

**LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010  
UCONN STAMFORD**

Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:10am with introduction of attendees and teleconference participants. Tedesco asked for any proposed agenda changes, as none were identified, he proceeded with the agenda by noting that the Management Committee meetings will now start with the public comment period, Sound Ideas.

**Sound Ideas.** Tedesco recognized Art Glowka, who said that stakeholders are doing a lot of water chemistry studies, and the numbers are surprising. Glowka noted that EPA had its research vessel, *The Bold* in the Sound last summer, and there was nothing much out there. Tedesco thanked Mr. Glowka and recognized Sandy Breslin of Audubon Connecticut (the National Audubon Society), who said that it is great to have public comment at the beginning of the meeting, to facilitate hearing from advocates and stakeholders. Breslin said she was proud to advocate for the LISS and was gratified that lawmakers responded with increased funding; they provided clear direction on how the new LISS money should be spent -- on implementation -- and did not want to see funding go for general operating costs and new positions. Breslin indicated that Mark Tedesco had a conversation with Congressional staff that confirmed this directive. Breslin said that LISS advocates are asking for \$20 million for next fiscal year and the decisions made today will affect the success of that advocacy in DC. If we can say to Congress, 'yes we followed your direction' and can now take it to the next step, that would be good for the success of LIS advocacy. Audubon Connecticut strongly supports the proposed Barn Island land purchase, and she indicated that The Nature Conservancy is willing to put its funding on the line for this purpose. Breslin emphasized that Congressional intent for the FY 10 funding was to support both the Stewardship Act and the Long Island Sound Restoration Act. She closed with the statement that 'in these challenging times, LISS funding is precious' and wished the LISS good luck. Tedesco then recognized Maureen Dolan Murphy of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, who indicated that she was echoing Breslin, and asked the committee members to remember the pie chart that was developed at the October meeting. Citizens Campaign for the Environment wants to see implementation and on the ground projects, and reiterated that it is really important to see what we are doing with the \$7.0 million. Mark Tedesco thanked the speakers and indicated that as the agenda proceeded with decisions on budget, some of the discussion stemming from the October Management Committee meeting and subsequent meetings will be clarified.

**CAC Report.** Nancy Seligson reported that the CAC met on March 10, 2010 in a new venue at the South Street Seaport in New York City. The CAC had invited the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) to bring the HEP and LIS CACs together, to identify areas of overlap and common interest. The HEP is looking to the LIS CAC as model of success and would like to replicate this success for the HEP. Seligson reported that she provided an overview of the LISS CAC, its Bylaws, history of success, and its restructured subcommittees. Seligson said that she gave a general summary of the Sound Vision project and that there was a joint CAC/STAC meeting scheduled for April 26 to review the consultant's work to date.

**STAC Report.** Dr. Charles Yarish accompanied and introduced Dr. Carmela Cuomo, the newly elected Connecticut STAC co-chair to the Management Committee. Dr. Yarish gave a brief overview of the status of the LIS synthesis project to publish a volume reviewing the current state of science related to Long Island Sound and assessing future research needs and priorities. The actual writing of the chapters has been delayed for a number of reasons and a meeting has been scheduled for May 12 to bring together chapter leads to review progress and discuss ways and means of expediting the writing process. In answer to questions from the floor concerning project leadership and production schedule, Yarish indicated that the editors have responsibility for preparation of the document and the hope is to have chapters for review by the end of June. Dr. Cuomo, as one of the chapter leads, indicated that she wanted to wait until the end of the academic year before sitting down with her group to write the chapter for which she is responsible. It was announced that the LIS research request for proposals (RFP) would be released soon, and it was agreed that the priorities for that RFP would be provided to the Committee prior to release.

