

**Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, January 29, 2004
Stamford, Connecticut**

Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:18AM, asking attendees to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheet. Tedesco asked if there were any changes to the October 19, 2003 meeting notes, or if there were any additions to the agenda; as no changes were requested, the notes were accepted as written.

1. CAC Report

Nancy Seligson reported on the December 8, 2003 CAC meeting held in New York City. Seligson announced that the CAC had approved three new members – Fred Grimsey, representing Save the River/Save the Hills, Niantic; Lars Cherichetti, representing Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Stamford; and John Atkin, now representing the Regional Plan Association, Stamford and New York City. There are now 39 CAC members, 20 from Connecticut and 19 from New York. The CAC subcommittees – communications, living marine resources, sediment and dredge management, land use and watershed management, and tracking and monitoring, met to discuss and revise their annual work plans for 2004; the subcommittees will finalize their plans at the March meeting. The CAC discussed potential revisions to the By Laws, last updated in 1999; however, no consensus was reached on what areas might require modification. John Atkin volunteered to lead a group to examine the By Laws and make any recommendations for change to the CAC in June. The CAC had a briefing from Keith Mahoney of NYCDEP on their plans for nitrogen load management. The CAC passed a motion to send a letter to the NYCDEP Commissioner indicating that without proof of effectiveness, the CAC was opposed to changing the Administrative Consent Order. Seligson reported that the CAC would like to support some kind of public event to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the approval of the CCMP. The event would be held in September to coincide with Coast Weeks and National Estuaries Day, possibly involving the New York and Connecticut Governors or Attorneys General.

2. STAC Report

STAC co-chair Dr. Larry Swanson reported that the STAC held a two-day workshop on the System-Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM) at the Wang Center, Stony Brook University on October 23-24, 2003. This was an excellent opportunity for scientists to work with the developers on the model. The STAC added Dr. Stuart Findlay, an aquatic ecologist with the Institute for Ecosystem Studies, and Dr. Donald Les, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, UCONN as new members; Hans Dam has been named as the alternate for Connecticut

co-chair Yarish. The STAC now has 27 members, and is scheduled to meet at UCONN's Stamford campus on February 27. Bill Dennison of the University of Maryland will give a presentation on the development and use of environmental indicators as a management tool in Chesapeake Bay and several other ecosystems at the meeting. John Atkin urged the CAC liaisons to the STAC, Dr. Mickey Weiss and Jennifer Wilson-Pines, to attend the STAC meeting. Atkin requested that he and Nancy Seligson, as the CAC co-chairs, be added to the STAC meeting distribution list. **[NB: Dr. Weiss and Nancy Seligson attended the February 27 STAC meeting.]**

ACTION ITEM: The LISO will add the CAC co-chairs to the STAC meeting contact list to ensure that they are advised of prospective meetings.

3. Work Group Reports

Nutrients – Mark Tedesco reported that the TMDL had identified 2004 as the revision date for nutrient analyses. Under Phase III, the program must look at assumptions under the new model and what that might mean to management. The LISS has budgeted \$350,000 over the last few years for modeling work to support future TMDL revision. The Nutrients work group is scheduled to meet on February 12 in New York City. By Fall 2004 we expect to have enough information assembled to inform our decision on how the TMDL might be revised. Dr. Swanson advised the work group not to rely only on the model. Nancy Seligson asked that the work group report back at the September CAC meeting on progress. Tedesco indicated that the work group will do a presentation on the model results at the July Management Committee meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The Nutrients Work Group will present results at the July Management Committee meeting and report on progress at the September CAC meeting.

Stewardship System – Eight public meetings have been scheduled at the following locations and times to present the final Stewardship System proposal: February 23, UCONN Stamford; February 26, New Rochelle City Hall; March 1, Yale University, New Haven; March 2, Alley Pond Environmental Center, Queens; March 3, Marine Science Research Center, SBU; March 4, East Lyme High School, East Lyme; March 15, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Riverhead; and March 16, Huntington Town Hall, Huntington, NY. The RPA, Save the Sound and Audubon New York, as well as USFWS will attend the public meetings. Jane Maclellan will make the presentations. A meeting flyer has been developed and will be sent to more than 11,000 addressees, and a report summarizing the results of the meetings will be prepared. The draft presentation was made to the CAC at the December meeting, and based on CAC feedback, several slides were modified and the presentation updated. . John Atkin reported that he, Jane Maclellan and Al Caccesse made the presentation to LIS Congressional caucus staffers on January 7, 2004 in Washington, DC. Members and/or their staffers may attend some of the meetings in their districts.

Communications Team – Robert Burg reported that the team is working on a new biennial report that will summarize LISS partner accomplishments over the last two years. The report is scheduled for issuance around the end of September 2004 to coincide with National Estuaries Day and the 10 year LISS anniversary. Nancy Seligson asked if there would be any CAC participation in the report. Burg indicated that the CAC will have a limited opportunity to review a final draft.

4. Lake Champlain Basin Program

Mark Tedesco introduced Dr. Bill Howland, Manager of the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), who presented the organizational structure, functions, budget and work plan processes for his program (see Attachment 2). The major limiting factor in Lake Champlain is phosphorous; the highest management priorities are to reduce phosphorus inputs to Lake Champlain; reduce toxic contamination; control the introduction, spread and impact of nonnative nuisance species; and minimize the health risk from water-related pathogens. The LCBP operates according to the following principles: 1) LCBP is a non-regulatory partnership; 2) policy and budget decisions are made by a 25 member Steering Committee; 3) citizen and stakeholder participation is a vital part of decision-making; 4) policy development and budgeting is informed by sound science; and 5) governance is based on consensus, (some issues addressed by majority vote). Mark Tedesco thanked Dr. Howland for coming down to discuss his program with the Committee. Committee members asked a number of questions and expressed their appreciation for the presentation.

