



A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Of the Long Island Sound Study

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Lynne Hamjian, EPA/NE

Donald Henne, USFWS

Warren Kurtz, NYCDEP

James S. Latimer, EPA/AED

Jack Mattice, NY Sea Grant

Edward Monahan, CT Sea Grant

Ronald Poltak, NEIWPCC

Catherine Rogers, ACOE

Nancy Seligson, Save the Sound,

Walter Smith, NRCS

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*The Management Committee meets
quarterly on the third Thursday of
January, April, July, and October.
Meetings are open to the public*

November 15, 2004

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: October 19, 2004 Management Committee Meeting Summary

TO: LISS Management Committee Members

FROM: Mark Tedesco, Director //signed
EPA Long Island Sound Office

Enclosed for your information is a summary of the Tuesday, October 19, 2004 Management Committee meeting. While these notes have been reviewed by staff for accuracy, any final corrections will be requested at the next meeting. Copies of any handouts from the meeting as noted in the summary may be obtained from our office upon request.

The next Management Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2005 at UCONN's Stamford campus. The agenda and supporting material will be sent to you about ten days prior to the meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Joe Salata for further information.

Enclosure

cc: Science & Technical Advisory Committee
Implementation Team
Citizens Advisory Committee
Management Committee Mailing List

**Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Summary
Tuesday, October 19, 2004
UCONN Stamford**

Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., asking attendees to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheet. **(Attachment 1)** Tedesco asked if there were any changes to the July 15, 2004 meeting notes, or if there were any additions to the agenda; as no agenda changes were offered, the notes were accepted as written. Ron Rozsa asked for time at the end of the meeting to distribute a summary of the Long Island Sound Resource Center's Data Portal project. Tedesco asked members to approve the proposed 2005 Management Committee meeting calendar; as no date conflicts were identified, the Committee approved the calendar as proposed. The CAC and STAC will approve their 2005 meeting calendars at subsequent meetings. **(Attachment 2)** Tedesco opened the floor to the issue of approving the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission's (NEIWPCC) request for membership on the Committee. Tedesco noted that Beth Card, NEIWPCC's water quality program director, was present to answer any questions. Karen Chytalo made a motion that NEIWPCC be approved; Nancy Seligson and Betsey Wingfield seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Tedesco welcomed Beth Card as NEIWPCC's representative on the Committee and invited her to sit at the table. Tedesco then proceeded with the agenda.

1. Committee/Work Group Reports

STAC/CAC Meeting. Nancy Seligson reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) held their first joint meeting on October 1 at UCONN Stamford. The purpose of this meeting was to review ongoing LIS research and monitoring projects; to discuss LIS research needs, and to reach a common understanding of research priorities and funding opportunities in the context of LISS goals. Former EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office director Bill Matuszeski facilitated the session. The morning sessions consisted of brief presentations from researchers funded by the LISS in 2003, as well as the ferry monitoring projects funded by the LISS in 2004, and presentations on coastal observing systems. Breakout groups were formed in the afternoon session, which met on five topic areas – hypoxia; living marine resources; eco-reserves/stewardship; volunteer monitoring; land use/dredging/contaminants; and measuring effectiveness/synthesis/integration. The groups reported out and had developed a number of recommendations; Bill Matuszeski will summarize the meeting in a final report, which will be distributed to the CAC, STAC and Management Committee. Dr. Hans Dam, attending for STAC co-chair Dr. Charles Yarish, commented that it was a very positive meeting, but that it was not clear to the STAC how the CAC had arrived at its priority areas. Dam recommended that the STAC and CAC meet at least annually, and that the CAC present its views and background on its priorities at a future meeting. Mark Tedesco said that the meeting was very beneficial to both groups, and offered facilitation services at future STAC meetings. Ron Rozsa, attending for Charles Evans, said that there needs to be a further discussion of the STAC's role by the STAC. Betsey Wingfield emphasized that Management Committee priorities also need to be communicated to the STAC and CAC to inform

their discussion. Karen Chytalo recommended that a forum be held to present the overall LISS program effort, implementation, research monitoring, assessment, education, etc. Lynne Hamjian suggested investigating other successful models of STAC and CAC interaction, such as Lake Champlain or Chesapeake Bay program. Mark Tedesco recommended that the Implementation Team be charged with developing an approach to improved STAC/CAC interaction, and that this approach be presented at a future Management Committee meeting.

