

**Long Island Sound Study  
Management Committee Meeting Summary  
Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk  
Thursday, April 20, 2006**

Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:06am and asked the attendees to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheets. Tedesco thanked Jennifer Herring, president of the Maritime Aquarium for her courtesy in hosting the Management Committee at the aquarium. Tedesco announced several agenda changes, noting that there would be a brief overview of the most current 2006 budget status, and a revised agenda was handed out. Tedesco asked if there were any changes on the January 19, 2006 meeting notes; as none were offered, the notes were accepted as written. Tedesco proceeded to the following agenda items.

**REPORTS**

2006 Budget. Joe Salata reported that the National Estuary Program final 2006 budget guidance was issued. Based on a new Congressional rescission of one percent on top of the already enacted 0.476 percent rescission, this means an additional \$27,100 reduction to the program; the final dollar allocation for FY2006 is \$2,736,500 instead of the \$2,763,600 that was the planning target at the January 19, 2006 Management Committee meeting. Salata explained that the grant applications that had already been submitted by the programs would not be affected; resubmission was not necessary – EPA will only award the amount of funds that are available to the program. Mark Tedesco advised the Committee that the PCB project that it had approved for funding of \$109,921 at the January meeting had been submitted to peer review, and that the final budget for this project would be higher; the Management Committee would be advised of the final budget amount and be asked to approve it via email.

Science & Technical Advisory Committee. Dr. Larry Swanson reported that the STAC met on March 24, 2006 at the Wang Center at Stony Brook University (SBU). The STAC received an excellent briefing from Dr. Jim Latimer of EPA's Narragansett Laboratory on EPA's development of models for nitrogen load and ecosystem response in southern New England estuaries. The LIS Contaminants of Concern list, which was evaluated under a characterization update by a LIS Fellow, is currently out for review; the STAC was asked for recommendations for updating the list. The LIS Fellow project on LIS residence time by SBU graduate student Yan Hao will be submitted for publication in a scientific journal. The STAC discussed the proposed LIS synthesis effort and potential sources of funding for that project. While the STAC did not come to any agreement on final form of the document, it preferred to keep it to hard science and have spin-off publications suitable for the general public. There were six applications for the 2007 LIS Fellow positions, three from each state. Dr. Swanson indicated that a team composed of NY and CT Sea Grant, EPA and the STAC co-chairs will review the applications and final selections will be made in time for the upcoming fall semester.

Citizens Advisory Committee. Nancy Seligson reported that the CAC met on March 16, 2006 at Pfizer's World Headquarters in New York City. As of December 2005, CAC membership totaled 36, with 19 members from New York and 17 from Connecticut. Seligson indicated that the CAC

is always open to new members. Seligson reported that the CAC passed a financial disclosure policy, since one of the members is a contractor of Broadwater, LLC. The CAC's ad hoc subcommittee is focusing on the Broadwater proposal to construct and operate a liquefied natural gasification facility in Long Island Sound, and construct an underwater pipeline to connect to an existing pipeline. The subcommittee is charged with examining the time line for the project and collecting information on the proposal to give guidance to the CAC. Seligson reported that scientific presentations to the CAC are incredibly helpful – the CAC received a briefing from the LIS Fellows on their projects, as well as from NYSDEC on its state wildlife grants program, and from Dr. Carmela Cuomo (UNH) on her LISS-funded research on bottom concentrations of sulfides and ammonia and their effects on the benthic communities. Seligson said that the CAC may ask different Management Committee members to present their work at CAC meetings. Walter Smith offered to do a presentation on the Nonpoint Source/Watersheds work group's work. Seligson thanked Smith, indicating that knowing what the work groups are doing is of serious importance to the CAC, and keeps them more connected and informed. Mark Tedesco suggested that Committee members share any ideas for CAC presentations and get in touch with Nancy Seligson or John Atkin.

**Action.** Management Committee members will contact the CAC cochairs regarding future presentation topics at CAC meetings; Walter Smith will work with the cochairs to schedule a presentation to the CAC on the work of the NPS/Watersheds work group.

