

Management Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, April 15, 2021
Meeting conducted remotely due to COVID-19



Attendees:

Mark Tedesco, EPA LISO
Cayla Sullivan, EPA LISO
Esther Nelson, EPA LISO
Mel Coté, EPA R1
Leah O'Neill, EPA R1
Bessie Wright, EPA R1
MaryJo Feurbach, EPA R1
Richard Balla, EPA R2
Nancy Seligson, CAC/NY
Holly Drinkuth, CAC/CT
Erik Bedan, CTDEEP
Brian Thompson, CTDEEP
Kelly Streich, CTDEEP
Jennifer Perry, CTDEEP
Kathleen Knight, CTDEEP
Mark Parker, CTDEEP
Kevin O'Brien, CTDEEP
Evelyn Powers, IEC

Casey Personius, NYSDEC
Cassandra Bauer, NYSDEC
Sue Van Patten, NYSDEC
Dawn McReynolds, NYSDEC
Koon Tang, NYSDEC
Victoria O'Neill,
NYSDEC/NEIWPC
Kristin Kraseski,
NYSDEC/NEIWPC
Matthew Maraglio, NYSDOS
Richard Friesner, NEIWPC
Jim Ammerman, LISS/NEIWPC
Robert Burg, NEWIPCC
Susan Sullivan, NEIWPC
Gary Wikfors, NOAA
David Lipsky, NYCDEP
Danielle Alexander, NYCDEP
Rebecca Shuford, NYSG

Jimena Perez-Viscasillas,
LISS/NYSG
Kathy Bunting-Howarth, NYSG
Sylvain De Guise, CTSG
Nancy Balcom, CTSG
Judy Preston, LISS/CTSG
Tracy Brown, Save the Sound
James O'Donnell, UConn
Todd Randall, USACE
Suzanne Paton, USFWS
Nancy Ferlow, USDA-NRCS
Thomas Morgart, NRCS
Jonathan Morrison, USGS
Jeff Barbaro, USGS
Paul Stacey, Footprints in the
Water LLC

Introduction:

Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00am in the Microsoft Teams Meeting. He outlined the meeting agenda to discuss the FY2021 budget overview and work plan development, including review of the enhancement package recommendations from the two day Implementation Team (I-Team) (held March 18 and 19), and FY2022 work plan and budget approaches. The goal of the meeting was to approve the recommendations made by the I-Team. The January 21, 2021 meeting notes were approved and there were no changes to the proposed agenda. Mark acknowledged that this will be Koon Tang's last Management Committee (MC) meeting as he is retiring, and thanked him for his membership and contributions. He also acknowledged Dr. Charles Yarish's contributions to LISS STAC as a former co-chair and active member, and proposed to send a letter of gratitude to him on behalf of the LISS MC. The LISS MC motioned the letter via thumbs up in meeting chat.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Update provided by Nancy Seligson and Holly Drinkuth:

- Nancy Seligson & Holly Drinkuth: CAC met online on March 11, 2021 to develop priorities by reviewing previously distributed surveys and break-out discussions. As a result, the CAC wrote a letter, distributed by Mark Tedesco to the MC (see attached), regarding these identified priorities. The letter includes the CAC's interest in focusing on the cross-cutting issues: Environmental Justice (EJ), climate change, and sustainability. Additionally, the letter supports the EJ needs assessment, tracking and reporting efforts – specifically in a way that is accessible to everyone, and successfully engaging with municipalities through a sound-wide social marketing campaign via the 5-year strategic communications plan (i.e., interviews, earned media – emphasizing interactions). The CAC also encourages communication as a cross-cutting issue to ensure the public knows what the LISS investments are, and how the current projects tie to previously funded projects. The letter supports incentivizing multiple group cooperation to maximize opportunities, analyzing and communicating existing research to direct implementation actions, and focusing on pathogens research and monitoring. For FY2022, CAC is asking for \$40 million from Congress.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Update provided by Jim Ammerman and Jim O'Donnell:

- Jim Ammerman: STAC met online on February 19, 2021 to focus on LISS modeling efforts. Presentations included a wind power project, hypoxia research (in relation to nutrient management and volume vs. area), the new integrated modeling effort, and various agencies' modeling overviews (USGS, CTDEEP). NYSDEC was also supposed to present but ran out of time and will present next STAC meeting.
- Jim O'Donnell: Noted that hypoxia has declined, which is most likely due to the improvements in Wastewater Treatment Plants. Asked if this can be additionally validated or sustained, and what are the next steps.

