

**Long Island Sound Study  
Management Committee Meeting Summary  
UConn Stamford  
January 28, 2010**

Due to inclement weather, the meeting was delayed for 1.5 hours. Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 11:30am, indicating that there would be a 15 minute adjournment for lunch, after which the meeting would resume during lunch. Tedesco called for introductions and any changes to the agenda; as there were no changes, he proceeded as follows.

**CAC Report.** Nancy Seligson and Curt Johnson reported on results of the December 10, 2009 CAC meeting. The CAC had conducted an extensive priority setting scheme that led to its letter of September 28, 2009 to the Management Committee. That letter was used to help inform the 2010 priority-setting process at the October Management Committee meeting. Seligson indicated that the Management Committee considered the proposal, altered it and developed its priorities based on it. Seligson reminded the Committee to use the results of the October Management Committee in today's meeting and moving forward. She reported that CAC members had been meeting with Congressional representatives who insisted that they want to see specific on the ground implementation efforts with the additional LISS funding. Also, the CAC co-chairs distributed a paper on the CAC's common position that LISS budgeting not be used to backfill agency positions. In addition, the CAC policy sub-committee, represented by Maureen Dolan-Murphy, wrote another letter dated January 28, 2010 that Seligson distributed and read aloud at the meeting. The letter reiterated the CAC's advice on priorities (see attached).

**STAC Report.** Dr. Charles Yarish deferred a report due to the time constraints as a result of the delayed start.

**LISS 2010 Budget Briefs.** Mark Tedesco introduced this topic by reviewing the process by which the LISS 2010 budget proposals had been developed. The process actually begins annually with the April budget decision meeting. After that meeting, LISS partners are directed to submit their grant applications and work plans that describe the work, tasks, activities, environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved with the funds provided. LISS work groups and teams are asked in June to submit work plans that identify FY09 funded tasks, incorporating new or revised activities. These revised work plans also identify any new or expanded activities for funding consideration in the next budget process. Work plans are submitted by September annually. At the July Management Committee meeting, the work groups and teams brief the members on progress in implementing their work plans, and any potential new or next steps that might be necessary in the coming year. These needs are incorporated into an updated LISS Needs Assessment and presented at the October Management Committee meeting. The STAC and CAC also participate by considering progress in CCMP implementation and making recommendations on priorities to the Management Committee. The Committee considers all ongoing base program work and prior years' efforts that are continuing to be addressed. The purpose of today's briefing is to review only the new or expanded requests for base program support, not to directly discuss ongoing base program activities. Tedesco then opened the floor for 10 minute briefs by agency representatives.

Joe Salata, Rob Hust, Karen Chytalo, Jim Ammerman, Sylvain DeGuise, Pete Sattler, Gary Wikfors, Sharon Marino, Beth Card, and Lynne Dwyer briefly spoke to any new or expanded requests for the base program budget for their organizations. These requests were summarized and distributed at the meeting (see attached). The overall request is more than \$4.0 million over the confirmed budget of \$7.8 million. The Management Committee had a number of questions on each of the individual proposals that each of the presenters addressed. Mark Tedesco was asked if the I-team tried to see where each of the tasks fell into the CAC-developed pie chart. He answered that they didn't because a large portion is going to LISFF and it would be impossible to know where the LISFF proposals would fall. Several new projects were suggested by members, including a public information and education program for the upper watershed states, a social science research program, and an ecological database for the stewardship initiative. Eleven new projects were suggested by members: 1) NEWIPCC to coordinate with MA on upstream outreach; 2) Research RFP on social and natural science interface; 3) Identifying/mapping public/commercial/other use areas of the Sound; 4) Stewardship inventory work, \$10k proposal; 5) science director; 6) Synthesis report; 7) Bio-extraction/ near-shore focus/ economic role; 8) additional LIS/regional workshop topics; 9) SWEM modeling to support TMDL; 10) assessing habitat restoration effectiveness (monitoring); and 11) additional public attitude survey, \$95k.

Mark Tedesco asked that LISS budget proposals be developed and submitted by the initiating organizations – MASSDEP, CT Sea Grant, and the stewardship initiative work group. The Implementation Team will meet in February and again in March to review the proposals and develop a balanced budget for consideration by the Committee at its April 15, 2010 meeting. Federal grant applications will then be due for EPA Regional Administrator approval by June 1, 2010, with awards to be made on or before October 1, 2010. The National Estuary Program work plan summarizing all EPA grants and work plan tasks is due to Headquarters also on June 1, 2010.

