

**Long Island Sound Study  
Science and Technical Advisory Committee  
Meeting April 8, 2005  
Multi-purpose Room 1.08, UCONN Stamford Campus**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Connecticut co-chair Dr. Charles Yarish. There were 20 attendees (Attachment A).

**1. Introductions, Review of Agenda – Charles Yarish, STAC Co-Chair**

Charles Yarish explained that the thrust of the meeting was to reach agreement on a process to develop STAC priorities for the upcoming LISS budget cycle. The STAC will also discuss the draft mission statement and bylaws.

**2. STAC Fellow Introductions – Charles Yarish, STAC Co-Chair**

Charlie Yarish introduced the CT fellow for this year, Azalea Mitch. Azalea is a master's student at Yale University. The focus of her STAC research project is to update the list of contaminants of concern for LIS. She has been collecting information from numerous databases on metals, organic pollutants, and emerging contaminants.

Larry Swanson introduced the NY fellow for this year, Yan Hao. Yan is a Ph.D. student at SUNY Stony Brook. Her STAC research project involves quantifying the residence time in LIS, information that is important for assessing pollution dispersal and sediment transport. She will develop a numerical model (ROMS + Lagrangian transport model), include particle fraction evolution, and fit the results to an exponential regression to calculate the residence time.

Both Azalea and Yan gave a presentation on their STAC research projects. STAC members provided comments and feedback.

Action: STAC members are encouraged to provide the fellows with any further information to assist them in completing their STAC research products.

**3. Joint STAC /CAC Meeting – Mark Tedesco, EPA –LISO, CAC Liaisons**

CAC Resolution for annual joint STAC/CAC meetings

A joint meeting with CAC and STAC members was held last fall. Mickey Weiss, CAC Liaison, presented a resolution passed by CAC on December 9, 2004 requesting that joint CAC and STAC meetings be held on an annual basis to facilitate communication between the two advisory committees. The New York CAC Co-Chair, Nancy Seligson, was enthusiastic about the prospect of annual meetings and stated that the meetings helped encourage an exchange of ideas between STAC and CAC members.

Charlie Yarish proposed that the STAC consider a resolution for annual joint meetings with the CAC. Discussion regarding the format of the meetings and the goal of the meetings followed. Larry Swanson stated that the communication between the two groups has been poor and that the CAC has the greatest voice for LIS. He proposed a motion that the STAC and CAC hold an annual joint meeting. Carmela Cuomo seconded the motion. Charlie Yarish called for a vote. There were 10 votes in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstention. The motion carried to hold joint meetings of the STAC and CAC on an annual basis.

Broadwater LNG Proposal

Nancy Seligson said that the last two CAC meetings have focused on discussing the Broadwater proposal for the LNG project. She said that within the CAC, individual organizations have taken a position on this issue, but that the CAC has yet to take an official position. Larry Swanson stated that representatives from Broadwater have been invited to make a presentation to the STAC at the June meeting.

#### **4. STAC Mission and By-laws – Jane MacLellan, USFWS-LISO**

Jane MacLellan opened the discussion regarding the proposed STAC mission statement and by-laws (Attachment B). Discussion followed regarding the roles and responsibilities of the STAC, its membership and officers, and STAC meetings. The STAC members agreed to an election process for the CT and NY co-chairs, with each co-chair serving a 3 year term. Agreement was also reached on limiting the number of STAC members to 40 (current membership is at 32, plus two CAC liaisons), meeting attendance requirements, and voting processes.

The possibility of the STAC taking positions on issues was discussed. Members agreed that the role of the STAC is to advocate on science issues, not by taking policy positions.

The mission statement and bylaws will be revised based on these comments, distributed to the STAC, and a vote to adopt them will be held at the June meeting.

#### **5. 2006 STAC Priorities – Jane MacLellan, USFWS-LISO**

The purpose of the Research, Monitoring & Assessment Needs Inventory is to develop priorities for improved management of LIS. STAC priorities need to be presented to the Management Committee in July and the 2006 Research Grant Program RFP will be released this summer. Jane MacLellan gave examples of priority-setting processes used by the Charlotte Harbor NEP, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and in the Gulf of Maine (Attachment C). Discussion followed regarding a process by which the STAC could identify priorities. STAC members agreed that key elements of this process should include involving the full membership of the STAC to ensure a broad range of expertise, focusing on research priorities for the 2005 Research Grant RFP, and developing short- and long-term goals. STAC members agreed that they would focus on priorities within six broad categories: hypoxia; toxic contamination; pathogen contamination; living resources and habitat; land use and development; and climate change. The following individuals agreed to lead each section: hypoxia – Carmela Cuomo; toxic contamination – Paul Stacey; living resources and habitat – Ron Rozsa; land use and development – John Mullaney; and climate change – Carmela Cuomo. Larry Swanson and Jim Latimer volunteered to help with the hypoxia section. Jim Latimer also agreed to assist on the living resources and habitat section. Ron Rozsa and Milan Keser offered to help work on the climate change section. For each section, STAC members will identify research needs within the following categories: What is the problem? What are its causes and consequences? What are the management options? Jane MacLellan will schedule a conference call to discuss next steps in this process with those who volunteered and will email the full STAC to invite additional members to participate. [Note: A conference call was held on April 14, 2005 and an email inviting all STAC members to participate in the process was sent on April 14, 2005.]

#### **6. 2005 LISS Budget Process - Mark Tedesco, EPA –LISO**

Mark Tedesco summarized the LISS budget process that was used for 2005. He said that a comprehensive list of program needs and funding sources was developed last year. The priority items identified by the Management Committee were included in the base program announcement and the 2005 Enhancement Projects RFP. The Management Committee will make funding decisions on the base program and the enhancement projects at its April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 2:40 p.m.

NOTE: Complete versions of STAC meeting minutes, including any attachments, are available from the EPA – Long Island Sound Office.