

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
March 13, 2008
New York City**

Welcome/Introductions. Nancy Seligson called the meeting to order at 10:05am and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. Co-chair John Atkin called the roll of CAC members and determined that a quorum of 20 was present. Nancy Seligson asked if there were any changes to the agenda; as none were suggested, Seligson moved to defer the STAC and other report until after lunch. There being no objection, she proceeded with the agenda as revised.

Guest Speaker. Nancy Seligson introduced NYSDEC Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources Jim Tierney. Commissioner Tierney thanked the CAC for its invitation to speak to the group and he emphasized how important citizen action groups are to inform decision-makers of issues. Mr. Tierney spoke about New York's new ecosystem-based management initiative, comparing it to longstanding watershed approaches to address pollution; drinking and wastewater infrastructure; the air-water connection to deposition; climate change impacts; impervious surfaces and their contribution to pollution loading and flooding; flood control; green infrastructure; the environmental impact assessment process; and the hypoxic or dead zone in Long Island Sound. The CAC asked a number of questions related to: lack of coordination among DEC offices and other state agencies; stronger DEC/DEP communications on Sound-related issues; incentives for green infrastructure projects; trash cleanups; low impact development; water infrastructure costs versus benefits of enforcement; Westchester County's request for relief from the consent order; Broadwater; a new state bond act; sediment deposition, dredging and beneficial uses of dredged materials; the need for a regional approach to recreational facility dredging/disposal; biology of receiving waters; sustainable development; moratorium on sewer line connections; no discharge zones in New York waters of Long Island Sound; and the status of the bi-state Long Island Sound commission and more frequent high-level meetings on Sound issues. On behalf of the CAC, Nancy Seligson thanked Assistant Commissioner Tierney, who offered his availability for direct communications with individual members, as well as returning to meet with the CAC in the future.

Reports. Nancy Seligson called for subcommittee reports. There were no reports from living marine resources, tracking & monitoring, or sediment/dredge management; however, Joel Ziev indicated that he felt that the sediment/dredge management report was addressed in the Q&A session with Assistant Commissioner Tierney.

Communications. Maureen Dolan Murphy reported for the communications subcommittee on the Sound Health report status, which is due for publication this summer. The subcommittee discussed distribution of the report amongst small local newspapers. The social marketing workshops are scheduled for September 9 and 10 in Connecticut and New York, and there are about 50 invitees. This subcommittee had also been in contact with the states of CT and NY to discuss the possibility of increasing signage to inform residents that they are within the LIS watershed.

Ad Hoc. Adrienne Esposito reported for the ad hoc subcommittee that New York's deadline for a decision on the Broadwater project is April 12; this date can only be extended by mutual consent of the applicant and the state.

Nancy Seligson commented that the subcommittees did not seem to be meeting frequently and recommended that they meet immediately after adjournment of the business meeting, time permitting.

Management Committee. Nancy Seligson reported on the January 17 Management Committee meeting, and referred members to the meeting notes which are posted on the LISS website, www.longislandsoundstudy.net.

CT LIS Fellow. Nancy Seligson introduced Jamie Reinhardt, the new LIS Fellow, a doctoral candidate at UConn. Reinhardt presented a slide show of his project, which is to study the invasive, tunicate *Didemnum vexillum* or sea squirt. This species has invaded the Georges Bank, and has been located in eastern Long Island Sound waters in 2000. His research will also focus on how invasive species are affected by community composition and sea surface temperature. For a copy of the presentation, contact the LISO.

2008 Agreement. Mark Tedesco reported that a draft agreement is under development. The writing team considered the feedback from the January 17 Management Committee meeting as well as comments solicited and received as a result of that meeting. The team met on February 29 to review all the comments and develop a draft for presentation at the April 24 Management Committee meeting.

2008 Budget and Work Plan. Mark Tedesco showed a slide presentation of the LISS budget and work plan development process with a focus on 2008 priorities and funding. Additional areas for funding were highlighted in the presentation. Among the new areas considered for funding are sentinel site monitoring, additional funds for the LIS synthesis document, and TMDL revision. The Implementation Team will meet on March 25 to review the budget proposals and make recommendations for the April 24 Management Committee meeting. For a copy of the presentation, contact the LISO.

LIS Presentation. Mark Parker presented the results from the DEP's water quality monitoring program. In 2007, hypoxic events were not as severe in intensity as in past years. There was also a notable decrease in comb jellies and an increase in planktonic crab larvae. The maps of the water quality data can be found on the DEP's websites at http://ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=325534&depNav_GID=1654.

Floor Announcements. Curt Johnson announced that Connecticut had passed Clean Water Fund funding in the amount of \$90 million per year for the next two years. He also indicated that state legislation was under consideration to create 100 foot protected buffers along all rivers in the state. Robert Burg advised the members that a representative of Keep America Beautiful had attended the meeting, and offered to present the organization's project to keep cigarette butts off the beaches. Nancy Seligson reported that the 2007 Citizens Summit had taken place on March 8th and was a success with over 130 participants.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Nancy Seligson adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm. The next CAC meeting is June 12, 2008 at UConn Stamford.