### **2010 LIS Future Fund RFP**

Mark Tedesco presented proposed changes to the LIS Futures Fund Request for Proposals and placement of funding for acquisitions by distributing a one-page fact sheet summarizing the changes and recommendations (see attached). Tedesco asked for discussion on the proposed changes. Members expressed concerns over the amount of staff time to review Futures Fund proposals, emphasized the need to focus the projects on implementation versus planning, and the appropriate funding cap for funding categories, including public information and education projects. The Management Committee agreed that the RFP should emphasize implementation, consistent with the strategic priorities previously identified. In the interests of time, Mark Tedesco proposed formation of a small group to review the RFP and make final recommendations considering the concerns expressed. Tedesco, Nancy Seligson, Virginia DeLima, Karen Chytalo, Mark Parker, and Johanna Hunter agreed to serve on the group. It was agreed that the team would evaluate the eligible categories in the RFP, considering the Management Committee FY2010 priorities for its October meeting and the CAC letter on LISS priorities. It was also agreed that the RFP and support workshops should clearly emphasize implementation. Finally, it was also agreed that at the end of the review process, NFWF would forward to the Management Committee for review and endorsement the list of projects proposed

for funding, including background information on the number of proposals submitted, advisory review team ranking of each proposal, and the general category of proposals recommended for funding. The LISFF RFP is due out in two weeks.

Tedesco then raised the question of funding for potential stewardship acquisitions. In FY2008 acquisition funding was placed with CTDEP and NYSDEC; Connecticut was able to acquire a parcel at Barn Island Wildlife Management Area. New York had problems in obligating funds for acquisitions. Considering this, in FY2009, funds were awarded to CTDEP to support acquisitions, but not to New York. The 2010 budget proposal is to place funds for acquisitions with the Futures Fund. Because of the continuing budget issues in New York, Karen Chytalo recommended that funding not be provided to NYSDEC and supported inclusion of acquisition funding in the Futures Fund RFP at least for New York. It was also agreed to include CTDEP as an avenue for funding acquisitions in Connecticut as well as the Futures Fund.

**Policy Committee Proposal.** A proposal to form a policy committee representative group was circulated with the meeting agenda. This proposal was raised at the October Management Committee meeting. The rationale for this proposal is that the policy committee meets very infrequently, only when major issues are to be decided or new agreement to be signed or endorsed. NYSDEC had developed the proposal from discussions at a bi-state meeting on October 16, 2009. The proposal was circulated and Mark Tedesco asked for discussion. Several members expressed concerns about the limited composition of the group, whether STAC or CAC should be represented, and how this group would relate to the Management Committee. Tedesco proposed that the group be limited to representatives of the policy committee only, that is, CTDEP, NYSDEC, and EPA Regional Administrators 1 and 2. This group could meet at any time to consider issues related to the LISS and to provide Policy Committee-level direction to the Management Committee. Discussion will continue.

**Updates/Announcements.** Paul Stacey announced that a draft climate change adaptation plan was on the CTDEP website for review and that the Connecticut water quality standards proposed revisions for dissolved oxygen were also open for public comment on the website: [http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/browse.asp?a=2586&depNav\\_GID=1511](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/browse.asp?a=2586&depNav_GID=1511). Written comments are due by February 15, 2010. Stacey also indicated that CTDEP had received the 2009 New England Water Environment Association's Founders Award for its Nitrogen Credit Exchange Program for "*notable achievements or accomplishments in the environmental field.*"

Clair Whittet announced that NEIWPC is holding its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference in Plymouth, Massachusetts from May 17-19, 2010 and to check their website for registration and other information: <http://www.neiwpc.org/npsconference>.

**Public Comments.** Mark Tedesco opened the floor to public comments, recognizing Roger Frate of Darien Seafood. Mr. Frate said that there were only about 30-40 lobster fishermen left, most were out of business. He believes lobsters are migrating back to the western end of the sound from Groton, and that these lobsters are healthy – they are catching 300-400 pounds per day. He attributed the improvement to governments cutting back on funding for pesticide applications for West Nile virus. He appealed to the group to use BTI instead of the other pesticide options for mosquitoes. Tedesco thanked Mr. Frate for his comments and recognized

Art Glowka. Mr. Glowka said that nothing had improved in the Sound in 22 years and that there is a lack of Menhaden in the Sound. Tedesco thanked Mr. Glowka for his comments. There being no further business, Tedesco adjourned the meeting. The next Management Committee meeting is Thursday, April 15, 2010 at UConn Stamford.