5. 2003 LISS Research Proposals

Jane Maclellan presented the funding recommendations for the 2003 Research grant program. The research request for proposals was released in August 2003, soliciting projects in the following areas: eutrophication, food web dynamics, tidal wetland loss, and submerged aquatic vegetation. Forty pre-proposals were received in response to the RFP. A review team consisting of representatives from CTDEP, CT/NY Sea Grant programs, EPA, FWS, NYSDEC, Stony Brook U., and UCONN selected 19 to submit full proposals. These 19 proposals underwent external peer reviews that were considered by the team. The team, working within a budget of \$550,000 from 2003 recommended full or partial funding for five of the proposals, which totaled \$643,677. The team indicated that it had several additional projects that it would have recommended for funding, were additional fund to become available. The team asked the Management Committee to approve an advance of \$94,000 from the 2004 budget to fully fund the five recommended projects. The Management Committee discussed various aspects of the review process and rating system for the proposals. Mark Tedesco proposed three options for consideration: 1) agree to fund the recommended projects, with no additional advance funding; 2) agree to fund the recommended projects and advance \$94,000 to fund all five; 3) consider

funding additional projects and advance more FY2004 funding to cover the additional cost. The Committee approved advance funding from 2004 to cover the recommended projects and authorized the review team to meet and consider additional proposals for funding, using the remaining FY04 research dollars. The review team's recommendations would be forwarded to the Management Committee for approval. The review team will meet to discuss additional projects to fund and provide their recommendation to the Committee via email for approval.

ACTION ITEM: The LISO will organize a meeting of the review team to recommend additional research project to be funded from an advance on the 2004 research budget. **[NB: The review team met and recommended two additional research projects and requested approval to fund these additional projects from the advance of \$300,000 from the 2004 budget. The Committee approved this approach via email. The total available research funding for 2003 is \$850,000: \$500,000 in 2003 LISS funding, plus \$50,000 in 2003 NY and CT Sea Grant funding, plus \$300,000 in 2004 LISS funding. See Attachment 3]**

6. 2004 LISS Budget Proposals

Joe Salata reviewed the 2004 budget process, enhancements project request and base program project proposals. Twenty-four proposals totaling \$3.7 million were received in ten of the twelve areas that were solicited in the November 2003 Enhancements Projects RFP. In addition, the base program proposal request totaled \$1.2 million; and the Committee approved \$300,000 for research projects from the 2004 budget. The President had signed the Omnibus Appropriations bill containing EPA's budget request, which provided for a total program level of \$2.3 million, inclusive of the President's Budget request for LIS. In addition, the National Estuaries Program (NEP) was funded at the 2003 Enacted level of \$24.5 million, an indication that LIS should receive approximately the same level of NEP funding as in 2003, or approximately \$510,000. Congress had also provided an earmark in EPA's State and Tribal Assistance Grants appropriation of \$5.0 million for LIS infrastructure projects. The total 2004 operating budget for the LIS would be \$2,810,000 based on this information. However, the final LIS allocation is dependent on EPA Headquarters funding guidance. Salata pointed out that funds requested far exceeded funds available. The Implementation Team is scheduled to meet on February 26 to review the base program request and enhancement project proposals. The team will meet again on March 24 to review all work group, team and external peer review comments on the proposals and make final recommendations for the Committee's consideration on April 29. **[NB: A Congressional rescission of .59 percent was enacted across-the-board, reducing the funds available to \$2,793,421 in the EPM account, and \$4,970,500 in the STAG account, pending final EPA 2004 budget guidance.]**

7. Sound Ideas Public Comments

Mark Tedesco opened the floor to public comments and recognized Art Glowka. Glowka

remarked that he has been observing the whole system (LIS) for 12-15 years. He said that he is worried that the tail is wagging the Sound – the original idea is to figure out why we have hypoxia and how it affects living marine resources. Instead he is hearing about divvying up funding pots. Glowka indicated that the Committee is forgetting the original idea about what this is supposed to be, compared to the Hudson River, Chesapeake Bay and Lake Champlain. Glowka ended by saying that you people haven't the faintest idea of what is going on out there.

7. Updates

Dr. Ed Monahan distributed copies of the new Sea Grant publication of Lobster Health News that included a poster depicting the life cycle of the American lobster, *Homarus americanus*. Additional copies are available from Connecticut Sea Grant upon request.

Dr. James Latimer reported that EPA is sponsoring a symposium on EMAP, Integrated Monitoring and Assessment for Effective Water Quality Management, in Newport, Rhode Island May 3-7, 2004. Information on the symposium can be found on the Council of State Governments website, <http://www.csg.org>, keyword "emap."

John Atkin announced Restore America's Estuaries Second National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration will be held at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle, Washington, September 12-15, 2004. Consult <http://www.estuaries.org> for information.

8. Wrap Up & April Agenda Items

The next management committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2004 in Stamford. Management Committee members should provide suggestions for agenda topics to the LISO. There being no other business, Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 3:30PM.
