

Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory and Science and Technical Advisory Committees
Friday, October 10, 2014
Town of Mamaroneck, Town Center
Meeting Summary

Welcome, Housekeeping & Logistics

Nancy Seligson, *Town of Mamaroneck* and the *NY Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Co-chair*, and Larry Swanson, *Stony Brook University* and the *NY Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Co-chair*, welcomed the group at approximately 9:15am. A quorum of approximately 44 CAC and STAC members was present.

CCMP Update

Nancy Seligson and Curt Johnson, *CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound* and the *CT CAC Co-chair*, discussed the letter that they are drafting from the CAC to the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Management Committee regarding the update of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). They intend to give the letter to the Management Committee at their October 16, 2014 meeting. They explained the letter outlines how the updated CCMP needs to be stronger and bolder, with clearer actions, outcomes, and goals. The STAC also agreed to sign the letter.

Mark Tedesco, *EPA Long Island Sound Office*, responded that he welcomes the CAC's and the STAC's CCMP comments and appreciates everyone's feedback. He would like to have a signing ceremony of the finalized CCMP in spring 2015.

Report Card Project (Bill Dennison, *University of Maryland*)

The new Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative introduced the report card project, and mentioned that they have much interest in this project as it combines science and advocacy.

Bill Dennison, *University of Maryland's Integration and Application Network*, gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Long Island Sound Report Cards." The presentation went over their organization and how they have done report cards for other watersheds throughout the country. The ecosystem health report card provides a broad-level assessment of a region, helps communicate complex information, provides accountability, is based on real data, and engages communities. Bill also mentioned the 5-step process for the report card: (1.) develop a conceptual framework, (2.) choose indicators, (3.) define thresholds, (4.) calculate scores, and (5.) communicate results.

Bill then worked with the CAC and STAC members to define the regions of Long Island Sound (i.e., narrows, western, central, eastern) and to begin to choose the indicators and define the thresholds. He then discussed next steps of choosing the final indicators and thresholds, calculating the final grades, working on the layout and design of the report card, development of a website, and a corresponding communication plan.

Bill also explained how embayment report cards are currently being done in Hempstead Harbor, NY and Norwalk Harbor, CT. The Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative mentioned that they would like to expand the report card to more embayments in the future.

Bill also led a discussion of the report card communication plan. CAC groups offered to help distribute the report card findings and would like to do a press event to rollout the report card. As for the future of the report card development and communication, the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative is currently looking into this.

Long Island Sound Foundation Biannual Research Conference (Syma Ebbin, CT Sea Grant)

The director of the Long Island Sound Foundation (LISF) is retiring and is looking for a home for the biennial Long Island Sound Research Conference. However, there are issues with funding for staff to run this conference along with funding for food and an event space. The STAC will discuss the possibility of combining this conference with NEERS, as their next conference will be in Connecticut in October 2015. The STAC said that they are interested in serving on the steering committee if this conference moves forward. This will be discussed further at the next STAC meeting at Stony Brook University on November 21, 2014.

Earth Economics' Report on the Economic Value of Long Island Sound Basin (Mark Tedesco, EPA Long Island Sound Office)

Currently, there is a draft report on the economic value of Long Island Sound. Mark said that LISS will not have a formal EPA press event to announce this report as it is not an EPA report, but rather a report from the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC). The report will be available online in the near future.

The CAC decided that they would like to announce the report through their respective organizations. However, prior to doing so, the CAC requested to have a webinar so they could have a better understanding of the report. Anthony Dvorskas, *Assistant Professor, Stony Brook University*, said that we need to proceed with caution with the data presented in this report as there are a lot of assumptions.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:28pm. Some STAC and CAC members stayed after the meeting to discuss hypoxia and the revised CCMP. The next CAC meeting will be held on December 11th in CT.

For additional information on the CAC, visit: <http://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/committees/citizens-advisory-committee/>