

Long Island Sound Stewardship Meeting
September 28, 2011

Agenda Item 1:	<p>Attendees:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Jeff Main – Westchester Parks</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Andrew MacLachlan – US Fish & Wildlife</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Kozak – CT DEP</td> <td>Mark Tedesco – EPA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heather Young – NYSDEC</td> <td>Sarah Deonarine – NYSDEC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlie DeQuillfeldt – NYSDEC</td> <td>Heather Amster – NYSDEC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dawn McReynolds – NYSDEC</td> <td>Patrick Cummings – CT Audubon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Austin Fisher – Fountain Spatial</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Jeff Main – Westchester Parks	Andrew MacLachlan – US Fish & Wildlife	David Kozak – CT DEP	Mark Tedesco – EPA	Heather Young – NYSDEC	Sarah Deonarine – NYSDEC	Charlie DeQuillfeldt – NYSDEC	Heather Amster – NYSDEC	Dawn McReynolds – NYSDEC	Patrick Cummings – CT Audubon	Austin Fisher – Fountain Spatial	
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Agenda Item 2:	<p>CT: Dave Kozak</p> <p>Moving forward on two acquisitions using LISS 2011 funding: 1) 6-acre Matson property acquisition; \$250,000, adjacent to Barn Island wildlife management area, currently in contract. 2) 110-acre Olsen property adjacent to Pachaug State forest. Hope to close by the end of the year. \$4-500K within stewardship area.</p> <p>CT grant closes Monday, so have requested an extension. Another recent action is the addition to the Barn Island WMA through partnership funding from NRCS: 16 acres of coastal grassland, 2 species of special concern (birds), slopes to marsh complex, partnership with Town of Stonington (\$100K).</p> <p>NY: Heather Amster</p> <p>Also working on acquisitions using LISS 2010 and 2011 funds. Using 2010 funds for the Dyke Road property, a \$750K purchase that fronts Conscience Bay. The contracts is out but deal is being held up. With 2011 funds pursuing a 1 acre developable waterfront parcel on Stony Brook Harbor. Near state important bird area, with marsh, and in area with little public access. Hope to be able to order appraisals in coming months. Both purchases would prevent construction of any waterfront homes. Have completed the 2009 LISS fund purchases of the Bird property in Rye and 30 acre Diocese property in Setauket.</p> <p>Patrick Comins gave an update on Long Beach/Pleasure Beach in Stratford, CT. Forty plus cottages have been removed. Site visit after Hurricane Irene suggests that if houses hadn't been removed they would have been destroyed and scattered among the back marsh. The cost and contaminant clean up would have been much more expensive than the original house removal. Work was accomplished with ARRA and LIS Futures Fund.</p> <p>David stresses we need to document these accomplishments and asked that updates be provided to him and the Long Island Sound Office.</p>												
Agenda Item 3:	<p>USFWS/EPA LISS liaison position being offered today – should start by October.</p>												

<p>Agenda Item 4:</p>	<p>Priorities: The 2012 priorities listed on the agenda were discussed. Challenge to documenting the ecological resources inventory that was performed for the Stewardship Initiative. Emphasis needs to be put on improving documentation to the areas identified as ecologically significant. How can we fund via contract to tap the knowledge of “retired” specialists who could provide that data? Mark Tedesco will work with Sharon Marino on further exploring options for accomplishing this work. The priorities were agreed to though it was noted that the tasks for the GIS tool use and evaluation could be better organized.</p> <p>Heather Young recommended that a priority that should be added (consistent to what was done by the Habitat Restoration Team) is collecting high resolution LIDAR to use with SLAMM (or other marsh migration models) to evaluate potential restoration and protection priorities considering salt marsh migration opportunities. Patrick Comins mentioned that Sue Adamowicz, Rachel Carson Refuge, USF&W, has highlighted the value of marsh upland protection whether or not marsh migration can occur and the uncertainty in SLAMM when considering protection priorities. It was suggested that she would be a good guest speaker at a future meeting of the work group. Mark Tedesco mentioned EPA’s Climate Ready Estuaries Program as a potential source of money for this work.</p> <p>Mark also mentioned that the 2012 LIS Futures Fund would be released this fall. The work group can recommend whether specific geographic areas should be highlighted as priorities for development of management plans. Dave asked the work group to send suggestions of sites within stewardship areas that are in need of natural resource management plans. David Kozak will identify whether CT has specific sites it wants to prioritize for management plans.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5:</p>	<p>The work group then discussed the use and evaluation of the GIS Stewardship Tool. Possible outputs include: identifying new stewardship areas, helping to identify sites for protection around existing stewardship areas, and helping to support management plans for existing sites.</p> <p>An additional strength of this tool is the repository capacity to add significant data. The tool will also help assess data gaps and need for additional resource inventories. Our group will need to reach to “experts” and get them to participate in filling in data gaps. Will need to work to make data compatible.</p> <p>Austin Fisher emphasized the use of the tool to evaluate (as opposed to testing) assumptions on priorities, and to make recommendation on how to enhance/build off of that framework.</p> <p>It was agreed that a group of experts in resource management will need to extensively apply the tool and make recommendations on its use and enhancement. Volunteers include:</p> <p>Patrick Comins – CT Audubon</p>

	<p>Jillian Liner – NY Audubon Min Huang – CT DEEP Chris Elphic – UCONN Storrs Heather Amster – NYSDEC Heather Young – NYSDEC David Kozak – CT DEEP New FWS Liaison to LIS – FWS</p>
Agenda Item 6:	A detailed webinar demonstration of the tool was given by Austin Fisher in the afternoon.
Agenda Item 7:	Mark Tedesco noted actions in the LISS Action Agenda that refer to stewardship. They are consistent with (and were drawn from) the work groups priorities and will be used by the LISS for funding decisions.
Agenda Item 8:	<p>Long Island Sound Management Committee will meet at Housatonic Community College on October 20, 2011. There is a request for a five minute presentation on priorities of Stewardship Work Group, Dave will follow up with CTDEEP and the LIS Office on the presentation.</p> <p>The October 4 SI meeting will be postponed until the new FWS liaison is on board.</p>