

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2006
UConn Stamford**

Welcome/Introductions. John Atkin called the meeting to order at 10:14am, requesting self-introductions of members and attendees. Atkin reminded members and friends that the CAC meetings are hosted by Pfizer and UConn, and every courtesy should be extended to our hosts while we are at their facilities. Atkin asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda; as none were offered Atkin proceeded to the agenda as follows.

Reports. Atkin asked for a vote on the 2007 meeting calendar dates, which had been included in the meeting package. Atkin noted a change to the March meeting date because of the EPA/ANEP meeting, which had been scheduled for the week of March 5. The proposed CAC March meeting date is March 1. As there were no objections or conflicts noted, the calendar was approved as proposed. The joint 2007 LISS calendar will be posted on the LISS website, www.longislandsoundstudy.net. Atkin asked if there were any subcommittee meeting reports.

Ad Hoc subcommittee. Adrienne Esposito reported that the Coast Guard had released its safety and security report on the draft Broadwater EIS on November 17, 2006. The Coast Guard can provide safety and security with resources. There would be a one square mile security zone around the LNG terminal, and a 2-mile frontage and 1 mile back from each LNG tanker entering the Sound, with 750 yard buffers on each side. The draft EIS triggers public comments, and public meetings will be held in New York and Connecticut – Smithtown and Wading River and New London and Branford, on January 9, 10, 11 and 16, from 7:00-10:00pm.

Management Committee. John Atkin reported that the discussion at the October 19, 2006 Management Committee meeting consisted primarily of general budget information. Atkin reported that with the new Congress, Rep. Shays (R-CT) has agreed to co-chair the LIS Caucus with Rep. Israel (D-NY) once again, and that is very good news. Atkin introduced Rep. Shay's director of legislative affairs, Paul Pimentel, who thanked the CAC for allowing him the floor. Pimentel indicated that Senator Byrd (D-WV) is now the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and that Rep. Obey (D-WI) is the chair of the House Appropriations Committee [NB: also on the Committee are: Nita Lowey, Steve Israel, Maurice Hinchey, José Serrano, James Walsh, and Rosa DeLauro; see: http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_ienv.shtml]. There is great discussion in Washington about the 2007 budget, and it is uncertain at this time what direction the discussions will take. Regarding earmarks, there has been discussion of eliminating all earmarks for 2007; however, the Long Island Sound program has enabling legislation, the Long Island Sound Restoration Act, P.L. 106-457, with an unexpired authorization, and also a line item in the President's Budget, all of which are positive things as Congress considers the role of earmarks in the budget process. If the program

did not have any enabling legislation or authorization of appropriations, and the President did not request any funds for the program, this could be very problematic for the LISS. John Atkin thanked Paul for his thoughts, and made a motion for the CAC cochairs to send a letter recommending full funding of the Long Island Sound program and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act to the new Congressional leadership. Nancy Seligson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The CAC cochairs will send a letter to Congressional leaders supporting full funding of LISRA, P.L. 106-457 and LISSA, P.L. 109-359.

STAC. Dr. Corey Garza reported on the November 17, 2006 STAC meeting. Dr. Garza first introduced himself to the CAC as the new NOAA science liaison to the Long Island Sound Office. Garza has a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of California at Santa Barbara and has recently completed postdoctoral positions in spatial ecology with the USEPA and the Center for Environmental Analysis at California State University at Los Angeles. Garza reported that the STAC is moving forward with the development of the Long Island Sound Synthesis report. The volume will be targeted for a technical audience and will be expected to serve as the primary reference source for researchers conducting ecological and environmental science in Long Island Sound. The first step in this effort will involve the convening of a workshop to outline the format and content of this volume. The workshop is tentatively slated to be held in May at Danfords Inn. It is expected that the volume will be ready for publication 8 months after the workshop. Garza will coordinate this effort.

Policy Committee Meeting. Nancy Seligson reported that the September 28, 2006 Policy Committee meeting at the Jay Heritage Center in Rye went very well. Both Regional Administrators and Commissioners attended. Without making any PowerPoint presentations, the meeting ended early, and the speakers were very well-received by the Committee. There was general discussion that the Policy Committee should meet more frequently, and David Miller suggested that the Committee meet annually. Since there are new Governors and potentially new commissioners, an early 2008 meeting might be in order. This approach was consented to by the membership. The LISO will explore options for the conduct of a Policy Committee meeting in early 2008.

Dredged Material Management. Dr. Joel Ziev, chair of the CAC sediment/dredge management subcommittee, provided a brief overview of the September 2006 National dredging conference that he attended in Portland, Oregon. Ziev was impressed with the conference and applauded the efforts of the federal and state partners in addressing dredging and beneficial uses of dredged material. Ziev indicated that he hopes to have the subcommittee or interested parties involved in the DMMP development process for the Sound.

Doug Pabst, Eric Stern, Pat Pechko and Jean Brochi, EPA staff from Regions 1 and 2, presented information on the status of the Long Island Sound dredged material management plan and the beneficial uses of dredged material. The LISS had provided \$100,000 in 2005 to assist with the conduct of public scoping meetings. These meetings depend upon the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) budget for 2007, which contains

a \$1.7 million authorization for this work. Without the funding, the work would not take place. In 2005 a management structure was established, with a steering committee and project delivery team. A preliminary assessment was completed in June 2006, and a project management plan is under development by the ACOE. The regional dredging team will keep the CAC informed and will have the opportunity to participate in public scoping meetings once scheduled.

Updates/Announcements. Meeting chair John Atkin recognized Roger Frate, owner of Darien Seafood Market, who spoke about his concerns over pesticides and their role in the lobster die-off, the V-notch program, and hypoxia in the Sound. Atkin also recognized Dr. Lance Stewart, associate extension professor at UConn's Avery Point campus, who talked about various environmental impacts that may affect lobster molt.

CT River Update. Mark Tedesco reported for Becky Weidman, who was not able to attend the meeting. On September 20, 2006 the NEIWPCCC Executive Committee met with key technical staff to discuss the management implications of the results of USGS's 2003-2005 monitoring of the Connecticut River. The goal of this meeting was to identify potential steps for the implementation of phase IV (reducing out of basin sources of nitrogen) of the Long Island Sound (LIS) total maximum daily load (TMDL) for dissolved oxygen (DO). Connecticut DEP provided an overview of the load allocations outlined in the LIS TMDL. This was followed by an update on Connecticut's Nitrogen Trading Program, and an overview of several nitrogen removal projects at publicly owned treatment plants in the state. New York State DEC provided an update on their progress to date in meeting the nitrogen reductions outlined in the LIS TMDL. New York State also briefly discussed their role and experiences as a tributary state to the Chesapeake Bay. Next steps: NEIWPCCC has been awarded LISS funding in 2006 to conduct a cost optimization study in the Connecticut River basin using the Northeast AVGWLF. The product from this study would be a management matrix, consisting of costs and nitrogen reduction efficiencies associated with the implementation of various nonpoint source best management practices (BMP) in the watershed as well as upgrades to point source discharges. NEIWPCCC will work with the Connecticut River workgroup to develop the various BMP implementation strategies for the modeling runs. Massachusetts will be conducting a cost-optimization study of the sewage treatment plants in the state.

March Agenda Suggestions. Carol DiPaolo suggested having an update on the New York State water quality standards for dissolved oxygen at a future meeting.

There being no further business before the CAC, John Atkin advised subcommittee chairs to organize any subcommittee meetings, and be prepared to report back to the CAC in March on their activities. Atkin adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.
