



A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

Long Island Sound Study Executive Steering Committee (ESC)
March 19, 2012 Meeting

Attendees (committee members in bold): NYSDEC: **Jim Tierney**, Lorraine Holdridge, Dawn McReynolds, Sarah Deonarine, CTDEEP: **Betsey Wingfield**, Brian Thompson, Robert Hust, Corinne Fitting, Kevin O'Brien, Mark Parker, EPA R1: **Stephen Perkins**, Lynne Hamjian, Leah O'Neill, EPA R2: **John Filippelli**, Jeff Gratz, EPA LISO: Mark Tedesco, CAC: Nancy Seligson

Agenda Actions

Sound Cable Fund Steering Committee

1. Brian Thompson gave an overview of work by Sound Cable Fund Steering Committee, established by the LISS Policy Committee to recommend uses of settlement funds, and presented its recommendations on initiating seafloor mapping in 2012 through a NOAA-University partnership. The ESC endorsed the recommendations of the Sound Cable Fund Steering Committee to proceed with expending funds in 2012 on seafloor mapping of pilot area of Long Island Sound. **Action: The Sound Cable Fund Steering Committee will forward a package to the Policy Committee for formal approval, with the Commissioners of CTDEEP and NYSDEC having final decision on use of the funds.**
 - a. Mark Tedesco and Brian Thompson introduced the idea of holding a press event to announce the seafloor mapping partnership and initiation of data collection. The EPA vessel *Bold* could be used to host the event in New London on July 19. Stephen Perkins noted that there should be close coordination with NOAA staff to gauge their level of interest in an event and whether they would want to use the NOAA vessel *Thomas Jefferson* for the event. Both Stephen and John Filippelli supported Mamaroneck, New York as a possible location for the event close to main New York media market. Jim Tierney agreed that a press release was a good idea, but noted that the announcement may not warrant high level state participation in an event. **Action: The ESC supported the general concept and the Sound Cable Fund Steering Committee will develop options for timing, locating, and holding the event.**

2012 Work Plan and Budget

1. Mark Tedesco presented the base and base-plus budget proposals and outlined the Implementation Team's recommendations on funding that left \$275,989 remaining to be allocated. Jim Tierney recommended that \$75,000 of the unallocated share be added to the coastal erosion hazard mapping proposal, which was followed by discussion of the proposal. **Action: The ESC supported the general budget allocations as developed by the Implementation Team. Of the \$253,194 in unallocated funds, it was recommended that \$75,000 be added to the coastal erosion hazard mapping proposal and the remainder, \$178,194 be added to the Futures Fund for implementation projects. The ESC also agreed that NYSDEC should revise the coastal**

erosion hazard mapping proposal to more clearly link the regulatory tools that would be applied to the mapping products.

EPA Region 2 Fill Policy

1. The ESC discussed the EPA Region 2 fill policy. **Action: NYSDEC will follow up with Region 2 to discuss the policy, its implications, and guidance on its application. EPA Region 1 will complete internal briefings and discussion and coordinate with Region 2 regarding the policy.**

Future ESC Agenda Items

1. The use of EPA LISS funds to support state regulatory tools is a direction that ESC agreed could have implications for future budgets. A clear policy on how this should be handled in the future should be established. The LIS Synthesis book will be completed and published in 2012. The ESC should discuss the major conclusions that relate to management and that have implications for considering the direction of the CCMP revision in 2014. **Action: Both of these topics will be on the agenda for the next ESC meeting to be held sometime in summer 2012.**