

**Long Island Sound Study  
Management Committee Meeting Notes  
Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport, CT  
July 17, 2014**

**Welcome/Introductions.** Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 9:35am. After self-introductions, Tedesco asked if there were any changes or additions to the revised agenda.

**Public Comments.** No public comments.

**Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Update** – Larry Swanson gave an update on the STAC. Meeting in June in Groton, Ct. Voted to extend number of STAC members to 45-50 to broaden the opportunity for membership.

Listened to reports funded by LISS (5-6 updates on progress).

Did not discuss CCMP at length. They have put out request for STAC members to provide comment, they have not have a good response to date.

We are progressing with the planning on joint STAC/CAC meeting in late September.

University of Maryland team to give report card update both technical & communication.

**Long Island Sound Economic Value Report Update.** David Batker from Earth Economics gave an informational briefing on the economic valuation report title The Trillion Dollar Asset: The Economic Value of Long Island Sound. WE are talking about the work of the natural system and not the intrinsic value. Micro-macro-earth economics and looked at the whole LIS drainage basin and what it is worth as a capital asset. OMB is looking at reducing the natural capital discount rate?

Look at rate of return on restoration projects.

Check out next steps – are they funded through this project?

**Questions:** Bill Wise – cost benefit ratio was 6:1, asking for resources. 2) you have calculated total value, did you calculate what the optimal situation would be. How good could we be?

Response: we need to know what a healthy ecosystem looks like from the scientific community.

Work needs to be based on the natural sciences.

Joe Salata – what would you recommend for LIS partners to focus on as conducting original work? Response: value of estuaries for ocean acidification, also LIS aquifer valuation, also look at CT river buffer area as valuable for hypoxia reduction, also storm surge & barrier islands.

Georgia Basso – we have \$\$ figures for wetland value and could possible apply it to this study.

We may want to be careful about comparing habitats, we need to keep in mind that diverse habitats & for cost avoidance and caution against comparing habitats and ranking some with higher \$.

Rob Hust: what about the numbers that have X's instead of values. Response: We only valued 14 of 21 asset values – this is absolutely a low end estimate (this is a very basement level est.). You can look at this on a subbasin level.

Jim Latimer: This report will be very important for the CCMP revision. When is the final date?

We need to look at funding strategies. Response: we can share current draft with core team.

Curt Johnson: Have you heard of this being launch for an estuary wide funding mechanism?

Response: No examples, maybe Chesapeake?

Joe Salata: any jurisdictional breakout of assets? Response: maybe something we can do, we will check.

Bill Wise: Did you look at the present investment. Be able to compare piddling investment compared to value and rate of return. Response: no

Larry Swanson: How would this stack up under peer-review? Response: we had 11 reviewers, some were economics from EPA and some were academia.

Curt NRDC is set to release a new report on aquaculture rebuilding and support and ocean acidification.

This report should be finalized in the next few weeks and will be released to the general public.

Please send follow-up questions to Emily Bird at

For additional information contact David Batker at [dbatker@eathereconomics.org](mailto:dbatker@eathereconomics.org)

**Habitat Assessment Presentation & Update.** Georgia Basso gave a presentation on the Long Island Sound Habitat Restoration Work Group. The work groups last meeting was on June 10 in New London, CT and had several focus areas.... Our next meeting will be a joint meeting.

Progress towards goals.

Look at projections – the acres are a little behind. What # did we submit?

Old Saybrook closing will increase acres protected.

Lots of questions on the 3455 acres of coastal habitat protected. CT just passed legislation in May about developing database for protected lands? (Sandy Breslin)

Defining resiliency:

Historic & quality based assessment.

Question about rolling up all of the habitat types to a general assessment? Response: This is close to what the report card is doing.

Gives us a general sense of how our LIS habitats are doing. Not a finished tool, this is an idea of how to look at our habitats. Better understand habitat change. Use approaches that are easy to communicate to the public.

This is a first step in how we use this information.

Question: What comes out for the team? Response: not had the time.

Can make estimate of current wetland coverage in LIS.

Lynne Hamjian: Important to integrate & sync with report card. And to conduct a workshop so people can understand the results & work with them.

Include vegetated riparian buffers extended beyond the coastal riparian boundaries.

What we think is a reasonable target for restoration for 2035..? Quantity vs quality.

For additional information contact Georgia Basso at xxxx or Harry Yamalis at xxxx

**CCMP Revision Update.** Jim Latimer gave a presentation on the status of the revision of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Agency review comments are due tomorrow July 18. The presentation included information on planned timeline, anticipated changes, comments related to aspirations vs goals and targets.

Mid-August we will have a new draft. We have been going beyond our previous deadline.

Three public meetings during the 60 day period; Rocking the Boat, New Haven; synthesis during November; signing in early part of Spring 2015. Slightly different time line, longer public review period; document on the website and social media; CAC needs to get the word out to their constituencies during that time. Cut J; thanks for responding to extension; difficulty with 60 days is gives us September/October; request to go to middle of November, pre-Thanksgiving time

period; how to engage political leaders; Jim: entertain as much public input as possible; consultant may or may not be able to continue beyond October. Larry: when is the contractor up? Jim/Emily, deliverables due by September 30; have to deal with contractor constraints. Jim: one of the things we did, ID's 5-7 implementation actions, for each of the themes; components of what we hope to do in first 5 years. Accountable agency's need to confirm the priorities in the vetting process. MT, get so involved in editing, one forgets the big picture stuff; think about it if some important element should be included. Gap in recommendations and funding and next steps. Need to incorporate elements of the economic study. Need to develop the approach to assessing importance of restoration.

Lynne: at the end the actions are very uneven, I think you need to say the who, what, when, where about each of them.

LISS CCMP Website: <http://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/our-mission/updating-the-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan/>

For additional information contact Jim Latimer at [latimer.jim@epa.gov](mailto:latimer.jim@epa.gov).

**Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Update.** Not provided at this meeting.

### **Announcements and Other Business.**

Monitoring workshop update – No update given to due staff absence.

Embayment monitoring – No update given

**NRCS Partnership** – Seth in the most recent farm bill RCPP an initiative to look at things from a watershed perspective. July 18 they will be reviewed at the State level & a ranking score will be develop and submitted and everything will be ranked at the National level. July 22 scores go to NRCS leadership

July 28 the announcement should go out and then you would need to submit

Sept 26 full props due

Oct 16 final selected

\$19 million for 5years

CT Sea Grant can accept \$ with no indirect rate if that is what the solicitation

**NYSDEC funding discussion** We have \$230,000 on an award that needs to reprogrammed. Evaluating some nutrient modeling and stewardship ideas. We need to work within the original intent and purpose of the current cooperative agreement and justification and with the current agreements. Jim Tierney & Cathy Mosner are updated on this issue.

**Lobsters/pesticides** – Rob Hust gave an up dtae. Another round of lobster testing for mosquito pesticides, they are doing it in phases. The first ph is lab development (QAPP) CTDEEP under a steering committee UConn/EPA part of steering committee.

Lab comparison (later summer early fall

Collecting LIS lobsters & testing them (collecting to take place late summer/early fall) report expected early 2015

Previous results were inconclusive and they used two different methodologies.

**Future Agenda Topics.**

CT MS4 permit

Tappen Z bridge SRF

Lobster decline and pesticide use.

Update on System Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM).

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