

**Long Island Sound Study  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
Thursday, December 11, 2008  
UConn, Stamford, CT**

**Welcome/Introductions** Connecticut CAC co-chair John Atkin called the meeting to order at 10:25 AM and asked for introductions and roll call of members, nineteen (19) CAC members were present, constituting a quorum. Atkin asked for any changes to the September meeting notes, which were distributed with the December meeting package. The notes were accepted as written. Co-Chair Seligson called for any changes or additions to the meeting agenda. The 2009 Meeting Calendar was distributed.

An announcement was made that the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released and is posted on the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) website.

**Election of Officers, 2009-2011** The Nominating Committee presented the names for CAC Co-Chairs as Nancy Seligson (NY) and Curt Johnson (CT). There were no nominations for CAC Secretary, but the mailed ballots revealed nominations of Carl DiPaolo, Marty Garrell, Joel Reinbold and Grant Westerson for CAC Secretary. Joe Salata gave the mailed ballots to Nominating Committee members Dianne Selditch, Carol DiPaolo and Margie Purnell, who retired to tally the ballots.

**LISS Program Updates** Larissa Graham reported on the Social Marketing workshop held in September. Over 100 people attended the CT & NY meetings with a diversity of attendees, including non-profit groups, state & federal agency staff, and municipalities. A Social Marketing web based group forum site has been set up for future planning and organizing for LIS social marketing projects.

Robert Burg reported that the LIS Citizens Summit will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> in Bridgeport, CT with the theme of Clean Water Infrastructure. Speakers and topics will focus on current projects in progress in the LIS watershed, long-term goals for storm-water infrastructure, economic stimulus projects and a report out on past projects and recent efforts in CT. A comment was made that the 'Clean Water/Jobs Coalition is still alive and active. It was also noted that the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act is up for re-authorization in 2011 and the Habitat Restoration Initiative in 2010. There is a need for the CAC to advocate for funding support for these initiatives as well as for continued administrative support of the Long Island Sound Office (LISO) and infrastructure needs.

The Nominating Committee returned with the results of the Election of Officers: Twenty four (24) ballots were counted and Curt Johnson was elected as Connecticut Co-chair and Nancy Seligson was re-elected as the New York Co-chair; there was a four-way tie for Secretary. Carol DiPaolo and Joel Rinebold declined the nomination and Nancy Seligson offered to contact Grant Westerson to see if he was interested in accepting the position; the Co-Chairs would decide between Marty Garrell or Grant Westerson if Westerson accepted the nomination. **[NB: Seligson subsequently spoke with Grant Westerson who declined the nomination. Marty Garrell will serve as Secretary.]**

There was a time of recognition and thanks to John Atkin who is stepping down after 14 years as CT Co-chair of the CAC. Thanks were given and a gift presented to John for his service. Several CAC members spoke & thanked John.

Sarah Deonarine was unable to attend the CAC meeting due to out of state travel restrictions. Mark Parker gave an update on the progress of the Sentinel Site project. In CT a workgroup met in November and January to identify climate change drivers relative to LIS and develop a database of current LIS monitoring projects. In NY, scoping meetings have been held and a workgroup similar to CT’s is being formed. The LIS Fellows have been working with CT & NY staff to identify potential sites and are working on a white paper that summarizes existing work on sentinel site monitoring for climate change in other aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in the US. This work will help answer the question of what are the objectives and needs for LIS monitoring with the ultimate objective of a strategy to identify what we need to monitor to understand how LIS is changing and responding to climate change. This is a two year project with year one dedicated to strategy development (ending 9/30/2009) and the second year being implementation of a pilot/demonstration site program.

Nancy Seligson reported on the October 7-8, 2008 Management Committee meeting. The MC asked the CAC to play a larger role in outreach and public involvement, social marketing and synthesis of communication and coordination. Eelgrass protection has been identified as a priority and recommending the two states adopt water quality standards for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) health. Also, discussion included identifying climate change impacts to LIS and improvement in water quality modeling.

**CAC Subcommittee Structure and Responsibilities** The CAC members had discussion of the new subcommittees and interaction with Management Conference Work Groups. CAC members have volunteered to serve on the committees and LISS workgroups:

CAC Subcommittees:

- Policy, Legislative & Advocacy - (6 volunteers)
- Accountability & Tracking - (0 volunteers)
- Local Government - (1 volunteer)

LISS Work Groups:

- Communications Team - (5 volunteers)
- Stewardship Workgroup - (3 volunteers)
- NPS & Watersheds Workgroup - (2 volunteers)
- Habitat Restoration Workgroup - (2 volunteers)

The CAC Co-chairs reported that the CAC will be putting together an economic stimulus recovery package listing the green infrastructure needs of LIS to send to the CT & NY Governors, and LIS Legislative Caucus members encouraging federal and state support for projects benefitting LIS both ecologically and economically. The CAC Co-chairs will solicit in-put from the LISS workgroups for projects benefitting their identified priorities.

