

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Thursday, September 13, 2007
New York City**

Welcome/Introductions. New York CAC co-chair Nancy Seligson called the meeting to order at 10:18am and asked for self-introductions and roll call of members, which determined that 18 CAC members were present, which did not constitute a quorum. Seligson asked for any changes to the June meeting notes, which were distributed with the September meeting package. As no changes were offered, the notes were accepted as written. Seligson called for any changes or additions to the meeting agenda. Mark Parker requested time to update the CAC on the summer's water quality monitoring program; Seligson asked Maureen Dolan to update the CAC on an environmental indicators meeting she and other CAC members attended. Seligson noted that Taylor Palmer of Congressman Nita Lowey's staff (D-NY) was present, and invited him to speak first on the agenda.

Legislative Update. Taylor Palmer confirmed that the House Interior and Environment appropriations bill includes \$10.0 million for Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship activities. The Senate side includes \$2.0 million. The bills then go to a conference committee for reconciliation, but this is not expected to occur before the end of September. Palmer also reported that the Long Island Sound Caucus hearings are scheduled for the Vanderbilt Museum on Long Island and the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk at 9:00am and 2:00pm respectively on Saturday, October 6. The purpose of the hearings is to develop a 'report card' on key LIS indicators. These hearings are located in Rep. Israel's and Shay's districts, and may be extended to other LIS Congressional districts as well. Nancy Seligson thanked Mr. Palmer for his report, and invited him to stay for as much of the meeting as he was able. Seligson then proceeded with the agenda.

Subcommittee Reports. There were no reports given for communications, LMR, sediment/dredge management, or tracking & monitoring subcommittees.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Adrienne Esposito reported for the ad hoc subcommittee that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission was rewriting the final environmental impact statement for the Broadwater project, and that its publication has been extended to the Fall. The New York state Coastal Zone Management Act consistency review is expected by December 14, 2007. Comments should be addressed to the Consistency Review Unit, Division of Coastal Resources, Dept. of State, 41 State Street, Albany, New York 12231. (518) 474-6000; Fax (518) 473-2464.

Membership Subcommittee. Nancy Seligson reported for the membership subcommittee that the Regional Planning Agency had named Rob Freudenberg its principal representative on the CAC, replacing the vacancy left by John Atkin as he assumed representation of the Norwalk Water Pollution Control Authority. Seligson indicated that, as this was simply a replacement membership, no vote was required, and on behalf of the CAC, she welcomed Rob Freudenberg to the CAC.

Management Committee Report. John Atkin reported on the July 19, 2007 Management Committee meeting. Dr. Martha Gilmore presented her LISS-funded work to develop remote sensing methodologies for tidal wetland vegetation. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection requested, and the Management Committee approved membership for the department on the Management Committee. Connecticut state soil scientist Kip Kolesinskas replaced Walter Smith, who retired in January 2007 after many years of participation in the LISS. Nancy Seligson called for a moment of silence in memory of colleague and friend Don Henne, who passed away in July. Don's family has established a memorial fund to provide scholarships to local high school students seeking a career similar to Don's. Donations may be made to the Donald R. Henne Scholarship Fund, PO Box 2, North Stonington, CT 06359.

STAC Report. Dr. Corey Garza summarized progress on the Long Island Sound ecological data synthesis project. A steering committee was convened to develop the outline for the document, and that group and the STAC met in May in Port Jefferson. Text chapters were identified, as well as chapter leads. The final product will be in hard-copy book format, with a 2 year development schedule. The STAC will next meet on November 9. Garza also reported on an invitational workshop on November 28 at Ft. Trumbull to identify management needs for benthic mapping. The workshop will involve agency staff and academic researchers and will help support development of an overall strategy for benthic mapping that can be supported by the Sound Cable Fund and other funding sources.

LIS Presentation. Dr. Leonie Huddy of Stony Brook University's Center for Survey Research presented the results of her LISS 2005-funded (EPA Grant No. LI-97273405, \$94,731) public perception survey of the coastal residents of Long Island Sound. The telephone survey was conducted in Spring 2006 and consisted of more than 1,200 calls to residents on Long Island and Connecticut, in the coastal zone. A number of questions were asked, and the surveyors also used a standard template of six questions asked by a national environmental organization so that the environmental knowledge of respondents could be compared to national results. Seligson thanked Dr. Huddy for her presentation, and opened the floor to questions. The CAC members asked a number of questions concerning the methodology of the survey and the answers to the questions from the participants. The CAC members endorsed following up on the survey through the proposed social marketing workshop to be held in 2008. The Communications Subcommittee will be involved in the workshop. For a copy of Dr. Huddy's presentation, contact the Long Island Sound Office. The final report is posted on the LISS website at:

<http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net/pubs/reports/LIS.Public.Perception.Survey2006.pdf>