Action: The Implementation Team will develop and present an approach for improved STAC/CAC communications and interaction at a future Management Committee meeting. The I Team will discuss the feasibility of developing a forum for presentation of LISS program accomplishments and present options to the Committee for such a forum.

LIS Lobster Symposium. Dr. Ed Monahan reported on the October 4, 2004 lobster symposium held at Stony Brook University. The symposium summarized the findings and conclusions of the researchers who were investigating the causes of the 1999 lobster mortalities. The meeting seemed to confirm the scientific consensus that the mortalities were a result of a 'perfect storm' of events, including rapid, hurricane-induced exchange of high surface water temperatures to the bottom waters of the Sound. The symposium will be documented in the Journal of Shellfish Research. The Lobster Steering Committee decided that, rather than disband, it would invite the other states in New England to participate in a future workshop on shell disease.

Communications Team. Robert Burg distributed copies of the new LISS biennial report, which highlights the accomplishments and progress of the LISS partners over the last two years in implementing the CCMP. Burg thanked all those who contributed to the report, which will be posted in Portable Document Format (.PDF) on the LISS website. Approximately 6,000 copies of the report will be printed for distribution to members of Congress, the state legislatures and other interest groups.

STAC Fellows. Jane Maclellan reported that the 2003 STAC Fellows, Travis Baggett and Alison Branco, are finishing up their terms and that the new 2004 Fellows had been selected. The Connecticut LIS Fellow is Azalea Mitch, a Masters candidate at Yale; the New York LIS Fellow is Yan Hao, a physical oceanography Ph.D. candidate at Stony Brook University.

2. LIS Stewardship Initiative. John Atkin reported that development of the Stewardship Initiative strategy was a task authorized by the Committee in the 2003 budget, and it was being carried out by a work group coordinated by the Regional Plan Association (RPA), Save the Sound, and Audubon New York, in cooperation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS) estuaries unit. In Spring 2004 eight public meetings were held in New York and Connecticut, in which Jane Maclellan presented plans for the Stewardship Initiative, maps of various components were displayed and questions from the public were answered. The Committee had received a copy of the Stewardship Initiative strategy (**Attachment 3**) prior to the meeting, and it is that

proposal that is now before the Committee for approval. The proposal consists of inventories of land and near-shore/tidal benthic areas, but not underwater areas. The RPA and FWS are developing a list of priority sites in the inventory – there are more than 100 FWS sites, creating a need for a site selection process. Ed Monahan congratulated the team on its efforts, but expressed concern that underwater areas were not included in the proposal. Monahan recommended that the Committee endorse the proposal, but stress the need for an initiative to map the benthos and identify areas that are critical habitats for fish and shellfish. Betsey Wingfield agreed with Dr. Monahan that a great deal of work had been accomplished. However, Wingfield recommended that the Committee endorse the document as it stands and that the Committee develop a statement of position on the benthos, and that the meeting minutes should reflect the importance of the benthos. Ron Rozsa indicated that there isn't a current site list, and there is a need to complete documentation to identify sites. Kimberly Zimmer-Graff, attending for Dr. Jack Mattice, indicated that New York Sea Grant would like to expand the work group and invite other interests to participate in the process. The consensus of the Committee was to endorse the strategy, and move forward on the site identification process. The Committee also agreed that mapping of underwater resources is a priority and needs to be reflected as such in the LISS priority-setting process. The specific details, however, should await the results and recommendations of the LIS Bottomlands Symposium. John Atkin thanked everyone for their assistance in working on the initiative.

Action: NY Sea Grant will provide suggested contacts to the LIS Office for invitations to join the Stewardship work group.

4. 2004 Small Grants Program. Kimberly Zimmer-Graff presented the recommendations of the small grants program review team, which met on October 7, 2004 at Stony Brook University. (see **Attachment 4**) Zimmer-Graff thanked the members of the team, which included CAC members Bill Evanzia, Sally Kruse and Maureen Dolan; Mark Parker of CTDEP, Rick D'Amico of NYSDEC, Ann Rodney from EPA New England Region, Julianna Wyman of the FWS, Laura Bartovics of NY Sea Grant, and Joe Salata of EPA LISO. Zimmer-Graff reviewed each of the 17 projects recommended for funding by the team, asking the Committee to endorse the final recommendations. The Committee unanimously approved the recommendations. Zimmer-Graff reported that there is a growing problem with insurance costs for the small grant applicants. Many are unable to obtain or afford insurance, which has increased in the post 9-11 atmosphere. Applicants are increasingly requesting funds to pay for insurance from the small grants program, affecting the amount of funds available for implementation activities. It is Stony Brook University policy that all subgrants meet insurance requirements, which may be an obstacle to the future of the small grants program. There was brief discussion of shifting the small grants program from the base program to the LIS Futures Fund, however additional discussion will take place during the 2005 budget process. Zimmer-Graff will proceed to notify the successful small grants applicants and make the awards. The LISO will issue a press release announcing the awards.