After discussion the CAC agreed that the Co-chairs would draft a letter and list of infrastructure projects in the two states to send to the LIS Caucus. CAC members were encouraged to craft language for efforts that you’d like to see funded and addressed. A follow up conference call of the Policy & Advocacy subcommittee will be scheduled to finalize the list.

There was agreement that the federal LIS Caucus needs to be reformed and revitalized. A new CT co-chair is needed and Nancy Seligson encouraged CAC members to get to know Chris Shays' successor James A. Himes, CT 4<sup>th</sup> District Congressman. The CAC also agreed that a state legislative strategy needs to be developed and acted upon.

The Co-chairs opened public comment from the floor and recognized lobsterman Roger Frate: Roger Frate reported on the lobster V-notch program and continued struggles of LIS lobstermen. Students from two CT schools (Bridgeport Aquaculture School and Ella Grasso School) have worked together on CT lobster boats to notch and record lobsters. A \$1 million grant was awarded for the two year project and Roger Frate reports another \$400 K is needed to complete the project.

A discussion ensued about whether the CAC and LISS are covering the issue of LMRs appropriately. Other existing work groups including Habitat Restoration, NPS, Nutrients and Stewardship Work group cover the needs of LMRs in their own priority areas.

A question was raised about CT DOT's new road de-icing practice of applying a liquid coating to roads prior to storms. What is the constituent chemical in the de-icing product and is there concern for stormwater run-off contamination. Is there any impact to surface waters in the watershed? (CTDEP staff will research the answer.) **[New Business: The answer is: The CT DOT is using a 23% sodium chloride salt brine solution to pre-coat state roads and highways. Salt brine is applied by a tanker truck using spray bars and nozzles. The spray bars are about 12" apart and after the brine application dries it leaves a 2" strip of dried salt on the roadway that acts to melt snow and frozen rain when it contacts the road. The Department's Storm water Management Plan calls for annual sampling of DOT roadway drainage outlets located throughout the state. The sampling results for sodium (NaCl) range from 8.11 mg/l(ppm) to 94.5 mg/l(ppm), which is significantly less than the State's acceptable level (250 ppm) for drinking water supplies. The CTDOT has just signed a contract with USGS to test at four outlet locations on I-95 over the next 3 years to see what the loads etc. impact on water quality will be. The DOT posted a press release on their web site explaining the new road salt application methods. See <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?A=1373&Q=329424> ]**

**LIS Presentations** Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection LISS Coordinator, Mark Parker, gave a report on the 2008 Summer Hypoxia event and the result of CTDEP's Water Quality Monitoring surveys for 2008 in the western, central, and eastern basins. For a copy of his presentation materials, please contact the Long Island Sound Office.

The Interstate Environmental Commission staff, Peter Sattler, gave a report on the 2008 Water Quality Monitoring in the East River and Western Sound and the Summer Hypoxia conditions in 2008. For a copy of his presentation materials, please contact the Long Island Sound Office.

**STAC Report** Mickey Weiss, one of the CAC's liaisons to the STAC, gave a report on the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting. They are continuing to work on a sentinel site monitoring plan and developing research priorities. Shimone Anisfeld gave a presentation on his analysis of the LIS environmental indicators and the LISS indicators reports. The next STAC meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup> at UConn Stamford.

**LISS Program Update** Mark Tedesco gave updates on the LISS budget and the EPA/NEP meeting held in New York City in November. [New Business: The scheduled Management Committee meeting for January 2009 was cancelled due to a snow storm. Therefore MC will review the FY10 LISS budget proposals at the April meeting at UConn Stamford.]

**2008 Agreement**. The latest draft of the proposed 2008 Agreement is still being negotiated by CTDEP and NYDOS staff. The two states don't agree on the wording regarding dredging. The Agreement will be revisited for 2009.

**Other Business/March Agenda Items** The next CAC meeting will be in New York City. Topic suggestions for the March CAC meeting may be sent by CAC members to the Long Island Sound Office and CAC Co-Chairs.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30PM.