

Long Island Sound Study Stewardship Work Group Meeting Notes April 26, 2011

Attendees: Mark Tedesco, David Kozak, Grant Westerson, Patrick Comins, Andrew MacLachlan, Christina (NYS Parks & Recreation), Charlie DeQuillefeldt, Heather Young, Stephen Sosensky, Nancy Seligson, Sandy Breslin, Jeff Main, Clair Ryan, Austin Fisher

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome & Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave started the meeting at 10:00 AM and, after introductions, reviewed the agenda. • Mark reviewed the status of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act re-authorization, and Nancy indicated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will advocate for re-authorization within a longer LIS Improvement Act re-authorization
2. Review Agenda	
4. Review Priority Actions for new LISS Agreement	<p>Dave reviewed the Doodle poll on priorities for the work group and actions that could be included in an Action Plan for Long Island Sound by the summer of 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of GIS tool is key • Public access is a component to stewardship planning and can be balanced by management of access impacts on habitat and wildlife. • Sandy emphasized that access can be a component of overall work through Futures Funds projects, etc. • Dave emphasized as top-priority items: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completing and applying GIS tool 2) Developing adaptive management plans for stewardship areas 3) Completing ecological resource inventory
5. Refinement of actions tasks to forward to LISS Implementation Team	
6. a) GIS Stewardship Site ID Tool-Next Steps b) Stewardship Site ID Tool testing subcommittee: (1) rank planning value of data layers; (2) create data layer categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS Tool: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Need ranking of data layers importance 2) Create data layer categories Volunteers for subgroup: David, Andrew, Patrick, Heather will work with Austin Fisher. David asked that there be at least one in-person Stewardship meeting. Dave will invite Kevin O'Brien. Patrick will also invite Jillian Liner. • Austin gave update on GIS Tool. Currently have around 400 data layers. Probably too much for a user to apply in tool. Fountain Spatial will make a recommendation on: 1) what data layers to use for now; 2) how to group data (thematic, feature types, etc.). Would provide a list of layers to subgroup and ideas on how to categorize. Will also need to identify user group accounts (multiple individuals can access through one group). Can build models and share with others within or among groups. • Dave: Tool has potential application beyond original more limited output. Recommends that others beyond work group be made aware of tool and other applications. Austin: Interactive

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	<p>mapping process created can be used as a repository for GIS and applied to other issues. Dave: getting universities to buy in as a potential repository for data will increase long-term utility. Austin: when work is supported by LISS, it can include requirements to make it available. Can also use preliminary version of data to assess applications. Fountain Spatial will be providing continuing support for 18 months. Austin: Next steps, Fountain Spatial will distribute a list all data layers with recommended ones flagged within about one week.</p>
7. LISS Summer Intern GIS project suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since intern position is not clearly available, this item was skipped.
8. Continue discussion of 2011 Work Group Priorities (based on #5) – additional tasks for list below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave asked that work group identify access where management plans should be developed. Patrick: would be helpful to know what plans exist now. Dave: should not limit sites to Stewardship Areas. Mark: a priority list of sites or topics to be addressed in a management plan could be included in the LIS Futures Fund 2012 cycle. Dave: gave Barn Island Wildlife management area as an example. Sandy: Islands have been identified as of interest. Also, Bridgeport is contracting to develop plan to reopen Pleasure Beach for access. This work will support the management planning action item. • Ecological resource inventory. Andrew provided background: research was not formally incorporated into a database. Ron Rozsa and Tom Halavik were leads and have since retired. Mark: Sharon Marino may be able to contract with Rozsa. Still have not identified a mechanism for NY. Heather: Could also try to include in LIS Futures Fund.
9. Updates on CT land acquisition proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave updated the group on land acquisition. Have identified four potential sites. Trying to close deal by 9/30/11 using LISS funds. May come back to work group with more information on potential sites. Patrick: would be worth assessing the island site for wildlife usage and benefit.
10. Interim chair rotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave agreed to continue as chair through next meeting and would then ask for another interim chair if LISS Liaison position is not filled.
11. Summary of decisions and next steps; announcements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave reviewed actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete and apply GIS Site Selection Tool 2. Identify priorities at site level for management planning. Recommendations to Dave. 3. Mark will follow up with Sharon on funding ecological resource inventory and potentially consider as LISFF topic in 2012.
<p>Next Stewardship Work Group meeting will be on July 26, 2011</p>	