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# CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OF THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY

www.longislandsoundstudy.net

January 28, 2010

Mark Tedesco, Chair  
Long Island Sound Study Management Committee  
EPA Long Island Sound Office  
Stamford Government Center  
888 Washington Blvd. Suite 6-5  
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

## Re: Long Island Sound 2011 Priorities and Budget

Dear Mark,

As the Management Committee of the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) commences its 2011 budget process, we are writing on behalf of the Policy Committee of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to strongly reaffirm our support for the priorities endorsed in our September 28, 2009, letter to you and revised by the Management Committee at its October 2009 retreat (see attachments). These documents reflect priorities identified by LISS agency partners in both New York and Connecticut, and they have the full support of the members of the CAC.

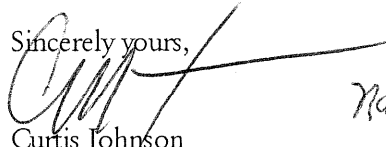
This is a critical year for the Long Island Sound Study. The increase to \$7.8 million in federal funding that the program has received brings with it both opportunities and challenges for our combined efforts. With this additional funding, the LISS now has the resources to advance existing programs and priorities, and embark on selected new priorities – all focused on achieving tangible restoration outcomes for Long Island Sound (LIS). This focus on achieving tangible restoration outcomes is especially important this year because with the increased level of federal funding comes an increased level of federal accountability for our programs and progress.


This is also a difficult budget year when our state agency partners are facing tremendous funding challenges. The CAC recognizes that this may create great pressure for the Management Committee to utilize its new resources to support traditional state agency staff positions and projects. While we all agree that the work of our state agency partners is invaluable to the LISS, we urge you to avoid committing new and hard-won federal resources to these purposes. Our focus must remain on demonstrating to our federal funders sufficient progress toward our common goals to justify continued future funding for the LISS.

We offer this communication in keeping with the CAC's mission to provide ongoing advice and critical guidance to the federal, state, and local government partners of the Management Conference in their efforts to implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the restoration and protection of Long Island Sound. As advocates for the LISS, the CAC looks forward to a period of revitalization and reinvigoration for both the CAC and the LISS. We believe, however, that any new funding must be invested in actions that will lead to tangible results in restoring the health of LI Sound. Such beneficial results are themselves the greatest argument that we can give to our elected officials for continuing to fund LIS programs in the future.

Thank you for your dedication and support of the restoration and protection of Long Island Sound.

Sincerely yours,

  
Curtis Johnson  
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Nancy Seligson  
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cc: Mr. Curt Spalding, Regional Administrator, USEPA, Region 1  
Ms. Judith Enck, USEPA, Region 2  
Ms. Amey Marella, Commissioner, CT DEP  
Mr. Pete Grannis, Commissioner, NYS DEC  
LISS CAC  
LISS Management Committee

**Long Island Sound Study  
FY2010 Budget Proposals  
Explanation of Change for Increases from FY2009  
January 28, 2010**

The Implementation Team met on January 6, 2010 to review the LISS 2010 base program budget request. The budget request is to be based on ongoing LISS priorities as reflected in the CCMP and LIS 2003 Agreement, and as indicated at the October 2009 Management Committee meeting. The LISO provided guidance in development of the request in its November 17, 2009 budget call memo.

The base program budget assumes ongoing support for core LISS-funded staff and activities, including costs for fringe benefits, travel, training, equipment, supplies and agency indirect costs where applicable. Normal increases for inflation, negotiated indirect rates, and personnel costs are assumed in the budget. In addition, LISS funding is allocated for separate competitive funding announcements by LISS partners for Research, Futures Fund and CCMP Enhancements projects, subject to availability of overall EPA appropriations.

The following outlines new, or significant changes compared to the FY2009 agency budgets. The dollar figure in Bold text is the total 2010 agency request.

**1. EPA LISO: \$130,300**

- + \$50,000 to support development of a new database system to replace the current collection methodology to produce the LISS CCMP Implementation Tracking report.
- + \$10,000 to support new video/teleconferencing maintenance contract.

**2. CTDEP: \$2,299,812**

- + \$23,032 for 25% staff coverage for the Sentinel Monitoring and Climate Adaptation projects ongoing from 2009.
- + \$50,000 to account for a change in cost allocation methodology for analytical costs of the water quality sampling program; previously CTDEP provided full costs
- + \$300,000 to support development of computer model of tidal marsh migration; model conservation easements (CEs); appraisals of fair market property values; recording fees; and public outreach/communication tools; and landowner compensation for CEs.
- + \$450,000 for LIS stewardship/land acquisitions. \$300,000 was provided in 2009 and a parcel in Barn Island was acquired. Total CTDEP request for 2010 is \$750,000.

