

**Long Island Sound Study  
Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
Friday, March 24, 2006  
Room 401, Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook University**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by New York co-chair Dr. Larry Swanson. There were 30 attendees (Attachment A).

**1. Introductions and Review of Agenda**

Attendees introduced themselves and Larry Swanson gave a brief overview of the agenda (Attachment B) and asked for any additions or changes.

**2. 2006 Long Island Sound Study Budget Decisions**

Mark Tedesco distributed a handout outlining the 2006 Long Island Sound Study (LISS) budget (Attachment C). The LISS received no infrastructure funds in FY2006, but did receive approximately \$2.7 million from the President's Budget, a congressional earmark, and the National Estuary Program (NEP) share for program funds. Budget allocations were agreed upon at the January Management Committee meeting. Highlights from the 2006 LISS budget include \$300,000 for the Long Island Sound Research Grant Program, \$439,000 for the Enhancements Request for Proposals (RFP), \$535,000 for the LIS Futures Fund, and \$110,000 for a study of PCBs in fish tissue. Core investments will also be maintained, such as coordination and education staffing, LIS water quality monitoring, Sound Health 2008, and the LIS fellows.

Anne McElroy expressed his concern over the topics listed in the Enhancements RFP, saying that they were too applied and did not provide opportunities for conducting basic research. She also asked whether the purpose of selecting such topics was to target specific groups. Mark Tedesco replied that the RFP was an open, competitive process that did not target specific groups. The enhancement topics addressed needs identified by LISS workgroups and committees, including the STAC, and reflected the goals of the program, which focus on management of LIS. He emphasized that the Enhancement RFP is not intended to duplicate the Research RFP, and instead focuses on very specific program needs. Mark described the increasing scrutiny that agency programs are undergoing and explained that it was important for the LISS to focus on management-related outcomes. Joe Salata mentioned the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process by which federal agency programs are being evaluated. Charlie Yarish asked that information on the PART process be provided to the STAC to help them understand what the agency encounters. [Note: Information on PART is available at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/part](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/part) and at [www.expectmore.gov](http://www.expectmore.gov).]

Because of the premium placed on demonstrating results, Mark Tedesco asked the STAC for recommendations regarding the best ways to communicate findings from the projects funded by the LISS. Roman Zajac suggested that reports include research funded by the program and research occurring around the Sound, regardless of the funding source. Sylvain DeGuise added that CT Sea Grant documents not only outcomes, but impacts as well.

### **3. 2005 Long Island Sound Research Grant Program**

Jane MacLellan announced that 15 pre-proposals were received in response to the September 2005 LIS Research Grant RFP. One proposal was deemed ineligible, and the 14 remaining proposals were subject to a relevancy review. Based on the relevancy review, six full proposals were invited. The review team met on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the full proposals, which were subject to external peer review. Announcements of those projects selected for funding will be made by March 31, 2006. Approximately \$400,000 is available for funding.

### **4. 2004-2005 STAC Fellow Projects**

#### *Contaminants of Concern Update*

The final version of “Toxic Contamination in Long Island Sound: 2006 Update” was circulated to the STAC via email in advance of the meeting. Larry Swanson asked the STAC if there were any comments on the revised version. STAC members stated that the report was greatly improved and expressed appreciation for Azalea Mitch’s efforts to revise and complete the report. Mark Tedesco asked if STAC members had recommendations for the LISS regarding changes to the contaminants of concern list based on this report. Recommendations regarding changes or additions to the list of contaminants of concern should be emailed to Jane by April 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### *Long Island Sound Residence Time Report*

The final version of the LIS Residence Time Report, prepared by Yan Hao, was included in the STAC meeting packet. Robert Wilson, Yan’s advisor, commented on the report, saying that it makes a contribution in defining 3-dimensional patterns and that it will be submitted to a journal for publication. Carmela Cuomo suggested that all STAC fellows generating original data should publish their work in a peer-reviewed journal. Larry Swanson suggested that those fellows working on other projects should publish in the form of an open-file report.

Jane MacLellan announced that the 2006-2007 STAC Fellowship applications are due on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Current fellows, Christine O’Connell and Kari Heinonen, gave brief updates on the progress of their independent projects. Draft reports on their projects will be circulated to the STAC for review in May or June.

### **5. Development of Models for Nitrogen Load & Ecosystem Response in Southern New England Estuaries**

Jim Latimer of EPA’s Office of Research and Development gave a presentation on work being conducted through his office that is applicable to shallow embayments in LIS (Attachment D). The goal of this effort is to provide tools or approaches to aid in the development of effects-based nitrogen criteria for estuaries.

### **6. Joint STAC/CAC Meeting**

Nancy Seligson informed the STAC that the LISS Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) discussed potential agenda items for the joint STAC/CAC spoke at their last meeting. The CAC is interested in discussing the Broadwater environmental impact statement, climate change and its effect on LIS, the proposed LIS synthesis and why it’s important, and LISS funding priorities and how they can best reflect the combined interests of the CAC and the STAC. Larry Swanson asked the STAC for additional suggestions regarding agenda items. Charlie Yarish said that the

STAC and CAC co-chairs would work together to develop the agenda. The joint STAC/CAC meeting will be held in Connecticut on June 16<sup>th</sup>. [Note: The joint STAC/CAC meeting will be held at the Bridgeport Aquaculture School in Bridgeport, CT.]

### **7. Public Comments**

Art Glowka expressed concern over the lobster catch in LIS and suggested that the lines on the lobster pots be used as living experiments. He informed the STAC that he is asking the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of the LISS, similar to the recently-completed review of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

### **8. Long Island Sound Data Synthesis**

The STAC Steering Committee developed a general outline for a LIS synthesis publication, which was included in the STAC meeting packet. The Steering Committee suggested this concept as a follow up to Milan Keser's presentation at the November 2005 STAC meeting. Larry Swanson asked the STAC for comments on the proposed outline and opened the floor for discussion. Mark Tedesco asked Stuart Findlay to discuss his experiences in developing a synthesis book on the Hudson River. Stuart described the process used for that book and said that the effort included workshops to gather experts and assess the status of the science. Bill Wise suggested the document interpret data and integrate both basic research and applied research. Discussion focused on the audience for a synthesis publication, and there was agreement that the publication should be geared toward a technical audience. Carmela Cuomo suggested a synthesis volume that pulls all the science together, with a volume dedicated to the scientific community and a public document. Charlie Yarish suggested a book of selected papers that provide critical information on LIS. Discussion followed regarding the appropriate format for the synthesis and potential funding mechanisms. The STAC Steering Committee will take the lead on developing a proposal for the synthesis and further discussion will be held at the joint STAC/CAC meeting. STAC members interested in participating in the development of the proposal should contact Jane.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.