Communications Team. Robert Burg reported that Sound Health 2006-2007 is being distributed in the Sunday, April 23, 2006 issue of several newspapers, including the Norwalk Hour, Bridgeport Post, New Haven Register, Newsday, Stamford Advocate, Hartford Courant (coastal subscriptions), The Journal News, and New London Day; an additional 40,000 copies will be available for aquariums, nonprofits, etc. The Communications Team is meeting in May to review and update its work plan for 2006-2007 as a follow-up to the Management Committee's January 2006 budget decisions and to make sure that it aligns to other work being done.

CT River Work Group. Becky Weidman reported that the workgroup met in February 2006, and is wrapping up monitoring work being done over last five years – the upper basin monitoring report is coming out in August 2006; USGS is analyzing data on attenuation from the upper basin, and by late summer/early fall 2006 a draft report should be available, with a final published report after. NEIWPC will be conducting meetings in MA, NH & VT to discuss results of reports, moving forward on a cost optimization study of the CT river basin, pollution reduction efficiencies starting work this summer, approved in 2006 budget.

NPS/Watersheds Work Group. Walter Smith reported that there are four LISS-funded projects that the work group is currently moving forward with -- 1) Manhattan College is developing a NPS decision support tool; the work group has asked the PI to better address the CT landscape; 2) the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA) is mapping riparian areas in the Connecticut River basin; CRERPA has put in substantial time and energy into the project; 3) Columbia University is developing a riparian buffer area 'toolbox' for municipal officials; the PI has set up a website: <http://www.seas.columbia.edu/earth/EECRiparian.html>; (Smith would like Committee members to review the website and give him feedback by May 15) and 4) UConn's CLEAR program (Center for Land Use Education and Research) is analyzing

coastal riparian buffer areas. These projects are helping to lead up to a nonpoint source workshop being planned by the work group and NEIWPC to be scheduled in 2007 to help provide assistance to municipalities in implementing the nonpoint source program, including future consistency with the TMDL's NPS program. Paul Stacey reported that USGS used to have a pretty robust tributary monitoring network, which was able to monitor fall line stations on critical rivers 11 times year; USGS is now down from 8 to 4 times/year on fewer stations. This decrease has reached to point of being non-usable for calculation of loads. Virginia DeLima indicated that budget cutbacks have affected the monitoring effort; in response, USGS has opted to decrease frequency of monitoring to 8 times annually or 4 times for sampling. Ron Rozsa suggested adding this monitoring as a discussion point in the Ocean Observing System and the regional effort under MACOORA – the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association.

**Action:** Management Committee members should review the website, <http://www.seas.columbia.edu/earth/EECRiparian.html> and provide feedback to Walter Smith by May 15.

Nutrients Work Group. Mark Tedesco reported that the work group did not meet, but did circulate a framework for reassessing the TMDL. Tedesco distributed copies of the TMDL revision framework document to briefly discuss later on the agenda.

Stewardship Initiative. John Atkin reported that the work group hopes to meet in the next few months -- Cara Griffin, who coordinated the Stewardship effort for the Regional Plan Association and LISS, left several months ago. On April 19, 2006, Rep. Rob Simmons (R-CT) announced reintroduction of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act at a press event in Old Lyme. Atkin explained that compromise was reached by deleting references to underwater areas in the bill. Every member of the Connecticut delegation supports the bill, and Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) (Chair, House Fisheries & Oceans Subcommittee) is now a co-sponsor. Rep. Simmons had indicated that Rep. Pombo (R-CA, Chair, House Resources Committee) is now supportive of the bill. Atkin indicated general optimism that the bill will pass with its \$40 million authorization in this Session. Ron Rozsa questioned whether the Stewardship group should begin to look at establishing a marine reserve through a state process -- that while the program is still waiting for Congressional appropriation, underwater pipeline and cables have been installed, establishing an interconnected infrastructure that creates potential for loss of underwater areas. John Atkin suggested that this matter could be placed on the agenda and discussed at the next Stewardship work group meeting. Karen Chytalo advised a 'wait and see' approach while still moving ahead with Stewardship projects from other funding sources. Chytalo cited the NY Environmental Protection Fund's category for 'stewardship' projects, and other potential sources of funding, such as the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. Nancy Seligson emphasized that the concept of marine zoning has been pushed to the forefront by the Broadwater proposal, and the New York Long Island Sound Fellow's marine zoning project should assist in informing decisions on this matter.

