

Long Island Sound Tidal Wetland Loss Workshop

October 22-23, 2014

Location: Danfords Hotel & Marina; Port Jefferson, NY

Meeting Room: Diplomatic Room (Galley Rooms Building)

Workshop Goal:

This workshop is a follow-up to a workshop New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (supported and funded through the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), LISS Habitat Restoration Initiative, and the LISS Management Committee) held in 2003 to look at the issue of tidal wetland loss. The goal of the 2014 workshop is to have an engaging learning experience and discussion amongst leading edge marsh managers, researchers, practitioners, and regulators regarding tidal wetland loss and change in LIS and regionally. This workshop will generate the following:

- Update on post 2003 funded research
- Expand the discussion to consider other wetland losses and changes, how to manage and monitor loss, and identify the role of climate change
- Use the workshop as a forum to inform scientists and managers about what research and monitoring tells us about tidal marsh health

Workshop End Products:

- Review the activities and recommendations produced as a result of the 2003 workshop – make a list of what has been completed and what still remains (identify data gaps)
- Create a suite of prioritized management, habitat restoration, research, monitoring recommendations moving forward for LIS
- Discuss short-term, mid-term, and long-term adaptation strategies

Workshop Logistics:

The workshop is broken up into theme topics. Each theme topic has a panel team that has contributed data and/or slides to the presentation. Topics will be presented by one or more individuals in the panel team. After the presentation of the each theme topic there will be time for a questions.

AGENDA

Day 1-October 22, 2014

Theme- What have we learned since the first Tidal Wetlands Loss Workshop?

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| 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. | Registration & Light Breakfast (<i>Diplomatic Room</i>) |
| 9:00 to 9:15 | Welcome & Introductions -- <i>Dawn McReynolds (NYSDEC), Mark Tedesco (USEPA LISO)</i> |
| 9:15 to 9:45 | Submergence - wetland changes since late 1800's |

Panel Team: Scott Warren (Connecticut College) and Ron Rozsa (CTDEEP, ret.)

9:45 to 10:30

Submergence - The Role of Nitrogen and other Chemical Stressors

Panel Team: Shimon Anisfeld (Yale FES), Troy Hill (Yale FES), and Cathy Wigand (USEPA AED)

10:30 to 11:15

Sudden Vegetation Dieback

Panel Team: Roman Zajac (UNH), Ron Rozsa (CTDEEP, ret.), and Shimon Anisfeld (Yale FES)

11:15 to 12:00

SLAMM (Sea Level Affecting Marsh Migration) Migration Modeling

Panel Team: Amy Polaczyk (Warren Pinnacle Consulting, Inc.)

12:00 to 12:45

Lunch Break (*Harbor View Room & Coastal Room*)

12:45 to 1:15

Ecological Indicators of Wetland Change: Wildlife & Plants

Panel Team: Chris Elphick (UConn) and Roman Zajac (UNH)

1:15 to 1:45

Expansion of Pannes

Panel Team: Ron Rozsa (CTDEEP, ret.), Roman Zajac (UNH), Nicole Maher (TNC), and Beth Watson (USEPA)

1:45 to 2:45

Elevation and Sediment Accumulation-Surface Elevation Tables (SETs)

Panel Team: Nicole Maher (TNC), Ellen Hartig (NYC Parks), Sarah Fernald (NYSDEC HRRR), Shimon Anisfeld (Yale FES), Scott Warren (Connecticut College), Victoria O'Neill (NYSDEC), Tristen Tagliaferri (USGS), and Troy Hill (Yale)

2:45 to 3:30

NY Tidal Wetland Trends Analyses & Conditions Assessment

Panel Team: Will Bowman (Land Use Ecological Svcs, Inc), Robert Svadlenka (Cameron Engineering), and Chris Haight (Natural Areas Conservancy)

3:30 to 4:00

Coffee Break (*Diplomatic Room*)

4:00 to 4:45

Marine Transgression

Panel Team: Shimon Anisfeld (Yale FES), Ron Rozsa (CTDEEP, ret.), and Chris Elphick (UConn)

4:45 to 5:00

Next Steps for Tomorrow-- Dawn McReynolds (NYSDEC)

5:00

End of Day

Day 2-October 23, 2014

Theme- Where do we go from here?

8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Light Breakfast (*Diplomatic Room*)

8:30 to 9:00

Welcome & Introductions-- *Dawn McReynolds (NYSDEC), Vicky O'Neill (NYSDEC)*

Site Specific: Innovative Planning, Restoration Activities, & Long Term Monitoring

9:00 to 10:00

Saving our marshes – Spotlight on Jamaica Bay, NY and Narrow River Estuary, RI

Panel Team: Patti Rafferty (NPS), Steve Zahn (NYSDEC), Cathy Wigand (USEPA AED), and Rebecca Swadek (NYC Parks)

10:00 to 11:00

Barn Island- 60+ years of wetland change

Panel Team: Ron Rozsa (CTDEEP, ret.)

Breakout Sessions

Individual sessions will last for 30 minutes each with a 5 minute stretch break between the two sessions. Facilitators will review with their groups the causes that were identified from the last workshop. -- Vicky O'Neill (NYSDEC)

11:00 to 12:05

Review the Findings of 2003 Workshop and Identify the Current Issues Impacting Tidal Marshes: For each session make a list of what we know and what still remains to be known (identify data gaps)

Breakout Session 1: What are the causes for marsh loss and change?

In this session the group will review and discuss biological, chemical, physical, and hydrological factors that impact marsh loss.

Breakout Session 2: How do marshes respond to these factors?

In this session the group will review and discuss how biological, chemical, physical, and hydrological factors impact marshes.

Breakout Sessions End - Group reconvenes for discussion

12:05 to 12:30

Each group will identify one person to present the results of the group discussion regarding current issues impacting marshes to the entire workshop.

12:30 to 1:15

Lunch Break (*Harbor View Room & Coastal Room*)

Breakout Sessions

Individual sessions will last for 18 minutes. Attendees will remain stationary while facilitators and note takers move from group to group to ensure that attendees contribute to all topics. Facilitators will review with their groups the causes that were identified from the last workshop. --Vicky O'Neill (NYSDEC)

1:15 to 2:30

Review the Recommendation from 2003 Workshop and Discuss the Ways Forward: What has been accomplished on this list? What still needs to be accomplished? In light of the presentations, conversations, and the identified issues, let's come to consensus on these lists:

Breakout Session 1: Research Recommendations

Breakout Session 2: Monitoring Recommendations

Breakout Session 3: Restoration Recommendations

Breakout Session 4: Management Recommendations

Breakout Sessions End - Group reconvenes to wrap-up the discussion

2:30 to 3:00

Review Recommendations and Discuss short-term, mid-term, and long-term adaptation Strategies. Each group from the previous breakout session will identify individuals to present their recommendations to the entire workshop.

This is an opportunity for all attendees to express their final thoughts on strategies and recommendations moving forward past the workshop (i.e. identifying funding priorities, creating conceptual plans, initiating a monitoring networks, possible future workshops). This is a chance to prioritize these recommendations and thoughts.

3:00

End of workshop ---- *Dawn McReynolds (NYSDEC)*