

**Long Island Sound Study  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
Thursday, June 12, 2008  
UConn, Stamford, CT**

**Welcome/Introductions.** Connecticut CAC co-chair John Atkin called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM and asked for self-introductions and roll call of members, enough CAC members were present, constituting a quorum. Atkin asked for any changes to the March meeting notes, which were distributed with the June meeting package. As no changes were offered, the notes were accepted as written. Co-Chair Seligson called for any changes or additions to the meeting agenda.

**Subcommittee Structure Discussion & Reports.**

Co-Chairs Atkin & Seligson reported that they and LISS staff had held a conference call in discussion about the current structure, effectiveness, and relevancy of the existing CAC Subcommittees. The world has changed since the original structuring of the LISS Management Conference and CAC. Climate change and global warming have become major issues that affect environmental management actions and the development of Ecosystem Based Management schemes (in the 1990s) has affected our research and management decisions. It is proposed that Subcommittees be task-oriented committees and some name changes would help identify each subcommittee's priority task area.

The CAC members then had discussion of possible restructuring of the subcommittees. The question was asked what the current subcommittees are and what are the suggested new subcommittees?

The current CAC 'Standing' Subcommittees (By-laws Article IV, Sec. 1) are:

- Membership Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee
- Issues Subcommittee
- Nominating Subcommittee

The by-laws also state that: "As deemed appropriate, the CAC may designate additional subcommittees to address concerns and present recommendations to the full committee". These currently existing committees include:

- Tracking & Monitoring Subcommittee
- Land Use/Watershed Subcommittee
- Living Marine Resources Subcommittee
- Sediment/Dredge Management Subcommittee and
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Broadwater.

Some of these subcommittees are very active and some have not met in quite some time.

Possible new subcommittees could be: Climate Change Subcommittee, Legislative Issues Subcommittee, Stewardship/Land Use Subcommittee, Local Government Subcommittee, Protection & Progress Subcommittee, and Outreach/Communication Subcommittee.

CAC members shared ideas that these subcommittees need to be task oriented, to include the biological indicators and keep the ecosystem based approach a priority, an advocacy subcommittee, energy and ecosystems and water use pressures on the Sound, air deposition

issues among others. These committees should be more effective with defined roles, issue oriented and process oriented.

After discussion it was decided to form an ad hoc committee to schedule a conference call, to draft up a straw-man proposal of subcommittees, and volunteers were asked to be on the committee.

**Reports.** Mark Tedesco introduced Larissa Graham (New York LISS Outreach Coordinator) to the CAC. She and Mark Parker (CT LISS Outreach Coordinator) will assist the LISO with taking minutes and providing CAC support.

Nancy Seligson recognized Fred Grimsey (Niantic River, Save the River/Save the Hills) for receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award from EPA for his work with the grassroots environmental organization dedicated to water quality improvements in the Niantic River Estuary in Waterford and East Lyme, Connecticut. Seligson also recognized another CAC member, Adriene Esposito (NY Citizens Campaign for the Environment) for a NY award. Congratulations were expressed to both members from the CAC.

**Management Committee Report.** John Atkin reported on the April 24, 2008 Management Committee meeting. Nancy Seligson added that Congress awarded \$5 million toward the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative and the Long Island Sound Restoration Act in the FY2008 budget.

**STAC Report.** Mickey Weiss gave a report on the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting. They are working on a sentinel site plan, research priorities discussion, and the Long Island Sound Synthesis Report.

**LIS Presentations.** Harold Alvord (Norwalk Director of Public Works) gave a presentation on the Norwalk Storm Water Filter demonstration project, which was very successful in reducing sediment and toxics from entering Norwalk Harbor. For a copy of the presentation slides, contact the Long Island Sound Office.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy spoke on the CT DEP activities supporting the LISS priorities and the issues of climate change and regional cooperation with other states, federal agencies, and local municipalities. A question and answer time followed.

**LISS Program Update.** Mark Tedesco gave updates on the LISS budget including Stewardship Act, land acquisition priorities, and research grant RFP. A new round for the Long Island Sound Fellow has been distributed to LIS region colleges and universities. The next round of LISS research grants will be fall 2008.

**2008 Agreement.** Nancy Seligson reported that planning continues for a 2008 Policy Committee meeting, focusing on progress in implementing the LIS 2003 Agreement, and the signing of a new 2008 Agreement by the Policy Committee and Governors. Seligson and John Atkin are participating on the core team working on the new agreement process. The latest draft of the proposed 2008 Agreement was distributed. Discussion ensued that the New York governor's

office is taking the Agreement seriously and would like to see more explicit language with measurable metrics and goals. Some members expressed asking CT DEP commissioner and upper management to consider stronger language.

Seligson thanked the CAC members for their participation in the brainstorming process. These ideas will be conveyed to the core team working on the new agreement.

**Updates and Announcements.**

- Larissa Graham announced that the latest edition of Sound UPDATE is available and provided copies to the CAC members.
- NY Audubon, CT Audubon and other groups met with LIS Caucus congressional delegates to ask for funding for the Long Island Sound Restoration Act (LISRA) and Long Island Sound Stewardship Act (LISSA).

**Other Business/September Agenda Items.**

- The next CAC meeting will be in New York City. Topics for the September CAC meeting were discussed (CSO updates, Sewage Treatment Plant inquiries, invite NY & CT staff to speak on storm water projects, report on the Social Marketing workshop) CAC members may send other agenda item topics to the Long Island Sound Office.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35PM.