#### **JULY 19-20 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mark Tedesco opened the discussion of the two-day Management Committee meeting by reviewing the draft agenda that was included in the meeting package. Generally three major

outcomes are planned: the outline and schedule for revising the TMDL, identified enhancements to ecosystem-based management, and FY07 budget priorities. Discussion included involving municipalities, zoning, permits, restoration activities, including a briefing on the CRERPA study; inviting legislators and their staff, including a presentation on Dr. Zajac's food web work, using the South Shore Estuary as an example of ecosystem based management in NY; putting together a background package of each topic, developing a list of questions on issues, and developing background material.

**Action:** The draft agenda will be revised based on the discussion and input.

### **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mark Tedesco reviewed a draft agenda for a planned fall 2006 Policy Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to obtain Policy Committee support for the TMDL revision strategy; endorse the funding priorities for the Cross-Sound Cable Fund; approve the inaugural Stewardship sites; and obtain citizen perspectives and priorities on LIS. Tedesco asked if there were any other issues for consideration on the agenda. Discussion included touring a Stewardship site, use of the MSRC RV Seawolf, a role for federal legislators, the need to begin discussion of marine zoning, and opinions on various locations for the meeting.

Paul Stacey stated that the Cross Sound Cable Fund was established in June 2004; the agreement indicates that the Long Island Sound Policy Committee will decide the priorities for the \$6.0 million fund, which will not be available until the permit is completed. At this time it is not certain when that will occur; there is a committee set up under guidance to run the day-to-day operations of the fund. CTDEP put together a straw proposal of how the fund should be used, and is looking for comments on the proposal; use of the fund is focused on the grounds for the settlement, i.e., that it should further knowledge of the benthos for better management decisions on future crossing projects.

**Action:** Mark Tedesco agreed to distribute the proposal and the original Memorandum of Understanding to the Management Committee, STAC and CAC; comments should be directed to CTDEP, with timeframes and contact details to be provided (comments were requested by May 29).

### **LIS 2005 PROJECTS**

LIS Research Projects. Jane MacLellan described the preliminary results of the 2005 LIS Research competition. There were 14 proposals submitted, and of these 6 were asked to submit a full proposal. A review team consisting of EPA, NYS DEC, CT DEP, USFWS, NY Sea Grant and CT Sea Grant reviewed the full proposals, which were also subject to external peer review. Based on the review team recommendations and the peer reviews, the following three proposals were selected for funding: 1) *Linking Seafloor Habitat Mapping Protocols to Management and Policy Needs*, Dr. Peter Auster, UConn; 2) *Development of a Long Island Sound-specific Water Quality Index using Cluster Analysis and Discriminant Analysis*, Dr. Pengfei Zhang, City College of NY; and 3) *Multi-component Evaluation to Minimize the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Seaweeds and Harmful Algal Bloom Microalgae via Live Bait and Seafood Vectors in Long Island Sound*, Dr.

Robert Whitlatch, Dr. Charles Yarish, and Dr. Senjie Lin, UConn, and Dr. George Kraemer, SUNY Purchase. Approximately \$400,000 will be awarded through the LIS Research Fund.

LIS Futures Fund. Lynn Dwyer reported that the LIS Futures Fund applications were due January 13, 2006. A team of reviewers are reviewing 68 applications and will meet on April 24, 2006 at the Beardsley Zoo. There were 34 large grant project proposals and 34 small grant project proposals; in all there were 16 habitat projects, eight Stewardship projects, two species conservation projects, six planning, four water quality and 30 education projects that also encompass habitat restoration, species conservation, etc. There were a smaller number of large grant project proposals than in 2004, but more money was requested -- \$3.0 million requested for \$1.0 million in funding. Applicants were faced with a lot information, e.g., quality assurance project plans for monitoring projects, which is problematic for smaller groups; NEPA requirements for NOAA funding; the logic model process, which gives more weight to environmental outcomes/outputs. There are 15-18 people involved in the review of the projects, and awards are expected to be made by fall.

**Action:** NFWF will provide the review team's recommended list of projects to the LISO. A conference call will be scheduled with the Management Committee prior to the list being forwarded to the NFWF Board for approval.