**3. NYSDEC: \$2,417,087**

- + \$100,941 for new NY DMMP coordinator;
- + \$100,842 for new NY GIS coordinator;
- + \$100,000 for sub-watershed plans;
- + \$600,000 for tidal wetlands inventory maps;
- + \$500,000 for coastal erosion hazard area remapping;
- + \$100,000 for natural resources plan;
- + \$750,000 for stewardship/land acquisitions;

**4. CT Sea Grant: \$172,475**

- + \$47,709 for a new beaches/dunes field guide;
- + \$6,585 for a new phytoplankton guide;

**5. NY Sea Grant, (Cornell U) PI&E: \$171,770**

+ \$6,940 for expanding the Mentor Teacher program into New York;

**6. NEIWPC PI&E: \$352,639**

+ \$24,989 for LIS TMDL support staff costs;

**8. USFWS: \$235,832**

No new requests.

**9. LIS Research Program (NY/CT Sea Grants): \$1,051,977**

+\$600,000 for LIS research grant program;

**10. CCMP Enhancements Program (NEIWPC): \$500,000**

+\$175,000 increase from 2009 for priority enhancement areas TBD;

**11. LIS Futures Fund (NFWF): \$3,600,000**

+\$3,015,000 for increases in funding levels/scope of RFP projects; includes funding for LIS stewardship area acquisitions;

+ \$60,000 for technical assistance support to grantees;

**12. Other Project Proposals: \$263,109**

+\$17,613 from IEC for LIS water quality sampling support;

+\$245,496 from Sentinel Monitoring work group to 1) establish a clearinghouse capability to house LIS climate change data; and 2) implement the LIS sentinel monitoring strategy when adopted by the LISS.

**13. NOAA: \$250,000**

No new requests.



**Management Committee  
Key 2010 Priorities  
Integrated List**

Tier	Priorities
1	Nonpoint and storm water management (e.g., LID, green infrastructure, Watershed Approach to NPS & SW management, promote preserving healthy watersheds)
	Action agenda into restructured LIS Agreement (consider EBM, economic analyses, comprehensive integrated approach that looks beyond LIS needs)
	Education & Outreach (400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, sound vision, public perception, survey, social based marketing)
	Nitrogen TMDL (implementation, revision, atmospheric deposition, coordination with upper states and outreach & communication to municipalities and Ag community)
	Climate change adaptation (e.g. continue CRE work-Groton project, incorporate into all work, shoreline hardening)
2	Research directed at management and coupled with outreach (better understanding of primary production for embayments & near-shore environment, hypoxia/nutrients, understanding what causes hypoxia, i.e. not linear with N)
	Habitat restoration (implementation, habitat based management planning in support of stewardship and restoration)
	Bioextraction implementation
	Near shore environment focus (primary production for embayments, management needs, ground water influence of water quality)
	Ecosystem based management (development of ecosystem/nutrient endpoints/goals other than DO)
	Mapping habitat in context of marine spatial planning (shoreline & seafloor mapping)
	Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) bi-state plan adoption & implementation (include terrestrial NS)
	Sentinel monitoring program implementation
	Form policy committee representatives committee
3	SWEM update
	Strengthen integration with other entities to partner & leverage funding
	Support dredged material management program
	Economic analysis of LIS
	Monitoring (Time-series, automated monitoring)
	Focus on near-shore environment (primary productivity & management needs)
	Stewardship implementation (land acquisition, stewardship coordinator)
	Finish what we've started
	Implementation tracking approach for accountability (e.g., Chesapeake Bay system)
	Coordination among executive level of states & advocacy groups to develop consistent message on funding
	Species conservation; focus on increased protection for coastal nesting birds
	Senior Science Director for LISS

## Long Island Sound 2010 Futures Fund

The LIS Futures Fund 2010 RFP is under development. All funding topics were developed based on LISS CCMP priorities by LISS workgroups and staff. With a goal of reviewing and selecting proposals by September 2010, some decisions need to be made now, and not in April, on the RFP.

### Recommended changes from 2009 RFP

1. increase in total funding
2. change in project funding categories and cap
  - a. innovation challenge awards: \$200,00-\$500,000 (new)
  - b. Large Grants
    - i. Implementation awards: \$20,000-\$150,000 (was \$10,000-\$150,000)
    - ii. Planning awards: \$20,000-\$60,000 (new)
    - iii. Education awards: \$20,000-\$35,000 (was \$10,000-\$35,000)
  - c. Small Grants: \$3,000-10,000 (was \$1,000-\$5,000)
3. inclusion of acquisition of open space (e.g. fee simple, conservation easement) as eligible category under Stewardship Initiative

### Needed Decisions

1. inclusion of acquisition of open space (e.g. fee simple, conservation easement) as eligible category under Stewardship
2. change in project funding categories and cap
3. release of RFP in February

### What is not being decided

1. final budget for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation or ultimate level of funding for stewardship acquisition specifically or Future Fund in general.