

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
Thursday, March 1, 2007**

Welcome/Introductions. New York co-chair Nancy Seligson called the meeting to order at 10:10am, asking those present to introduce themselves. Seligson called the roll of CAC members and determined that 22 members were present, constituting a quorum. Seligson asked if there were any changes or updates to the agenda; as none were offered, she proceeded to announce that long-time CAC member and immediate past New York co-chair David Miller had sent a letter of resignation to the CAC. Miller has accepted a new position with the State of New York Department of Education. Al Caccese, Audubon New York's CAC alternate, will be assuming David's role on the CAC. Seligson introduced EPA Regional Administrator Alan Steinberg, thanking him for coming to the meeting and making time for the CAC on his calendar.

Regional Perspectives. EPA Regional Administrator Alan Steinberg thanked the co-chairs and the CAC for inviting him to the meeting, and for the opportunity to convey his perspectives and priorities for the New York region. Mr. Steinberg, a lifelong student of history, identified that on this date in 1790 the US census was first authorized by Congress, and that in 1961 on this date the Peace Corps was created by President Kennedy. Steinberg also noted that on March 7, he will be celebrating his one-and-a-half year anniversary as Regional Administrator. Mr. Steinberg conveyed his thoughts about vital issues, the quality of life and the glories of the natural resources in the region, and on hypoxia and the future of biological life in the Sound. Mr. Steinberg took many questions from the floor, including topics on energy and energy projects in and around the region, dredging and dredge management in the Sound, the cost of STP upgrades for nitrogen control and future impacts from global warming and climate change. The CAC co-chairs thanked Mr. Steinberg for his time, and invited him and his colleagues on the Policy Committee to meet more frequently on Long Island Sound matters. Mr. Steinberg agreed, and will be available to meet as his schedule allows.

LIS Research Presentation. Dr. Matthew Draud, Chair of the Biology Department at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, presented his multi-year research on the diamondback terrapin, *Malaclemys terrapin* in embayments on the north shore of Long Island. Dr. Draud acknowledged the LISS funding for portions of his research, and he thanked the LISS and CAC for its support. For a copy of his presentation, contact Dr. Draud directly at mdraud@liu.edu.

Subcommittee Reports. Sediment/Dredge Management. Subcommittee chair Dr. Joel Ziev reported that the subcommittee held a conference call on February 21, 2007, and referred the membership to the notes he distributed at the meeting. Dr. Ziev conveyed the subcommittee's recommendation that the CAC send a letter to the appropriate congressional subcommittees supporting the Army Corps of Engineers 2008 President's Budget request of \$2.8 million for the Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management

Plan. This recommendation was supported by a consensus of members present. Co-chair Nancy Seligson suggested that the subcommittee develop the letter for review by the co-chairs prior to signing. The subcommittee will draft the letter for signature by the co-chairs.

Communications. Subcommittee chair Maureen Dolan reported that the subcommittee met by conference call on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. The subcommittee discussed the upcoming release of the LISS-funded public perception survey conducted by Stony Brook University's Center for Survey Research. The report will be presented at the April 19 Management Committee meeting at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk. CAC members are invited to attend that meeting to hear the presentation by the Principal Investigators, Linda Pfeiffer and Leonie Huddy. The subcommittee hopes to have a presentation on the survey results at one of the upcoming CAC meetings. The subcommittee also reported that the communications team is proposing funding for a social marketing conference to bring in experts to explain/teach how social marketing works. Social marketing is based on commercial marketing but it aims to change behaviors. The CAC agreed that this would be a good conference to hold, especially with the release of the public perception study. The subcommittee will draft a letter to the Management Committee in support of the conference. LISS Communications coordinator Robert Burg is working on the draft of the second biennial report, *Protection and Progress*, which should be out for comment in late March.

Management Committee Report.

Connecticut co-chair John Atkin reported that the Management Committee met on January 18 at UConn Stamford. The focus of that meeting was primarily on the 2007 budget, with presentations from LISS groups that were requesting funding. The Management Committee also discussed the CAC-initiated idea of a Policy Committee meeting. The Committee supports the concept, provided that the agenda is substantial and would be conducive to conducting a meeting. Updating the Long Island Sound 2003 Agreement for 2008 would be a substantive focus, and the Committee endorsed that idea.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee Report

Mark Tedesco reported that the STAC met at UConn Stamford on February 16. The STAC re-elected NY Chair Larry Swanson for another three-year term. Alexa Fournier, the NY LIS Fellow presented her project on aquatic nuisance species, which she is working on in concert with UConn. Chet Arnold of UConn's Center for LEAR presented his work on riparian and other impervious surface cover in the LIS watershed. Contact Arnold for a copy of his presentation at chet.arnold@uconn.edu. The STAC and selected experts will meet in May on Long Island to develop the chapter outlines of the LIS ecosystem data synthesis document. The invitation-only meeting will be held at Danfords from May 14-16; Dr. Corey Garza of NOAA's Milford lab is coordinating the project.

2008 Policy Committee Meeting

Mark Tedesco briefly reported that the LISS will be working on developing a Long Island Sound 2008 Agreement, which will be presented at a Policy Committee meeting to be scheduled in early 2008. The CAC discussed the possibility of the Governors becoming involved in a meeting on Long Island Sound, along with the new New York State DEC Commissioner-nominee Alexander “Pete” Grannis.

Program Updates

Mark Tedesco reported that Congressmen Israel and Shays will be sponsoring a series of public hearings on the LIS stewardship initiative and other LIS issues in early Spring. The plan is to hold one hearing in each shoreline Congressional district, and the CAC will assist in implementing these plans.

John Atkin reported that he, David Miller, Al Caccese, Sandy Breslin and Nancy Seligson met with the Congressional appropriations committee staff in January. The budget picture is not very clear, and the overall financial situation is tentative. There were no firm commitments made on any budget issues, but staffers were sympathetic to Long Island Sound, if not forthcoming. The LIS Caucus co-chairs will each hold separate public hearings on LIS in the near future, and the other coastal Caucus members will also be holding hearings on the Sound this summer.

June Agenda Suggestions. The following topics were suggested for the June CAC meeting agenda: presentation on NYSDEC marine water quality standards proposal; presentation on the LIS public perception survey results; discussion of 2008 Policy Committee meeting; presentation by Marilyn Weigold on the socio-economic history/evolution of LIS; invitation to Gina McCarthy to speak to CAC; invitation to Commissioner nominee Grannis to speak at a future NY CAC meeting; invitation to Rob Crafa of SUNY Maritime College on efforts to coordinate NY waterfront center information/activities.

There being no further business, Nancy Seligson adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm, reminding the members that the next meeting is scheduled at UConn Stamford campus on Thursday, June 14, 2007.