**FY2010 LISS Budget.** Mark Tedesco briefly reviewed the FY2010 budget process, which started with the EPA call memo last November 17, 2009. That call was based on the results of the October 2009 Management Committee meeting and the work group, CAC and STAC meetings militating funding priorities. At that time the LISS planning target of \$7.8 million had been established. Proposals were to be submitted to the LISO by December 18, 2009. New base program projects were to be highlighted, and planning targets had been established in the guidance for the LIS Research grant program, the LIS Futures Fund grant program and the CCMP Enhancements program. Proposals that were received by the due date were compiled into a package and sent to the Implementation Team for review. New or significantly expanded base program requests were presented by the requestors at the January 28, 2010 Management Committee meeting, at which eleven new proposals were suggested for consideration by Committee members. Those members proposing these new projects were asked to develop and submit full budget proposals to the LISO, which incorporated them into a revised final FY2010 budget package. The Implementation Team subsequently met on March 17, 2010, developing a 'scarecrow' balanced budget request that was provided to the Committee on April 2, 2010 for today's discussion. Tedesco then opened the floor for discussion, asking NYSDEC to present its request for proposed increases to the base budget. Karen Chytalo described NYSDEC's request for \$600,000 in support of heightened enforcement and compliance assistance work relating the TMDL and stormwater sources. Chytalo acknowledged that the request for additional support came after the I Team meeting with its balanced budget recommendations, but that NYSDEC senior management felt strongly enough about it to make the request outside of the normal budget process. William Spitz, NYSDEC Region 1 Division of Water, made a presentation to the Management Committee about DEC's proposal. The Committee discussed NYSDEC's proposals and if and how to adjust the budget request, finally tentatively approving \$225,000 in funding for the TMDL support function on the following conditions:

1. NYSDEC provides a detailed work plan with clear outputs and outcomes within two weeks for Management Committee review;
2. NYSDEC commits to the TMDL revision;
3. Funds are used exclusively for LIS activities;
4. Funding is not considered base funding (no guarantee of funding in 2011 if LISS funding is cut back to President's budget request);

5. There is justification of any unliquidated obligations from current agreements;
6. Reassignment or hiring of staff can be made promptly (no long administrative or budget delays); and
7. Part of bi-state initiative for 2011, pending funding availability.

The project will be paid for by CTDEP reducing its request by \$80,000, foregoing salary increases and overtime; by reducing the CCMP Enhancement program by \$50,000 for SWEM modeling; and by delaying funding the public perception survey work of \$95,000 for one year. The next steps are that NYSDEC will submit its work plan and budget request, and the LISO will arrange a conference call of the Committee to discuss and take final action on this proposal. [NB: the call was held on May 20, 2010 at 3:00pm; notes on that call follow this document.]

The Committee discussed the proposal for a science coordinator/director proposed by Dr. Charles Yarish. Overall members felt that the functions of this position are largely already being performed by the NOAA Science Liaison. Tedesco closed the discussion by indicating that the LISO will issue its grant and work plan guidance to the agencies approved for funding based on this meeting. The regional deadlines for application submittal are May 28, 2010 for Region 2 New York, and June 1, 2010 for Region 1, Boston.

**Progress and Update on Sentinel Monitoring.** Dr. Julie Rose presented a PowerPoint briefing on the Long Island Sound sentinel monitoring program. The project was authorized by the Management Committee in 2008, with \$150,000 in funding being split between CTDEP and NYSDEC. A bi-state work group was formed to identify sentinels of climate change in LIS and develop a strategy for monitoring them. The purpose of the project is to identify consequences of climate change on human and ecosystem communities of LIS; identify the key drivers to change in LIS communities; and recommend monitoring necessary to understand the scope and rate of change in both drivers and consequences to LIS. There are thirty-eight organizational members of the work group in Connecticut and thirty-six in New York. The bi-state group is composed of a smaller cadre of key scientists and managers. The work groups have also been compiling records of existing monitoring programs in the Long Island Sound watershed that could be analyzed for existing climate change signals. Next steps are to identify a feasible pilot study based on available funds and develop site recommendations based on identified pilot sentinels. For a copy of the presentation, contact Dr. Rose at the LISO.

**Updates/Announcements/Other Business.** Mark Tedesco opened the floor to other announcements, items or issues. Agenda topics identified for the July meeting included follow-up on the challenges presented in the NEP 2009 program implementation evaluation; the policy committee representatives and the LIS Agreement; USGS's groundwater work; and a presentation by the EPA regional nutrient coordinators from New York and Boston. The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2010 at UConn Stamford.

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