



Elizabeth Cooper

Associate

Consensus Building Institute

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Trained mediator and facilitator with a background in climate, land use, and environmental/natural resource issues. Elizabeth focuses on helping organizations and stakeholders collaborate and build consensus more effectively around a range of complex public issues. Her work includes facilitation, community engagement, and synthesizing stakeholder input into decision-making and policy processes. She also works with government and non-profit organizations to strengthen collaborative capacity and guide strategic planning.

EXPERIENCE

2016-Present **Consensus Building Institute** Cambridge, MA

Associate

Design, manage, and facilitate consensus-building processes for a range of public policy issues and disputes. Guide strategic planning and strengthen collaborative capacity in government and non-profit organizations.

2015-2016 **Water Diplomacy Research Center, Tufts University** Medford, MA

Research and Writing Associate for Water Diplomacy Blog

Led research and writing on series of papers applying complexity science and negotiation theory to analyze transboundary water disputes.

2013-2015 **Center for Governance and Sustainability, UMass Boston** Boston, MA

Research Associate

Drafted policy briefs addressing environmental convention national reporting methods and their effectiveness, based on primary data analysis. Applied for grants, drafted project literature.

EDUCATION

2019 **University of Massachusetts, Boston** Boston, MA

Conflict Resolution, MA

2010 **Mount Holyoke College** South Hadley, MA

Critical Social Thought, BA

SELECTED PROJECTS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Climigration Network, Cambridge, MA, ongoing. Facilitator of the board and working groups of the Climigration Network, a community of practice on the subject of helping communities consider managed retreat among climate adaptation options. Work with team to enhance impact of the Network to catalyze communities, practitioners, and thought leaders confronting climate change-induced migration.

Climate Resilience Zoning Task Force, Cambridge, MA, ongoing. Assist in coordination and facilitation of a 25-member multi-stakeholder committee including developers, residents, labor, environmental experts, and city staff. This committee will, with technical support, develop and seek to reach agreement on enhancements to city zoning that will increase climate resilience given future predictions of heat, precipitation and sea level rise. The facilitation team is helping the group work together and leading monthly committee meetings.

Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Plan, Cambridge, MA, ongoing. Assist with facilitation of public meetings for the City's effort to develop its first ever climate change preparedness and resilience plan. Results of this intensive planning effort will be folded into Cambridge's long-term plan and will be undertaken by a suite of partners.

The Nature Conservancy - New York Climate Adaptation Team strategy, New York State, 2019. Assist with in-depth stakeholder assessment and facilitated process to develop strategic focus to strengthen the impact of the Conservancy's New York State Climate Adaptation Team's efforts to build resilience to flooding in the state.

LAND USE, PLANNING, AND TRANSPORTATION

Lower Mystic Regional Working Group, Somerville, Boston, and Everett, MA, 2016-18. Assisted in facilitation and community engagement for a multi-agency and -city process to develop, model, and prioritize actions for multi-modal transportation improvements in and around one of the more vexing transportation planning problems in Greater Boston. Process included integrating land use and transportation modeling and future scenarios, extensive public engagement, and robust mobility modeling.

Envision Cambridge Citywide Plan, Cambridge MA, 2016. Contributed to consultant team developing Cambridge's first ever comprehensive plan. This included planning for and facilitation of public workshops, focus groups, and providing consultation on meeting materials and other engagement efforts being undertaken for Envision Cambridge.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Newtown Creek Superfund Site Community Advisory Group, Brooklyn and Queens, New York, ongoing. Assist in facilitation of a group of diverse interests providing input to EPA on the development and implementation of plans to remediate water, soil, and sediment contamination from multiple heavily industrialized sites along Newtown Creek.

Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Community Advisory Group, Fort Edward, NY, ongoing. Assist in facilitation of a 25-member group of diverse and divergent interests providing input to EPA on the implementation of the Record of Decision to dredge, dewater, and transport

Hudson River sediments contaminated with PCBs from the operations of two General Electric manufacturing facilities.

