

LISS Science & Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, November 18, 2011

Meeting Summary

Introductions, Review of Agenda: Carmela Cuomo opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and called for introductions. The attendees are listed in attachment 1. Cornelia Schlenk asked that the RFP discussion be moved up in the agenda because she had a conference call conflict at its original time. Johan Varekamp announced that the Geological Society of America Northeastern section meeting will be held in Hartford, CT March 18-20, 2012. He and Vince Breslin are organizing a session on human impacts on estuaries and they encourage abstracts to be submitted.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Update: Nancy Seligson provided an update on the SoundVision Action Plan and the CAC's letter to the Management Committee on priorities for the 2012 workplan and budget. She reviewed the diversity of organizations that comprise the CAC and the consensus approach to taking positions. Jim O'Donnell commented that long term monitoring is a necessary complement to targeted research and should be reflected in the CAC priorities. Nancy responded that the CAC has strongly supported monitoring and that she would welcome having Jim give a presentation to the CAC on the LISICOS.

Management Committee Update: Mark Tedesco gave an update on the LISS FY 2012 Budget and Work plan process, highlighting the priorities identified by the Management Committee at its October 20 meeting. He mentioned that both the CAC and the STAC submitted letters on priorities. He emphasized that the Management Committee will give particular attention to support needed to meet the commitments in the recently approved LISS Action Agenda for 2011-2013. One of the actions was to revise the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) management plan by 2014. Items for which the STAC was identified as the lead was 1) considering research on septic systems as a priority, 2) developing a proposal for water quality monitoring enhancements, and 3) supporting bioharvesting either through the research RFP or the Futures Fund.

Priorities for LISS Research RFP: Jim Latimer reviewed the timeline and process for developing the next research RFP to be released in late spring/early summer 2012 (attachment 2). Priorities should come from the Synthesis Book and the LISS Action Agenda for 2011-2013. Julie Rose asked that the priorities be distributed in advance of the February 10 meeting. Carmela asked whether the Synthesis Book research recommendations could be shared with the STAC. Jim O'Donnell emphasized that the list of priorities is relatively easy; culling it down to a short list for an RFP is more challenging. Mark Tedesco commented that the book editors need to summarize and integrate the chapter recommendations for the book and recommended that since this work needs to be done anyway, the priority list be shared with the STAC in advance of the February 10 STAC meeting. Cornelia asked if it would be helpful to have the PIs from the 11 projects funded from the last two LISS research RFPs give a presentation at the next STAC meeting.

- **Action: STAC members should provide recommendations for priority research to Carmela and Larry Swanson by December 31. The list will then be compiled and sent to the STAC. The book editors will summarize and integrate research priorities from the book chapters to develop recommendations for the RFP. In establishing priorities, the editors will also consider the LISS Action Agenda 2011-2013, and LISS Work Group recommendations.**

Process for LISS Research RFP review: The STAC discussed how the evaluation of scientific merit is considered in the pre-proposal stage. Mark Tedesco described that the 2010 Research RFP cycle included two external academic reviewers who joined representatives from CT and NY Sea Grant, EPA, NYSDEC, and CTDEEP on the preproposal review panel. A number of suggestions were offered on ways to strengthen science evaluation of pre-proposals.

- **Action: The STAC will draft a proposal to present to the Management Committee for discussion at its January 26 meeting.**

Role of STAC in 2014 CCMP Update: Julie Rose provided a brief update on the LISS Action Agenda commitment to revise the LISS Management Plan by 2014. She volunteered to attend LISS staff meetings to plan and oversee the review and act as a liaison to communicate to the STAC on the effort and to advocate for the involvement of the scientific community in the CCMP update process. Mark Tedesco described that the Management Plan will be 20 years old by the time the revision is due and that the intent is to formally incorporate the past 20 years of science and management into the CCMP. A kick-off meeting by the LISS Implementation Team to discuss the process will be held December 1 at the NOAA Milford Lab.