FY 2021 Budget Overview – Leah O'Neill

- Leah O'Neill: Presented on the budget overview: LISS FY21 funding allocation is \$31.1 million (CWA §320 - \$700,000 and CWA §119 – \$30.4 million), which is a \$9.5 million increase from FY20. The base program budget commitment is at \$15.5 million, including an increase to LISFF and LIS Research Program, which leaves \$15.5 million to the enhancement budget. Highlighted that the LISO plans on increasing its staff this upcoming fiscal year including one permanent staff and one technical ORISE fellow. Emphasized that the goal today is not to determine exact dollar amounts, but to agree on a tiered approach of recommendations by identifying priorities. Highlighted that LISS has an aggregate statutory match to help support the program, which includes two statutory authorities that have different match requirements (CWA §320 requires 50% of the **total** award to be match for implementation and 5% for outreach and education, and CWA §119 requires 40% of the **total** award to be match). She emphasized that funds cannot be awarded until LISS can show more than sufficient match to support the program. The distributed base budget chart provides an estimate to cover the base budget, which is \$1.5 million in overmatch. Furthermore, match will be a consideration when approving the recommendations for the enhancement package. Additionally, she noted that the funds for EPA staffing or other federal agencies does not need to be matched.
 - Koon Tang: Asked how LISS arrived at the \$1.5 million match number.
 - Leah O'Neill: Responded that the estimated overmatch assumed most of the work would require 40% match (however a small portion would require 5% as it is education and outreach). The overmatch would cover NEIWPC as they cannot provide match, and the LIS Research Program has not required applicants to fully meet the required match. Final estimates of overmatch needed to “subsidize” projects with undermatch will be distributed to the states following the meeting along with a chart of final recommendations and directions to all funding recipients on submitting formal applications. She emphasized that some grantees can start working on their final work plans after this meeting as grantees will need to submit their final work plans and match commitments to www.grants.gov by June 1. LISO needs to combine aggregate match for the program so awards can be awarded before October 1.
 - Sylvain DeGuise: Noted that last research competition had a requirement that match equal 50% of the federal request (or 33% of the total project cost provided by match compared to the requirement that 40% of the total project cost be provided by match), and the match requirement can be increased to support the program. However, if it is not needed that would be preferred to ease burdens on researchers.
 - Jim O'Donnell: Emphasized that the indirect rate that is charged is federally negotiated and most institutions will meet the match that is required, but smaller institutions/NGOs may not meet the match.

FY 2021 Work Plan Development – Mark Tedesco

- Mark Tedesco: Noted that the FY2021 funding level resulted in a large amount available for enhancement proposals (and many proposals requiring review). He proposed that the MC at its next meeting discuss modifications to the FY2022 work plan and budget process and identifying clear strategies and priorities from work groups. He then highlighted items in the distributed FY2021 enhancement package including the page 3 background on overall process and page 5 recommendations made by the two-day I-Team meeting. More specifically, the table on page 5 includes the proposal number and associated color that was determined by the initial review process (green = fund, yellow = warrants further discussion, red = not fund at this time) in the first column, while the column titled March I-Team Recommendation is what came out of the meeting. The I-Team recommendations for projects to fund total \$13.8 million. This leaves \$1.6 million still available to support the \$2.75 million in proposals identified for further discussion. He emphasized that there were three areas the I-Team identified to further develop a clearer strategic direction: 1) pathogen contamination monitoring and management, 2) harmful algal blooms, and 3) open science, including data sharing, integration and management.
 - Jim O'Donnell: Proposed to develop an RFP through the LIS Research Program to address pathogens and/or HABs as this is a technical science issue.
 - Sylvain DeGuise: Suggested that if the LIS Research Program was to develop an RFP to address pathogens, then should receive guidance from LISS on the exact priorities and issues that should be addressed (e.g., linking the advancement of science for identifying pathogens with the ongoing management and regulations).
 - Koon Tang: Noted that NYSDEC, with USGS, tried to better track sources of bacteria and was not fully satisfied with results supporting/informing management actions. Suggested that the workgroup charged to create a strategic approach should review the State's previous efforts, and therefore help the State develop a TMDL for bacteria.
 - David Lipsky: Concerned with whether some of the efforts to track sources of bacteria are more of a state or county health department function, rather LISS. If it is part of regulatory compliance, then it should not be included in LISS funds; however, if it is part of research or large-scale surveillance, then should be included.
 - Paul Stacey: Noted that enhancement and research proposals need to better identify trackable outcomes, and ensure that research can make meaningful contributions.
- Mark Tedesco: Reviewed the current base and enhancement package funding allocations in which increased funds to LISFF (\$6 million) and to the LIS Research Program (\$2.5 million for the first year of two, totaling at \$5 million). To build off the I-Team recommendations, he opened up discussion of the enhancement package, starting with proposals that warrant further discussion.
- #6 Development of an NRCS Watershed Operations Plan to Leverage Funding for Implementation of BMPs in CT – **MC decided to fund**.
 - Mark Tedesco: Recommended to fund. Although it may be more suitable to LISFF, this would be included in CTDEEP's award and reviews indicated support to fund it.
 - Tom Morgart: Emphasized that for NRCS funding to be eligible to Connecticut (or New York in the future), there needs to be a plan in place. This project would lay that groundwork. The funding would go to the CTDEEP, who would develop a plan, in collaboration with other partners (the CT Soil and Water Conservation District). NRCS would then be able to direct funding for projects.
 - Suzanne Paton: Supported the recommendation to fund as it is a small amount and will set the groundwork to gain leveraging opportunities.
 - Koon Tang: Supported the recommendation to fund but asked what the size of the watershed that the plan would be developed for.