Housatonic River PCB Cleanup Citizens' Coordinating Council, Pittsfield, MA, ongoing. Assist in facilitation of a 25-member group of diverse and divergent interests providing input to EPA on the implementation of the Consent Decree to remediate river sediment and soil sites in and along the Housatonic River from PCBs from the operations of General Electric manufacturing facilities.

Vermont Soil Conservation Practice and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Working Group, Montpelier, Vermont, ongoing. Assist in facilitation of Working Group convened by the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets to develop recommendations for financial incentives designed to encourage farmers in Vermont to implement agricultural practices that improve soil health, enhance crop resilience, increase carbon storage and stormwater storage capacity, and reduce agricultural runoff to waters. Facilitate meetings and webinars on PES program design, improved soil health and management practices, and strategies to catalyze a paradigm shift to recognize and value land stewardship in agriculture across the state.

WATER RESOURCES

Wolastoq First Nations and Federal Watershed Collaboration, Maine and New Brunswick, Ongoing. Assist in facilitation for a process of the Maliseet First Nations and Tribe and Canadian and US federal agencies to strengthen cooperation, provide information sharing and learning and a strategic plan for collaborative action to restore salmon and ecosystems in the St. John River watersheds.

Mystic River Watershed Initiative, Greater Boston Area, Ongoing. Support the Environmental Protection Agency (Region 1) and the many non-profit and agency members working collaboratively to clean up the water in the Mystic River Watershed. This includes leading an in-depth collaborative effort to bring regulators, stormwater experts and municipal leaders together to share information and develop concrete workplans and helping to plan steering committee and subgroup meetings, assisting with facilitation of large events, providing meeting summaries, and other neutral staffing support.

Dams and Sediment in the Hudson River, Hudson River Valley, NY, Ongoing. Assist in facilitation for a collaborative research project studying what happens to sediments trapped behind dams when dams are removed. The multi-disciplinary team includes modelers and ecologists doing field work. The CBI team manages overall project coordination and facilitates regular advisory committee meetings at which regulators, designers and local officials share concerns and hopes for the project. Project outcomes will include field data from six impoundments and models of sediment transport.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

"Our Path Forward" strategy for Boston area National Parks Service three-site park, Greater Boston Area, Ongoing. Facilitate internal NPS process and stakeholder engagement effort to strengthen strategy for the three-site park comprised of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (NHS), the John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS, and the Longfellow House – Washington's Headquarters NHS. Develop plans for the park's archives, interpretation, outreach, operations, facilities, and management.

ORGANIZATIONAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Green Climate Fund (GCF) Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) training, Songdo, South Korea, Ongoing. Assist in design and development of face-to-face and online training for GCF Direct Accredited Entities on the development, strengthening, and operation of grievance mechanisms in the context of international development, with a focus on issues relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Pathways to Climate Resilience; Strategies for the Greater Boston Area. 2019, co-authored with Ona Ferguson and Osamu Kumasaka. This report, written for the Barr Foundation, describes the current suite of leading activities on climate resilience at a municipal scale in eastern Massachusetts, outlines strategies, and identifies opportunities for action.

Cooper, Elizabeth S. **“Community Engagement 101: Why you need to involve the public, and how to do it well.”** Presented at: Cape Cod Commission One Cape Summit. 2016 June 24. Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Cooper, Elizabeth S. **“A Critical Analysis of the Role of the Climate Secretariat in UNFCCC Negotiations.”** Paper presented at: Conflict Studies & Global Governance: The New Generation of Ideas. 2014 Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Boston, Massachusetts.

Aguirre, Jessica C. and Elizabeth Cooper. **“Evo Morales, Climate Change, and the Paradoxes of a Social- Movement Presidency.”** Latin American Perspectives 37 (2010): 238-44.

Insight posts about complex transboundary water conflicts for Water Diplomacy at Tufts: <http://blog.waterdiplomacy.org>