5. 2005 Budget Process Update

Joe Salata reviewed the final 2005 budget priority recommendations, handing out summary tables of the 2005 priorities and recommendations for the Enhancements request for initial proposals (RFIP). (**Attachments 5 and 6**) Salata reminded the members that the list of priorities is not new, but iterative, derived from the longstanding commitments in the CCMP and the 2003 LIS Agreement. Each work group and team, as well as the CAC and STAC had opportunities to affect the priorities. The Committee had met by conference call on October 12, 2004 and had approved five priorities for inclusion in the Enhancements Projects RFIP. The RFIP was released on October 15, 2004 and is posted on the LISS website. More than 850 individuals and organizations were on the mailing list. The RFIP is open until December 15, 2004. The base program call memo will likely have the same deadline for submission. Salata indicated that, due to the current federal budget situation, it is unlikely that the LISS will be in a position to approve 2005 project in January; therefore, the plan is for the Committee to make its budget decisions for 2005 at the April 2005 meeting as is customary. The Committee will be briefed on the budget submissions received for the base program and Enhancements Projects at the January 2005 meeting.

6. LIS Settlement Funds. Betsey Wingfield advised the Committee that based on the Memorandum of Understanding (**Attachment 8**) signed by the Policy Committee, that Committee is to develop goals and targets for use of the \$6.0 million under the LIS Settlement Fund Agreement (**Attachment 7**). The Management Committee is to develop the process and recommendations for use of the funds to the Policy Committee, and the Connecticut and New York commissioners make the final decisions on funding. Wingfield noted that a condition is the funds can't be spent until the permits for the cable replacement are approved. The projected date for this action is Fall 2005. Karen Chytalo advised the Committee that there is approximately \$3.0 million in a dissolved oxygen settlement fund with Pace University, which is being administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. There is also approximately \$2.0 million from a New York City combined sewer overflow settlement fund; no decisions have been made on the administration or use of these funds. The Committee discussed how best to provide a unified assessment of needs and an integrated list of enhancement needs that could be tailored to fund criteria.

Action: Betsey Wingfield will take the lead in communicating with the Policy Committee regarding their goals and targets.

Action: The I-Team will take the lead in developing an approach for a unified or coordinated methodology to ensure integration of LIS funding announcements.

7. LIS Integrated Coastal Observing System

Dr. James O'Donnell, professor of marine sciences at UCONN, presented information on a new integrated coastal observing system proposed for Long Island Sound. He is administering a grant program of approximately \$2.0 million from NOAA for this project. The Mid Atlantic Research Association (MARA) a new entity, with its purview extending from Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras, will build an integrated observing system covering the watersheds, bays, estuaries, and open shelf waters of the Middle Atlantic Bight. MARA has begun assembling a team of key representatives from science, commerce, navigation, state coastal environmental management and protection, and homeland security communities whose charge it is to develop an organizational and governance structure. MARA is designed to focus on Integrated Ocean Observing System goals that directly support end user needs. A longer term goal is a Long Island Sound Integrated Coastal Observing System (LISICOS) -- development of a sustained capability to observe the Long Island Sound ecosystem and an adequate capability to understand and predict its response to natural and anthropogenic changes. LIS accomplishments to date include: 1) Deployment and maintenance of five buoys that monitor salinity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen throughout the sound; three of these buoys provide over-water meteorological observations; one buoy includes a surface wave sensor, and another buoy includes a PAR light sensor and chlorophyll sensors; 2) Development of a three-dimensional circulation model; 3) Development and testing of a primary-production respiration model; 4) Coupling of the circulation and ecosystem models; 5) Analysis of existing hydrography to infer exchange between LIS, the Hudson River, and the shelf waters. Due to its impact on LIS, the LISICOS project merits close coordination and cooperation with the LISS Management Committee and STAC.

8. Floor Announcements

The Long Island Sound data portal project is a partnership project between CTDEP's LIS Resources Center and UConn Avery Point; it is accessible at: www.lisrc.uconn.edu. Currently online are the CT Coastal Access sites, in a searchable LIS bibliography. The geology of LIS and data for 40 of the major CTDEP geology cruises will be on line this winter, 2004/2005.

