

**LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011  
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT  
HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BEACON HALL, ROOM 214A-B**

**Welcome/Introductions.** Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:10am with introduction of attendees. Tedesco asked for any proposed agenda changes, none were identified, he proceeded with the agenda.

**Sound Ideas. (public comments)** Tedesco opened the floor for public comments. Art Glowka (Stamford Shellfish Commission member) shared that, through his personal observations on the Sound, the water is (too) clear, not enough plankton for fish. He claims there are no bunkers (menhaden) in the western Sound. He reports fish numbers are down in the Sound, still too much hypoxia and the LIS (computer) models are not matching what is actually being observed in the Sound. In his opinion, “The on-the-ground observations don’t match the models.”

**Reports.**

**STAC.** Larry Swanson (NY Co-Chair) reported on the Science and Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on July 8, 2011 at Stony Brook University with 20 members in attendance. The STAC members discussed the CAC Sound Vision project and the proposed LISS Action Agenda to consider STAC input. Concern was brought up that STAC representative attendance at Management Committee meetings was low. It was pointed out that college classes (taught by STAC co-chairs) occurred on Thursdays, conflicting with the Management Committee schedule. The suggestion was made to possibly reschedule Management Committee meeting days to accommodate the Thursday conflict. The LIS Synthesis Report was discussed and appreciation was voiced for Jim Latimer’s persistence in moving the project along. The STAC members also discussed LIS eutrophication and its drivers. STAC discussion included the value of the current monitoring systems in LIS and whether or not our knowledge of LIS could be improved by changing the monitoring. STAC will be looking at this in more detail. Larry Swanson respectfully disagrees with those who say hypoxia is not caused by excessive nutrients (nitrogen). Excess nutrients are not the only cause but it is a significant contributing factor.

**CAC.** Co-Chairs Nancy Seligson (NY) and Curt Johnson (CT) reported that the CAC met on June 9, 2011 at UConn’s Stamford, CT campus, saying that the bulk of the meeting was to review and approve the CAC Action Plan and the Sound Vision document. A number of edits and clarifications were made and approved by the CAC members. Both the Sound Vision document and CAC Action Plan were approved unanimously by the CAC. New York reported that 2,500 acres were reopened to shell fishing in Hempstead Harbor after over 30 years of being closed. The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor and the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee had been conducting water quality monitoring and provided much data to New York DEC that enabled them to assess the bottom lands for re-opening to harvest shellfish.

**Sound Vision Project.** Curt Johnson gave an overview and history of the Sound Vision (SV) project, with support from the LISS Management Committee in the FY09 budget. Workshops and surveys were conducted with CAC, STAC and other LISS stakeholders to gather input and data on past accomplishments and proposed future goals for restoring and protecting LIS. Draft documents were produced including a Sound Vision Action Plan, a public summary document and a ‘*Sound*

*Vision*' web page has been created. A time of questions and discussion followed Nancy & Curt's report, concerning coordination of the three Sound Vision products including questions about eel grass restoration, water quality, dredged material management, islands protection, and differences between the SV Action Plan and the LISS Action Agenda. The CAC documents have different names, creating some confusion. The CAC will clarify titles or language. A series of Sound Vision public press events are being scheduled around LIS to include a schooner sail boat ride in the Sound and informational press announcements. There are no dates planned in New Haven, but CFE is looking into a date in September. A Bi-state signing event is planned for the venue at the Greenwich location.

**Islands.** Sharon Marino reported that the US Fish & Wildlife Service has committed funding for an islands inventory project to identify islands from Maine to New Jersey, and producing a data base identifying island types, needs, habitat type and biota, and threats. The data base will be made public for people to access and for managers to prioritize islands for protection and use. There are opportunities for LIS stake holders to work together with USFWS on this project. The project is just starting and USFWS is including all sizes of islands large or small. Even small or new islands could have significant ecological importance. There is also the potential for dredge spoil islands in LIS. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has seen a recent push of public interest in developing smaller islands. The CT Coastal Management Act has a small handle on the issue, however the value of smaller islands is unknown.

**LISS 2011 Draft Action Agenda:** An Action Agenda has been drafted with input from Management Committee members, LISS Work Groups and Executive Steering Committee (ESC) members. Mark Tedesco opened the floor for comments, questions and general feedback.

Discussion included:

- Who will sign off on the Action Agenda ( ESC, or Policy Committee, or Governors)? It will be signed by either the ESC members or the Policy Committee (State Commissioners and EPA Regional Administrators).
- Who is the Action Agenda for? It is for the LISS Management Conference partners (scientists/managers), they are the primary audience as this outlines our priorities over the next few years. Beyond that, the audience becomes the general public as this is the tool we use to highlight what we're doing and our progress. The public summary document is for the general public and elected officials.
- The sections of the Action Agenda seem a little long. Do we need to include past accomplishments in the document? After further discussion, it was decided to leave it in, but send it to the Executive Steering Committee with the pros and cons of leaving it in.
- It was suggested to add expected outcomes under each action so the public knows where we're coming from (Gary Wikfors). Some actions have this already.
- A number of other recommendations and revisions were made to the document. Tedesco stated that these edits will be made by July 26th and an Implementation Team meeting will be scheduled to discuss and edit. The final draft will then be submitted to the ESC for a conference call scheduled in August. Additional comments/corrections can be sent to Mark Tedesco.

There was extensive discussion of the structure of the LISS and different advisory committees' roles in each section of the structure. Dr. Carmella Coumo (STAC Co-Chair) offered for the STAC to create their own action agenda, but it was raised that the STAC Needs Assessment seems parallel to

the CAC Action Plan. Mark Tedesco suggested: We need to craft a process to get STAC input. There was hope that the synthesis book would be a type of scientific action agenda.

**Nitrogen TMDL Status.** Beth Card from the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) gave an update on the Long Island Sound Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) revision process. The TMDL review team is working out language and responsibilities of what the upper LIS watershed state will be doing to reduce nonpoint source nutrient loads. The work group has members from all 5 watershed states. The work group has met every other week by conference call for 1 to 2 hours since October 2010. In March, they identified key challenges (technical and policy) and, subsequently, had a meeting in May. EPA presented the states with the option of working with an enhanced plan for the current TMDL while moving forward with current TMDL. The States thought this was a reasonable approach.

**Updates/Announcements/Other Business.** Mark Tedesco opened the floor to other business or updates.

Dr. Jim Ammerman (NY Sea Grant) reported on NOAA's Coastal Hypoxia Research Program , with funding for research and monitoring on hypoxia. An RFP will be coming out next year. He suggested that the LISS encourage regional researchers to submit a proposal for Long Island Sound hypoxia research, and he will advocate for this on the STAC.

Mark Parker (DEEP) reported that the LISS Tracking and Monitoring reporting system has been set up on a beta web page for review and testing. LISS staff is working with the contractor for final revisions and expect this web based reporting tool to be up and running by October.

Mark Parker (DEEP) reported on the Sentinel Monitoring Strategy. The strategy has been completed and is posted on the LISS web site including sentinel monitoring web pages. We are moving forward with developing a work plan and issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a "Pilot Monitoring for Climate Change" project. CT & NY are combining their Sentinel Monitoring budget funds to offer a \$195K grant award. DEEP will issue a Public Service Agreement (PSA) to a successful bidder. We expect RFP to go out in October

Jim Latimer reported that the LIS Synthesis Report is moving along and getting closer to publication.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

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