LISS Program Update. LISS 2008 Budget/Workplan. Mark Tedesco presented a summary of the Long Island Sound Study budget and work plan priorities management processes over the last several years. The 1994 CCMP and the LIS 2003 Agreement form the bases of priority-setting for implementation work. The LISS work groups submit their priorities, which are also solicited from the CAC, STAC and other sources. The Management Committee reviews the priorities and establishes the budget parameters, which in turn are carried out by the implementing agencies and organizations. We continue to stress addressing hypoxia, pathogens, toxics and floatables pollution; habitat restoration and protection, living resources and watershed management, and public information and education. The LISS base program, which funds staff and staff support, the CCMP Enhancements grants program, the LISS Futures Fund large and

small grants, and the research program are all part of the implementation program using LISS funding. At the request of the CAC, Tedesco's presentation slides will be included with the meeting notes. (see attached)

2008 Agreement. Nancy Seligson opened the floor to ideas for action items to consider for the new 2008 Agreement. A copy of the 2003 Agreement had been included in the meeting package. The CAC developed the following ideas for the agreement:

- Study water quality of harbors. Investigate California practice of assessing sewage treatment plants \$.50 per million gallons/per day discharged.
- Create a no-discharge zone in NY waters of LIS.
- Create marine hatcheries for endangered species for educational and biological purposes.
- Investigate, study and increase lobster and winter flounder fisheries.
- Create a social marketing plan and strategy with specific numeric goals for increasing the understanding of LIS.
- Implement the Stewardship Act and create specific goals.
- Create a public access brochure for NY similar to CT.
- Create a LIS kayak trail map.
- Create and post LIS watershed signs on all major highways in the watershed.
- Create an education brochure for waterfront homeowners.
- Propose State legislation to limit fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Retrofit storm water runoff from I95.
- Study the relationship between nitrogen and invasive plants.
- Establish a DMMP.
- Require State certification for septic systems every 5 years and upon sale of property, e.g., Old Saybrook requires periodic mandatory pump outs.
- Study the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.
- Study and present the energy needs of the LIS region.
- Mandate LIS curriculum in schools.
- Create simple, rational and coordinated fish consumption advisories for NY and CT.
- Create numerical goals for increased number of open shellfish beds linked to sustainability management and Stewardship.
- Study and propose a LIS sanctuary.

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.

2008 Policy Committee Meeting. Nancy Seligson reported that planning continues for a 2008 Policy Committee meeting, which will focus 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.

NY EBM Initiative. Adrienne Esposito reported that the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act was signed into law in August of 2006. The New York Ocean and

Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council is made up of representatives from DEC, the Department of Agriculture and Markets, Empire State Development, Office of General Services, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Department of State, Department of Transportation, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and the State University of New York. Broadly, the council's goals include: Clean coastal waters and beaches; Safe seafood; Healthy marine life; Vibrant coastal communities; and Resilient coastlines. The Council has held several public meetings, giving environmentalists, boaters, fisherman, and other stakeholders the opportunity to become involved. Two pilot projects have been initiated: a Great South Bay Watershed Demonstration Project, and Sandy Creek Watershed Demonstration Project. The next Council meeting is in Albany on September 19. The Council website is located at: <http://www.nyoglecc.org>.

2006 CCMP Implementation Tracking Report. Joe Salata reported that the 2006 CCMP tracking report was completed in August and is posted on the LISS website. The report covers progress in implementing the CCMP during calendar year 2006, and it covers all potential actions to address CCMP priorities. Salata noted that this may be the last year of the report in its current format; the Implementation Team is considering revising the report to consist of tracking progress in implementing the commitments in the 2003 and the new Long Island Sound Agreement only. Copies of the final report were sent to the tracking and monitoring subcommittee.

LIS Indicators Meeting. Robin Kriesberg and Judy Preston attended a special meeting with Dr. Shimon Anisfeld to discuss and rank potential LIS environmental indicators. Dr. Anisfeld is working under a 2004 LIS research grant (LI-97100801; \$125,372) to review and recommend changes to the LISS indicators. Dr. Anisfeld invited a number of CAC members to attend the meeting with him on August 15 at Yale University. Pat Comins, director of bird conservation for Connecticut Audubon also attended. Other invitees included Jennifer Herring, Fred Grimsey, Nancy Seligson and Sandy Breslin.

NY Public Outreach Coordinator Vacancy Announcement. Mark Tedesco reported that the LISO and NY Sea Grant had developed and posted the vacancy announcement for the New York Public Outreach Coordinator position. The announcement will remain open until filled. To apply, send a resume and cover letter expressing interest in position, and all college transcripts to: Nancy Greenawalt, New York Sea Grant Extension, 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; e-mail to nag3@cornell.edu; 607 255-2832. The announcement is posted on the NY Sea Grant website at: <http://www.seagrantsunysb.edu/Pages/What%27sNew.htm>.

Other Business/December Agenda Items. Nancy Seligson asked if there was any further business; there being none, Seligson asked for future agenda topics. Suggestions included a presentation by the city of Norwalk on their efforts to control nonpoint source pollution by placing filters in their storm sewer drains, and an invitation to CTDEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy and EPA Region 1 Administrator Bob Varney to meet with the CAC. Other items suggested were an update on nutrient management and CAFOs in Connecticut, and a review of a draft outline for the 2008 Agreement. Seligson asked members to provide her or John Atkin with any other suggestions via email. She then adjourned the meeting. Due to the length of the meeting, subcommittee meetings were tabled.