

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 10, 2010
Seaman's Church Institute, Manhattan, NY**

Interactive Discussion: LISS and NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program

CAC members from the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) and Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) were greeted by HEP Co-chairs Roland Lewis (NY) and Michelle Doran McBean (NJ) and LISS Co-chairs Nancy Seligon (NY) and Curt Johnson (CT). *See Appendix 1 for names and affiliations of all members present.*

Nancy began the session giving a brief overview of the LISS CAC, stating that the CAC was established in 1985, lead by two co-chairs, comprised of 36 members (currently, 19 from NY and 17 from CT), followed bylaws that described the purpose and function of the CAC, and met four times a year. Nancy thought that a few things that made the LISS CAC successful was the assistance offered by LISS staff, the recent re-organization of the subcommittees, the effective and frequent group communication, and conducting business regularly between quarterly meetings. Curt added that the Policy, Legislative, and Advocacy subcommittee has been especially effective. Comprised of about 15 members, this subcommittee recently compiled a letter on priority investments for federal spending under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to implement the Long Island Sound management plan. The CAC also prepared a letter on priorities for the LISS in using new monies appropriated for the FY 2010 budget. The letter has been used by the Management Committee as a model for establishing priorities for the 2010-2011 budget. Curt also mentioned the Membership Committee and Tracking and Accountability Committee that have been crucial in recruiting new members and leading a Sound Vision project to track investment in LIS over the past 15 years, respectively.

Roland gave an overview about the HEP CAC, which is comprised of 45 different groups from NY and NJ and unlike LISS CAC is open to any group that would like to join. HEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was created in 1996 and is updated using "Action Plans". HEP also works closely with the Army Corps and Port Authority of NY and recently adopted a Comprehensive Restoration Plan. HEP CAC has noticed that there is a low awareness of HEP and has focused its goals on increasing access around the harbor and outreach to political governmental entities. The HEP Advocacy board will also be taking the lead on NYC's Comprehensive Waterfront Plan. Michelle expressed the importance of communication and explained that they had formed a group to update HEP CAC members on new issues. This not only encourages discussion, but also helps to gather new perspectives on topics.

The Co-chairs stated that both groups clearly have a need for funding and outreach and certainly overlap on many environmental issues. They then opened the floor for discussion on these topics.

- Cesare Manfredi (LISS) brought up dredging issues, suggesting it would be a good topic for a joint meeting.
- Roland Lewis (HEP) agreed this was a good topic and referenced the Regional Sediment Management Plan, stating that the costs were very expensive.

- Maggie Flanagan (HEP) said that cultural areas are of importance as they are often ignored.
- Keith Mahoney from NYCDEP suggested the groups invite Richard Fairbanks from Columbia to talk about the relationship between dredging and hypoxia.
- Nancy Seligson (LISS) mentioned that there are funds to create the DDMP, but lack of NYSDEC staff and resources.
- Roland Lewis suggested that LISS contact Scott Davidson from Region 2 NJDOT and Susan Dedrick NJDEP (Dredge Material) as they were very helpful in NJ's process.
- Jon Kachmar (LISS) also suggested that Mike Keegan from the Army Corps might be helpful in the process. LISS CAC members will alert Joel Ziev, LISS Chair of the Dredging Committee to this information.

Chuck Warren, the HEP CAC Policy Committee Chair and HEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) member, encouraged all members to press agencies to move forward on their CCMP and Action Plans and acknowledged that lack of funds might inhibit this process. The HEP CAC has been advocating that the NY and NJ delegation increase funding. The governors recently signed a letter requesting \$50 mil be given to HEP.

