

**Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Summary
January 20, 2011
Stamford, Connecticut**

Welcome/Introductions. Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:12 am and asked for self-introductions of members and attendees. Paul Stacey introduced a new CTDEP staff member to the LISS, Corinne Fitting, who is the new supervisor for CTDEP LISS staff, and Stacey also announced his retirement effective March 1 after 25 years with the program. Kip Kolesinskas introduced Jay Mar as the new state conservationist with NRCS. Mark Tedesco read a tribute to Paul Stacey and the group congratulated him on his retirement. Tedesco asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda, noting that the next STAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 11 at the University of New Haven, not February 18 as indicated on the agenda; Johanna Hunter asked to move the discussion of unliquidated obligations to the first part of the agenda.

Sound Ideas. Tedesco opened the floor to public comments, recognizing Art Glowka. Mr. Glowka reported that stakeholders have been reporting that seed oysters in harbors are not growing; they should be growing 2 inches during the first year but are only growing $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. NOAA is looking at growth and lack of productivity affecting the shellfish business. Tedesco thanked Glowka for his remarks and as there were no other public comments, proceeded with the agenda.

CAC Report. Curt Johnson reported on the December 10 CAC meeting that was held in Connecticut. The meeting was devoted to a review of SoundVision, a project of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment that was funded by the LISS in 2009. A final review draft should be available for the Management Committee by the end of March 2011. The CAC would like to hold a joint meeting with the Management Committee sometime in the May-June timeframe and will be discussing this with members. The CAC supported funding for dredging support in the budget, and they are concerned about disposal windows which will be shortly closing. Nancy Seligson reported that the LIS Congressional Caucus members were all reelected, including Mr. Bishop, who was a champion for Long Island Sound. CAC members are looking at the prospects of protecting islands in the Sound, which is work for next year. Cornelia Schlenk commented that New York Sea Grant and NYSDEC put a proposal together for the Army Corps of Engineers regarding potential closures for the South Shore and Harbor. To address this issue for the Sound will require coordination of the two ACOE offices for NY and NE. Mel Cote is the lead for EPA Region 1.

STAC Report. As Dr. Larry Swanson was unable to attend the meeting to report and Dr. Cuomo was delayed, Mark Tedesco asked Dr. Jim Latimer to report STAC activities. Dr. Latimer reported that the February 11, 2011 meeting, which is scheduled for the University of New Haven, is focused on reports by chapter leads on the LIS scientific synthesis book. There is a March deadline for submission of draft chapters. The next meeting of the New England Research Society is May 5-7 at Danfords Inn in Port Jefferson. The agenda will be a symposium on Long Island Sound, and all are urged to attend if possible. The Sea Grant

programs are very close to announcing the final LIS research proposals that have been selected for funding with 2010 LISS dollars. Final projects will be announced via a press release and project abstracts will be posted on the LISS website.

Executive Steering Committee Report. Mark Tedesco reported that the Policy Committee representatives met via video/teleconference on January 18, 2011 and he distributed an outline of the roles and responsibilities of the group. For the FY2011 budget, they supported the Implementation Team's recommendations to the Management Committee on topics to be considered for "beyond base" funding for volunteer embayment monitoring, an update to the UConn CLEAR 2010 land cover/impervious mapping project, and dredging support. The group supported development of an Action Agenda by summer 2011, with the level of approval (ESC, Policy Committee, Governors) to be decided. In developing the Action Agenda, LISS partners will consider a) the draft 2009 Agreement actions, b) input from LISS work groups, and c) input from the CAC Sound Vision effort. The five state/EPA TMDL work group will be asked to prepare a summary of progress in meeting the "6-month" task/charge given to it by the state Commissioners and EPA RAs. This will be circulated to the ESC for comment, and forwarded to the Commissioner/RAs as appropriate. Sylvain DeGuise stated that he would like further clarification on the ESC's role in the final budget allocation. Tedesco agreed to bring this up with the ESC.

Unliquidated Obligations. Johanna Hunter reviewed a new policy instituted by the EPA Office of Grants and Debarment that will require all future grants [post October 2010] to be conditioned on effective and efficient use of funding, and that obligated but unliquidated funds must be recertified by the EPA project officer as necessary to program operations before grants can be amended or extended. The LISS currently has about 28 continuing grant awards with approximately \$3.0 million in unliquidated obligations, not counting FY2010 awards, which were just made in September 2010 and not subject to the policy. Grantees must ensure that funds are drawn down on the Treasury in a timely and effective manner and that any unused funds are identified and returned to the Treasury. Any future amendments to current grant awards will be subject to the new policy via grant condition, and awards may not be extended only to use up remaining funds.

LISS 2011 Budget Issues. Mark Tedesco referred the members to the detailed attachment on discussion topics that was circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. Tedesco indicated that only those items that had 2011 or future budget implications would be discussed, as the other items that had been addressed by the Implementation Team were contained in the handout as recommendations to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee agreed to the formation of three groups to develop specific budget proposals for embayments monitoring support, LIS-wide GIS data support, and dredging support, respectively led by Pete Sattler, Dawn McReynolds and Brian Thompson. Volunteers were solicited for each group and final proposals were subsequently requested to be submitted to LISO by February 25. The proposals, along with the already submitted Phase 2 CLEAR proposal to update the land cover analysis for CT and NY to 2010, will be considered along with the LIS base program request at the March 16 Implementation Team meeting. Pending the outcome of Federal budget decisions by Congress and the Executive Branch, final

decisions on the FY2011 LISS budget will be made at the April 21 Management Committee meeting.

Presentations:

LIS Bioextraction Work. Dr. Charles Yarish presented the work done by the LISS on bioextraction of nutrients using shellfish and seaweeds. The presentation was based on one prepared by Dr. Julie Rose, who had a last minute conflict that prevented her from attending the meeting and giving the presentation. EPA, NOAA and others are collaborating on a demonstration project in the mouth of the Bronx River to test methodologies for collecting and extracting nutrients through biological controls. For a copy of the presentation, contact Dr. Yarish or the Long Island Sound Office.

LIS Stewardship Site Selection Protocol. Austin Fisher of *Fountains America* presented his company's work as the contractor selected to develop a site selection protocol for the LIS stewardship initiative under a CCMP Enhancements RFP in 2008. The final protocol will be used to assist LIS managers in prioritizing and selecting sites for stewardship protection.

LIS Futures Fund Grant Library. David O'Neill, new director of the Eastern Partnership Office of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) conducted an on-line demonstration of work done by NFWF to develop and implement a web-based library of LIS Futures Fund projects. To access the LISFF grants, use the 'pull down' menu under "Funding Opportunity" and select "Long Island Sound Futures Fund." The library is located at: http://nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Library_Search.

There being no further business, Mark Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 2:45. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011 at UConn Stamford.