- **Action: Julie Rose will act as a STAC liaison to the Implementation Team's planning of the CCMP revision to advocate for the involvement of the scientific community in the process and to report back regularly to the STAC.**

Current Enhancement Projects: Short presentations were made on progress to some existing LISS Enhancement Projects. Jim O'Donnell and Jim Fitzpatrick discussed their work on improving the Systemwide Eutrophication Model and making it publically available. Charles Yarish presented work on an eelgrass suitability model and embayment characterization surveys. Clair Gavin of Clean Up Sound & Harbors (CUSH) described the local water quality monitoring program centered around Stonington, CT.

2012 Enhancement Project Development: Mark Tedesco described the Management Committee priorities for the 2012 work plan and budget, including enhancement of water quality monitoring.

- **Action: Jim O'Donnell will chair a subcommittee to develop the proposal for the Management Committee that is due by December 23. The committee will include Kelly Streich, Carmela Cuomo, and John Mullaney.**

Nominating Committee for STAC 2012 CT co-chair: Larry Swanson reminded everyone that the co-chairs serve a two year term. There are no term limits in the by-laws. He proposed a nominating committee of himself and Darcy Lonsdale for the CT STAC co-chair, whose election will be held at the February 10 meeting. Carmela Cuomo stated that she is willing to serve as co-chair for another term.

- **Action: STAC members should forward nominations for CT co-chair to either Larry or Darcy.**

STAC Membership and 2012 Meeting Schedule: Carmela reviewed the currently scheduled meeting dates for 2012 – February 10, June 15, and November 16. She suggested the STAC meet four times a year instead of three to be able to fulfill its mission and the STAC agreed. She also encouraged members to consider nominating others to the STAC, considering gaps in both disciplines and institutions.

- **Action: An additional STAC meeting will be scheduled. The meeting February 10 and November 16 meetings will stay the same. The June 15 meeting will be broken into a May and July/August meeting. STAC members should forward nominations STAC membership to Larry, Carmela, Mark Tedesco, and Jim Latimer. The membership committee will also evaluate attendance and recommend adjustments.**

Synthesis Book Update: Jim Latimer reviewed the status of the synthesis book, highlighting that four chapters have been completed, two (pollution sources, ecology and biological oceanography) are still in process, and the management chapter has been drafted but is awaiting the remaining two technical chapters for completion. Jim highlighted again that he is working with authors of overdue chapters to have them submitted by the end of the year.

Future STAC Agenda items: Carmela reviewed possible topics for the next meeting. They included discussion of the integrated priorities from the synthesis book, development of the 2012 research RFP priorities, selection of the CT co-chair, presentations from PIs of the 2008 and 2010 research RFPs.