- David Miller (LISS) reminded the group that funding was evolving and changing. EPA is focusing more on long-term monies for green infrastructure, so that should be included in the CAC's agenda. He also mentioned that there is increased funding for municipalities through the State Revolving Fund.
- Al Caccese (LISS) expressed the importance of working with non-traditional partners, as LISS CAC does with the Clean Water/Jobs Coalition.
- Nancy Seligson also noted that LIS has a Congressional Caucus which is comprised of supporters of LISS and LISS CAC encourages these members to hold hearings and discuss LIS funding support.
- Curt Johnson (LISS) suggested that the two CAC groups should focus efforts on encouraging elected officials to upgrade sewage treatment plants as this will improve HEP water quality as well as the Sound. He also noted that the clean water funding for NY was about 15-20% lower than that of CT.
- Carol DiPaolo (LISS) expressed the importance of focusing on climate change as it has an overarching effect on sea level rise, wetland loss, and marine species and suggested we might want to encourage a tri-state initiative.
- Maggie Flanagan thought more monies should be put towards public access.
- Cesare Manfredi suggested that the consent order on regulatory structures should focus on habitat and shoreline restoration and suggested that the groups write a letter, together, focused on their top three priorities for funding.
- Don Chesley (HEP) suggested that there should be more focus put on collecting real-time data, especially at facilities that have the means to collect the data already in place (e.g., Stevens Institute, CTDEP water quality monitoring).
- Jon Kachmar suggested that if the groups are going to ask for funding that they discuss beforehand to ensure that both CACs are taking the same approach and asking for the same thing in order to make the request stronger.
- Eric Swenson (LISS) suggested that HEP and LISS CAC meet once a year to discuss similar topics.

- Marty Garrell (LISS) agreed and thought that it might also be a good idea to have a HEP-LISS liaison for each group.
- Joel Reinbold re-emphasized the energy issue, reminded members about the proposed wires through LIS and down the Hudson River to carry renewable (e.g., wind and hydro) energy to NYC. Nancy Seligson agreed and added the issue of ocean zoning in LIS.
- A HEP CAC member suggested that the Coast Guard be kept in the conversations to ensure that recreational boaters are not restricted from areas.
- A HEP CAC member suggested that members refer to the National Oceans Policy marine spatial planning implementation tool to reduce ocean “sprawl”.

CAC members voted on what they thought were the highest priorities for collaboration.

Funding, climate change, and habitat restoration/stewardship ranked the highest among those discussed. *See Appendix 2 for details.*

The groups then broke out into their individual meetings for the remainder of the day.

Welcome/Introductions

New York CAC co-chair Nancy Seligson called the meeting to order at 11:20 AM and asked for introductions and roll call of members, 18 CAC members were present by the beginning of business, which is a quorum.

Reports of Committees

Policy Committee: Members are working on a letter to request \$20 million for FY2010 for the Stewardship and Restoration Acts. CAC members agreed that participating organizations should send “Dear Colleague” letter to support this reauthorization Bill. It was also suggested that the Habitat and Stewardship Restoration Acts be combined into one Act. Jon Kachmar said there was great energy during LIS Caucus conversation. Mark Tedesco agreed and told the group that if Legislation for these Acts does go through, it will create energy for future programs and funding. CAC members need to be engaged! “Dear Colleague” letters will be circulated in the next few weeks. Eric Swenson suggested that, in addition to these letters, groups might want to reach out to the media to increase visibility about this topic. Members also held a conference call with NYSDEC Commissioner Jim Tierney to discuss the Great Waters hearing and position LISS within the effort.

Dredge Material Committee: The group discussed the LIS DMMP Update that was circulated with the meeting packet. Curt Johnson suggested that the dredging committee jot down some key issues that they would like to focus on and that the membership committee is trying to reach out to Maritime Commissions. Curt also mentioned that the LIS Futures Fund RFP is, in part, focused on dredging. Mark Tedesco agreed, but noted that only good ideas and proposals will be funded.

LIS Futures Fund: Nancy took this opportunity to remind the group that the RFP is broad and flexible and encouraged members to apply and get the word out to municipalities and partners. Details about the LIS Futures Fund can be found at:

<http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net/futuresfund/> and the deadline for applications is May 7, 2010.

