telford road standard, which was founded on large stones placed below the finish grade with the surface of smaller mixed materials. The practice of spraying tar over a macadam road became know as tar-macadam, or tarmac. The tar penetrated into the crushed stone and created some binding strength to the surface materials. This method was modified to become a tar matrix for the crushed stones as additional strength was needed. Although John held valid patents for his road building methods, no government protected or enforced them because of the utility of his method. ■

To learn more about the Municipal Initiative and other Connecticut projects go to NEMO's website:  
[nemo.uconn.edu](http://nemo.uconn.edu)



*Entrepreneur, engineer, and devoted royalist, John Loudon McAdam*

**Summary of Old Saybrook’s Policy Statement on Development:**

1. Reduce the increase in volume, velocity and rates of stormwater runoff.
2. Minimize erosion and sedimentation of wetlands, watercourses and drainage systems
3. Minimize the potential for increased frequency and severity of flooding.
4. Minimize potential for stream channel and floodplain changes
5. Minimize the potential for reduction in groundwater recharge and reduction of stream base flows
6. Minimize the discharge of pollutants to wetlands and watercourses.

## Other News of Note

### News from Around the Network

**NOAA 'Gang of Four' Confers** - Growing intra-agency cooperation in NOAA has spawned interest in efforts to support NEMO programs nationwide. NOAA agencies - representing the Coastal Management Program, National Sea Grant College Program, National Estuarine Research Reserves, and the Coastal Services Center - have agreed to work toward support of both NEMO projects and the Network Hub. Look for late breaking news from this collaboration soon.



**NOAA Notables give seal of approval to NEMO Network.**

**From the Network - Ohio NEMO** continues its march towards statewide domination with a well-attended NEMO training workshop for watershed managers, conservation districts, and others. OH NEMO has also released a new publication entitled, "Multifunctional Landscaping: Putting your parking lot design requirements to work for water quality", which can be found on their website ([nemo.osu.edu](http://nemo.osu.edu)) ..... Congratulations to *Pennsylvania NEMO* for hiring a NEMO coordinator, Jim Weaver. PA NEMO is in its first year having received a grant from the Growing Greener program from the State of Pennsylvania ..... Collaborators from the Tennessee Valley Authority, TN Dept. of Ag NPS Program, and the University of TN are busy assembling a pilot program that will address water and land issues related to growth. The effort, headed by TVA's Joel Haden, plans to build *TN NEMO* into a statewide effort ..... *Northstar NEMO*, headquartered in

the Twin Cities area, has secured funding from the Metro Council and the McKnight Foundations (of 3M fame) to continue their work. Coordinator Jay Michaels and a cadre of collaborating agencies are spreading the NEMO gospel throughout the southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin .... *Lake Superior Basin NEMO* program is hiring their first coordinator, who, rumor has it, will be introduced at NEMO U-2. LSB NEMO is working in the Duluth, MN and Superior, WI area and is focusing on water quality issues affecting the country's most superior lake ..... The *Georgia NEMO* program has hired planner Lee Sutton for their coastal Georgia effort. Make sure to welcome Lee to the NEMO ranks when you see him at U-2.

**National NEMO Website Revamped** - In our tireless search for web perfection, we have redesigned and improved the NEMO website. The URL is still the same ([nemo.uconn.edu](http://nemo.uconn.edu)), but look for a more intuitive interface and many new features.

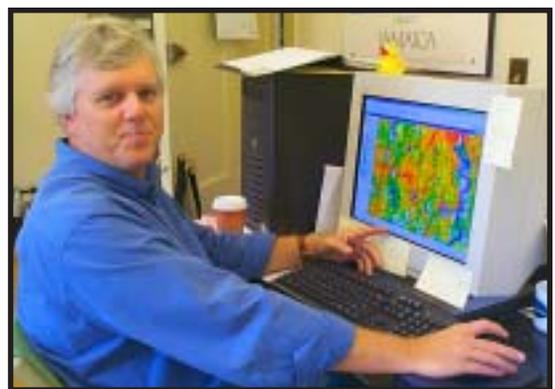
**Watershed Starter Kit Makes Splash** - A new publication outlines the NEMO approach to watershed planning. Following the NEMO golden rule of 'keep it sensibly simple', the kit guides readers from getting organized through data collection and analysis to the final planning phase. Copies are available at \$5 a pop from the NEMO website.

**Regional NEMO Groups** - Building on the growing strength of the NEMO Network, the Network Hub has organized regional conference calls to explore the idea of developing regional NEMO groups. These groups can concentrate on specific regional issues and collaborate on publications, educational models, and funding opportunities. Initial calls with three regions have been enlightening and positive. An informal regional breakfast will be hosted at NEMO U-2. ■ **JR**

## Resources

### First Earth Grant Geospatial Extension Specialist

Sandy Prisloe, formerly of NAUTILUS fame, has recently been awarded the title of Geospatial Extension Specialist (GES) by an elite consortium of federal agencies. NASA, USDA, and NOAA - representing the Space-Land-Sea Grant systems - have coalesced to form an "Earth Grant" partnership, who's primary goal is to provide geospatial tools and resources to local resource managers and decision makers. Prisloe is the fourth GES to be appointed nationally, but the first to be tapped by the new Earth Grant coalition. His primary duties are twofold: to provide geospatial data, training and resources to Connecticut land use decision makers, and to serve as the primary geospatial resource for the National NEMO and Sea Grant Networks. No, he won't be able to set up your GIS for you, but you can call on him for advice and information. Besides Sandy's training session at NEMO U-2, he plans to facilitate future development of geospatial tools and training for Network members. Congrats Sandy! ■ **JR**



**Sandy Prisloe, Geospatial Extension Specialist, discusses the connections between remote sensing, GIS, rubber ducks and coffee.**

The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated programs protecting natural resources through land use education. Support for Network projects comes from a variety of state and federal sources. Support for Network coordination comes from USDA/CSREES and EPA Nonpoint Source Control Branch.