The EPA/ANEP conference is scheduled for October 20-22, 2004 in Corpus Christi, Texas. Mark Tedesco, Peter Sattler and Mark Parker are attending. For information see: <http://www.anep-usa.org>.

The New England Estuarine Research Society's (NEERS) annual meeting is scheduled for October 21-23, 2004 on Block Island, Rhode Island. The topic of the meeting is "Oligotrophication?" or What Really Happens When We Attempt to Reduce the Flux of Nutrients in Estuarine and Coastal Systems?" Information on the meeting agenda can be obtained at www.neers.org.

The biennial LIS Research Conference, “Long Island Sound in Transition” is scheduled from November 4-5, 2004 at the Student Center at Stony Brook University. Information on the meeting agenda can be obtained at: http://lisfoundation.org/lisrconf_2004.html.

The Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2004 at the New York Botanical Garden. The subject of the meeting is “Ocean Zoning: Does it Make Sense for Long Island Sound?” The keynote speaker is Richard Ellis, author of a number of books including *The Empty Ocean*. Information on the conference is posted on the LISS website, <http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net>.

9. Sound Ideas Public Comments

Mark Tedesco opened the floor for public comments, recognizing Art Glowka. Glowka said that he has been looking at this organization (LISS) for the last 15 years, and it looks like a bureaucrats ‘lovefest.’ The CAC’s top priority is ‘living marine resources’ and Glowka said that he has yet to hear anybody talk about them. The estuary is not improving at all; things are getting worse. The Sound had the third largest lobster industry in the country, now it’s down to one-third and there is no more larvae. Glowka said he talks to lobstermen at least once a week. Glowka said that it is a myth that New York City is causing a water quality problem, it is not true. This year’s bluefish contest had a prize of \$25,000 for the largest fish, which was 14.5 pounds, the 10th fish was 14.3 pounds. There was \$8.0 million put into lobster research and all that has been heard about is a ‘perfect storm.’ Tedesco thanked Glowka for his comments.

7. January Agenda Items

The next Management Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2005 at UCONN Stamford. Proposed agenda topics: briefing on the 2005 Base Program and Enhancements Project budget requests. Management Committee members should provide any other suggestions for agenda topics to the LISO. There being no other business, Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

List of Attachments

1. October 19, 2004 meeting attendance list
2. 2005 Management Committee Meeting Calendar 
3. LIS Stewardship System Strategy
4. LIS 2005 Small Grants Recommendations
5. 2005 Budget Priorities Summary Table
6. 2005 CCMP Enhancement Projects RFIP Recommendations
7. LIS Settlement Agreement
8. LIS Cable MOU

**LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE JOINT CALENDAR**
Management Committee
Science & Technical Advisory Committee
Citizens Advisory Committee
Implementation Team

Calendar Year 2005 Meeting Schedule

12 27*	JANUARY Implementation Team Management Committee, Stamford, Connecticut
1-4 25	FEBRUARY CAC Subcommittee Conference Calls Science & Technical Advisory Committee
24* 23	MARCH Citizens Advisory Committee, New York City LISS Implementation Team
21	APRIL Management Committee, Stamford, Connecticut
2-6	MAY CAC Subcommittee Conference Calls
3 9 15	JUNE Science & Technical Advisory Committee, Stony Brook, New York Citizens Advisory Committee, Stamford, Connecticut LISS Implementation Team
21	JULY Management Committee, Stamford, Connecticut
1-5	AUGUST CAC Subcommittee Conference Calls
8 21	SEPTEMBER Citizens Advisory Committee, New York City LISS Implementation Team
20	OCTOBER Management Committee, Stamford, Connecticut
1-4 18	NOVEMBER CAC Subcommittee Conference Calls Science & Technical Advisory Committee, Stamford, Connecticut
8	DECEMBER Citizens Advisory Committee, Stamford, Connecticut

Revised: November 1, 2004

*The Management Committee meets on the third Thursday of January, April, July, and October in Stamford, Connecticut.
The Science & Technical Advisory Committee meets at least three times annually, alternating between Connecticut and New York..
The LISS Implementation Team meets during the last week of the month preceding Management Committee meetings.
The Citizens Advisory Committee meets on the second Thursday of March, June, September, and December alternating between New York City and Stamford, Connecticut locations.*

** Original date moved due to conflict*