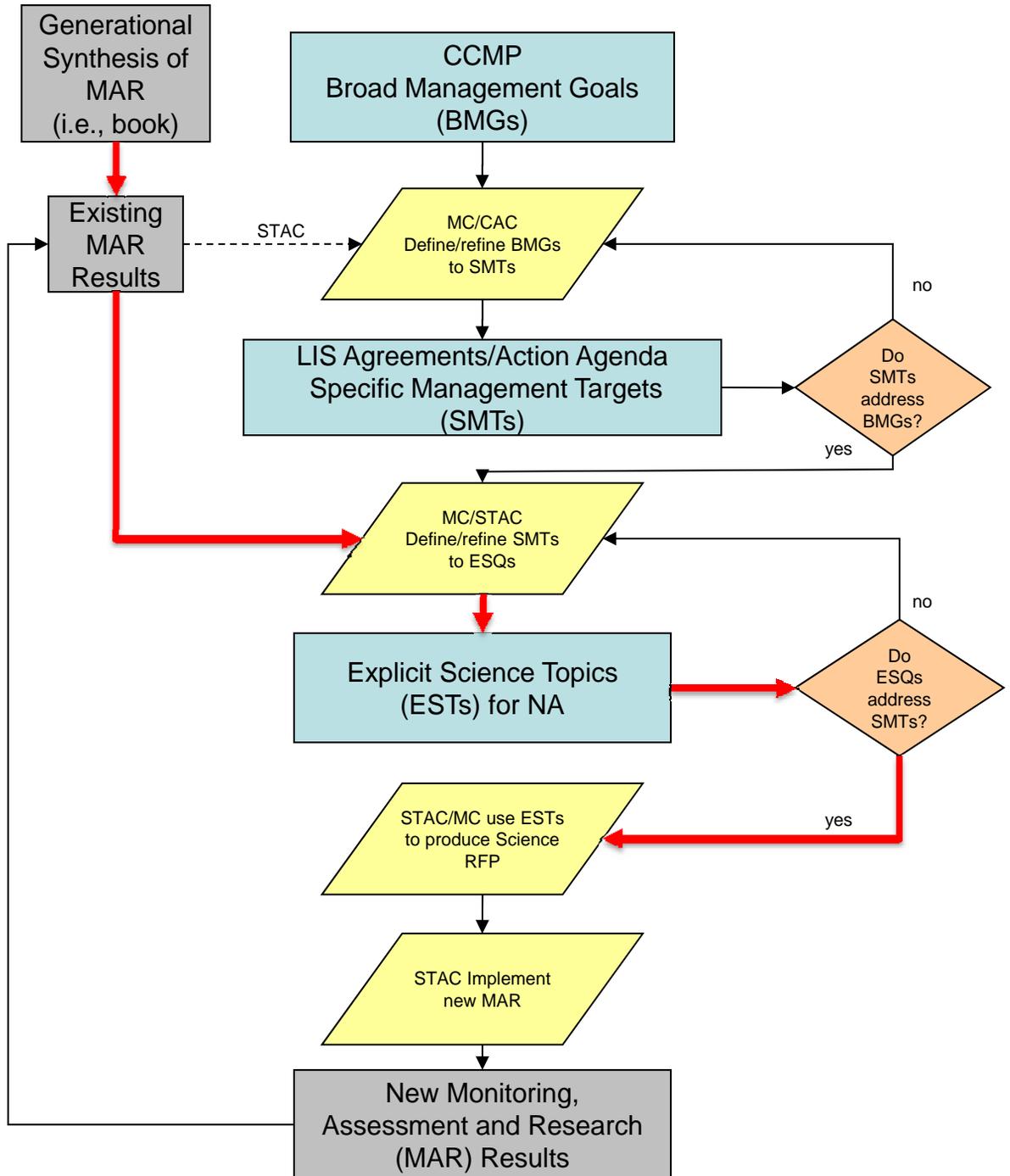
LISS STAC Meeting

November 18, 2001

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Mark Tedesco	EPA LIS office
Jim Latimer	EPA ORD
GARY H. WIKFORS	NOAA FISHERIES
Nancy Seligson	LISS CPC, Town of Mamaroneck
Julie Rose	NOAA
Suzanne Paton	USFWS - SNEP - Coastal
JAMES O'DONNELL	james.odonnell@uconn.edu
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Joop Oorekamp	Woods Hole Univ. / CTE
Mickey Weiss	Project Oceanology
Heri Groot	H Sound State Goldens
Jim FITZPATRICK	HDR HydroQual
Kelly Streich	CTDEEP WPLR
Penny Howell	CT Marine Fisheries Division
Daruy Lonstale	SOMAS SBU
Charlie Yunk	UConn
Cornelia Sahlstrak	NY Sea Grant
Kathryn Burchenal	CUSH, Stonington
Claire Gavin	CUSH, Stonington
Camela Cuomo	UNH, CTCO-chair

Proposed Refinement of LISS Science Process

Towards an Enhanced Management-Science Cooperative



Acronyms:

MAR: Monitoring, Assessment, Research

NA: Needs Assessment

BMGs: Broad Management Goals

SMTs: Specific Management Targets

ESQ: Explicit Science Topics

STAC: Science and Technical Advisory Committee

Timeline and Tasks

- **November 18 STAC meeting: Discuss and initiate process**
- **November – February: STAC Co-chairs and LISS flesh out preliminary Science Topics based on**
 - (1) synthesis book content**
 - (2) priorities from LISS Action Agenda**
 - (3) other (workgroups)?**
- **Present and discuss at February 10, 2012 STAC meeting**
- **February – April: LISS/SG Prepare rfp**
- **May 2012: Rfp released**
- **June 2012: Pre-proposals due**
- **June – August: LISS/SG pre-proposal review**
- **August 2012: full proposal notification**
- **October 2012: full proposals due to SG**
- **October – November: LISS/SG proposal review**
- **December 2012: award notification**
- **March 2013: year 1 funding begins**
- **March 2014: year 2 funding begins**