Dissolved Oxygen Fund. Lynn Dwyer reported that the Trustees for the Dissolved Oxygen Fund (NYCDEP, NYSDEC, CTDEP, LI Sound Keeper, and NYNJ Bay Keeper) had engaged NFWF to be the Fund manager. The Fund is not federal funds, so some requirements are relaxed. The Fund can include multiyear grants with a \$200,000 ceiling; the emphasis is on physical restoration projects on salt marshes; hypoxic conditions in Jamaica Bay and LIS, and to ensure results are applied to management actions. The Fund is valued at \$4.5 million -- \$1.0 million for water quality in the Sound; \$1.0 million for water quality in Jamaica Bay, and the remainder for habitat restoration etc. Those interested in receiving a solicitation announcement, please send an email to Lynn Dwyer at [lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org](mailto:lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org). The project boundaries are Port Jefferson/Wading River on Long Island and New Haven on the Connecticut. Qualifying applicants include universities, state and federal agencies with authority, municipalities, etc.

CCMP Enhancements Project Grants. Becky Weidman reported that the deadline for the Enhancements Grants RFP was extended to March 20, 2006. Nineteen proposals were received in the five topic areas. NEIWPC set up the review team, and has distributed the proposals for review, which will be scheduled in May.

**Action:** The LISO will schedule a conference call for interested Committee members to review the project selections; applicants and grantees will be notified of final decisions by May 31, 2006.

## UPDATES

Robin Kriesberg reported on the April 8, 2006 Long Island Sound Citizens Summit, held in Bridgeport at the Holiday Inn. The topic of the conference was *Climate Change – The Heat is On*; there were approximately 160-175 attendees. Sixty survey forms were returned, and most were positive – people liked the location, speakers, the level of scientific & technical information in the morning was too technical for some people; however, that was balanced with the afternoon panel

discussions of what citizens can do to make a difference. Ideas for future conference topics should be sent to Robin Kriesberg at [rkriesberg@savethesound.org](mailto:rkriesberg@savethesound.org).

Ron Rozsa announced that there will be a *Sudden Wetlands Dieback Workshop* on Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at the Wellfleet Senior Citizens Center, Wellfleet, MA. Rozsa thanked the LISS for funding travel of a scientist to attend the conference. The announcement is available at <http://www.NEERS.org> and attendance is limited to 60 people.

John Atkin announced that the Regional Plan Association's regional assembly will be held Friday, May 3, 2006, *Planning in an Age of Disaster*, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. Information is posted at <http://www.rpa.org>.

Don Henne announced a dedication ceremony for the opening of the Branford Land Trust fishway on Saturday, May 13, 2005 at 11:00am. Contact Tom Cleveland, vice chairman of the Branford Fishway at [info@branfordlandtrust.org](mailto:info@branfordlandtrust.org) for directions.

**SOUND IDEAS**

Mark Tedesco opened the floor to the public by recognizing Roger Frate, owner of Darien Seafood. Frate indicated that he had been fishing commercially in LIS for 40 years, and had spoken to the Committee in October 2005 about the impact of chlorine used as a disinfectant in sewage treatment plants, and the effects of pesticides used to control mosquitoes on lobsters. He stated his belief that pesticides that were used to control mosquitoes in 1999 were most responsible for the die-off of lobsters in LIS. The lawsuit filed against several pesticide manufacturers was settled at \$12.5 million in favor of the lobstermen. An additional \$4.5 million was obtained in a settlement from the manufacturer of Scourge<sup>1</sup>. He encouraged monitoring of pesticide applications and runoff levels.

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<sup>1</sup> *Scourge is the trade name of a pesticide product used to control mosquitoes in outdoor residential and recreational areas. It contains resmethrin piperonyl butoxide and a petroleum distillate. Resmethrin is a man-made pesticide, similar to a natural group of pesticides called pyrethrins which comes from plants. Piperonyl butoxide does not directly kill insects but acts to increase the ability of resmethrin to kill insects. These pesticide products are also used in pet shampoos, sprays and in products used in horse stables. Mosquito Management Program brochure, Pesticides and Mosquito Control Using Scourge, State of Connecticut Dept. of Public Health, August 2000.*