Membership Committee: Two new members were up for vote: Tanya Court from the Business Council of Fairfield County and David Miller from Ecology and Environment, Inc. Both members were voted in unanimously. Nancy also alerted the group that they had reached out to Dave Relyea, from Frank M. Flower & Sons, Inc. One point of discussion was that Dave told Nancy that he would not be willing to attend meetings in NYC. There was some concern over this, but members that have worked with Dave highly recommended him. It was also pointed out that the CAC needs representatives from the shellfish industry. To date, Dave has not sent in his letter to request membership. Once he has, the membership committee will formally evaluate and make a recommendation on his membership.

Reports

2010 Budget Update/Management Committee: Mark Tedesco reminded the group that the pie chart of funding priorities would be used to divvy up LIS Futures Fund monies. However, with more funding come more accountability and scrutiny, so LISS will have to fund projects that are focused on implementation and clearly show results. He also mentioned that the CAC-STAC letter that expressed the importance of not using funds to backfill state positions was being taken into account.

STAC (Feb 19): The STAC has been working on setting a smaller list of research priorities, focusing on habitat/habitat changes, food webs/eutrophication, climate change, and the effectiveness of management actions. The Synthesis Report is still very much behind schedule and STAC members suggested that chapter leads be required to give a presentation about their progress during a video conference. Art Glowka stated that he was unsure as to how the Synthesis report could summarize hypoxia since so little was known about it. Mark Tedesco pointed out that the purpose of the Synthesis report was to identify gaps and highlight what is known on each topic. Lastly, Carmela Cuomo from the University of New Haven was voted at the new CT Co-chair.

LIS 400th Anniversary: The Work Group that has been discussing this possibility is looking for a group to take the lead and apply for LIS Futures Fund money to fund the project. Contact Robert Burg if you are interested, rburg@longislandsoundstudy.net.

Sound Vision Project

Curt Johnson gave an overview of the progress for the Sound Vision project. Electronic forms have been sent out to gather information about each state's investment in the Sound over the past 15 years. Curt encouraged groups to enter their own data or forward this form onto others that might have projects to enter into the database. The group is having a hard time collecting data for NY and requested help from the CAC. Members suggested that the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) be contacted, as they have a list of all of the proposed (and funded) projects in NY. Others suggested that Eileen Keenan (NYSG/NYSDEC) and Sandy Allen, EFC, be contacted for more information about municipalities and their investments. Mark Tedesco suggested that the EFC might not include data related to land acquisition and it was suggested that both local contacts (counties) and reference to the New York State Open Space Plan might have this info.

Curt Johnson also told the group that there will be a day-long retreat taking place, tentatively on April 26, 2010. During this retreat, the consultant, Drew Carey, will give a recap of the data that was collected over the past few months. The group will then discuss new and old areas of investment. The STAC will be meeting at the same time to discuss where research investments have been made. Then, the CAC and STAC will meet to discuss. After this day long meeting, there will be additional sessions to refine the topics addressed. By June, the project should be wrapped up. The results will be extended to the public and used to increase visibility and support for LIS.

Updates/Announcements

Cesare Manfredi asked for an update on the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) in NY. Sarah Deonarine from NYSDEC said that the state was in the process of writing the petition that needs to be sent to EPA but coordinating with Environmental Facilities Corporation due to their current focus on federal stimulus. However, Sarah was confident that NDZ are a priority for NYSDEC and that Assistant Commissioner Tierney and EPA Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck wanted to see the NDZ regulation go through.

Curt Johnson invited members to attend the Bride Brook celebration on April 19th and the Citizens Summit at the Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, focused on Green Waterways, on May 7th.

Eric Swenson informed the group that the Town of Oyster Bay just started an Oyster Bay-Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee, which will include numerous Towns on the north shore of Long Island.

Lastly, Dianne Selditch invited the group to Soundwaters to enjoy their newly installed audio tour.

Other Business/June Agenda Items

The next CAC meeting will be in CT on June 10, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30. Members suggested that there be a presentation on progress in both states toward the nitrogen reduction targets, the status of sewage treatment plant upgrades, and the dollars spent and needed for completion of projects.

Finally, a number of attendees joined Maggie Flanagan for an exciting tour of the South Street Seaport surrounding area!

Appendix 1: Attendees (that signed in)

LISS CAC members:

Patricia Aitken, Friends of the Bay
Allen Berrien, Milford Harbor Marina
Al Caccese, Audubon New York
Carol DiPaolo, Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor
William Cooke, Citizens Campaign for the Environment
John Dunne, Pfizer Global Operation
Martin Garrell, Aldephi University
Curt Johnson, CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound
Jon Kachmar, The Nature Conservancy
Aldona Lawson, Town of Oyster Bay
Cesare Manfredi, Federated Conserv. of Westchester County
Bud Raleigh, Darien Advisory Comm./Coastal Waters
Joel Rinebold, Joel Rinebold LLC
Dianne Selditch, SoundWaters, Inc.
Eric Swenson, Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee
Grant Westerson, CT Marine Trades Association
Jennifer Wilson-Pines, Manhasset Bay Protection Comm.
Joel Ziev, Town of North Hempstead Town Hall
Nancy Seligson, Councilwoman for Town of Mamaroneck
David Miller, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

HEP CAC members:

Claire Antonucci, NJ Marine Sciences Consortium
Rick Balla, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program
Don Chesley, Stevens Institute of Technology
Bart Chezar, Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club
John Dobosiewicz, Kean University
Michelle Doran McBean, Future City, Inc.
Patricia Doyle, Passaic River Institute, Montclair State University
Maggie Flanagan, South Street Seaport Museum
Edgar Freud, Sierra Club
Robin Kriesberg, Bronx River Alliance
Larry Levine, Natural Resources Defense Council
Roland Lewis, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
Katie Mosher-Smith, NY/NJ Baykeeper
Gabriela Munoz, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program
Gabriel Rodriguez, NJ Congressional District 13
Manuel Russ, Concerned Citizens of Bensonhurst
Adina Taylor, Floating the Apple, Inc.
Cortney Worrall, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
Chuck Warren,

Non-CAC members:

Sarah Deonarine, NYSDEC

Mark Tedesco, EPA LISO

Art Glowka, LIS stakeholder

Larissa Graham, NY Sea Grant

Keith Mahoney, NY City Department of Environmental Protection

Charles Warren, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Appendix 2. “EFFORTS ON WHICH TO WORK TOGETHER”

(presented in priority order as voted on at meeting)

1. FUNDING (14 votes)
 - State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs) – look at how its changing, look at long-term set asides for green infrastructure, work together to move municipalities to green infrastructure
 - Bring in non-traditional groups
 - Emphasize regional significance of East River STP upgrades in joint letters
 - Recognize differences in CT and NY long-term investments in clean water, help NY create better tools
 - Mention other NEPs when advocating for our own
 - Piggy-back on other projects already funded
 - Work together
2. CLIMATE CHANGE (10 votes)
 - Make it tri-state/regional, NY, CT, NJ
3. HABITAT RESTORATION/STEWARDSHIP (9 votes)
 - No regulated structure, so it should be our focus
 - A consent order on regulatory structures should include habitat and shoreline restoration
 - Push to have it included (in what?)
 - Joint attention should bring increased funding
4. ENERGY PROJECTS (8 votes)
 - Will become regional around NYC creating need to work together
 - Marine spatial planning
5. HOLD ANNUAL COMBINED MEETINGS (8 votes)
6. DREDGING (5 votes)
 - Marinas and cultural areas are mutual areas of concern. They need attention and are often neglected in DMMPs.
 - Create Dredge Office in NYSDEC
 - Begin to open to non-governmental groups for input
 - Look at Richard Fairbanks’ LISS-funded hypoxia channel study (possible presentation)
 - Coast Guard dealing with changing uses from commercial to recreational
7. PUBLIC ACCESS (3 votes)
8. TRI-STATE MOTTO (3 votes)
 - Congressional approach should have strategic ask
9. FISHERIES RESTORATION (3 votes)
10. FLOATABLES
 - Create central database
11. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
 - Need to be consistent

12. CREATE LIAISON GROUP BETWEEN CACs

13. WORK TOGETHER IN APPROACHING THE NEW NYC DEP COMMISSIONER