- Erik Bedan: Responded that the watershed size is undefined at this point. The intent was to focus on implementation on the Connecticut's coast, and then can further determine what can be accomplished with the requested funding.
- #12 Trends in N loading from forested areas: Preliminary assessment for LIS – **MC decided to fund**.
 - Mark Tedesco: Asked MC for a recommendation on this proposal.
 - Paul Stacey: Recommended to fund this project as need to set benchmarks for forest ecosystems.
 - Jim Ammerman: Noted that there is some evidence that nitrogen loading from forests is increasing, which is a concern. Additionally, many USGS projects are flagged as research projects, but LIS Research Program cannot fund federal agencies.
 - Koon Tang: Supported the recommendation to fund.
 - Jeff Barbaro: Highlighted that the project will identify forested watershed trends in understanding nitrogen loading trends, and climate change effects related to more intense precipitation events.
 - Kelly Streich: Seconded the recommendation for this proposal as it would be informative to understand changes in forested area due to climate change as currently lack understanding of nitrogen export implications. Also suggested that if funded, ensure that the results translate into useful information for managers.
- #16 Pathogen monitoring to mitigate shellfish harvesting water closures, NY – **MC decided to fund**.
 - Mark Tedesco: Recommended to fund. Although could be applied to the LISFF, LISS currently has an agreement with IEC, and would help field test pathogen monitoring techniques.
 - Evelyn Powers: Highlighted that this project was developed in conjunction with NYSDEC to target a specific area that has expanded in recent closures dramatically over the past 5 years. Project would be a good example of a partnership to determine pathogen mitigation and can be applied sound-wide or embayment-wide.
 - Dawn McReynolds: Noted that this technique could be applied to other embayments in the area if deemed successful with this project.
- #17 Modeling the Seasonal Dynamics and Trends in the Sources and Delivery of TN – **MC decided not to fund**.
 - Mark Tedesco: Highlighted that EPA ORD is working on a BMP Optimization Tool for the Upper Connecticut River using an older SPARROW model outputs, and there has been discussion on the potential benefits on using a dynamic SPARROW model output that could help in the tool. Therefore, there is potential to use the outputs from this tool to expand to other areas.
 - John Morrison: Noted that the development of this tool will help monitor areas not currently monitored as the model can be extrapolated for the unmonitored areas in the LIS watershed.
 - Koon Tang: Asked how this project would be applicable to Long Island and Westchester County.
 - Jeff Barbaro: Responded that the SPARROW model would have some overlap with the State's HSPF model. Additionally, as the modeling advances, there is flexibility in approaches (e.g., phosphorous, sediments, seasonal loading data). However, he needs to look into its application to more urbanized areas.
 - Kelly Streich: Suggested that if this is relevant to the tools EPA Region 1 is working, then should discuss more about linkages, coverage, and usability to the BMP Optimization Tool.
 - Mark Tedesco: Responded that BMP Optimization Tool focuses on Vermont and New Hampshire, which could be expanded into Massachusetts and Connecticut, but agrees that warrants further discussion.

Stretch Break at 10:35am**Continue FY2021 Work Plan Development**

- #35 Design for a Living Shoreline Resiliency Project at Chittenden Park, CT – **MC decided to fund.**
 - Mark Tedesco: Noted that this project is eligible for LISFF, but exceeds the cap for planning project (\$400,000); he therefore recommended to fund it.
 - Vicky O’Neill: Highlighted that HRSWG supported this project as partners need to learn more about implementing living shoreline projects, and Save the Sound addressed the workgroup’s concerns.
 - Jim O’Donnell: Concerned that this project does not have a clear critical assessment as to how to move forward to advance other projects.
 - Tracy Brown: Responded that this project is the design phase, and the implementation phase could cover the assessment.
 - Vicky O’Neill: Emphasized that living shoreline projects are turning out to be extremely costly, and therefore a reason as to why the applicant applied through this vehicle.
 - Tracy Brown: Highlighted that Save the Sound is working on a strategy to combine multiple projects into a package around a geographic area as it is hard to get design and implementation phases funded.
 - Sylvain DeGuise: Proposed to adjust the caps of the LISFF to address these challenges.
 - Holly Drinkuth: Noted that this implementation challenge is part of the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Plan to flip the pyramid component and define what is needed to encourage implementation of projects. For example, RFPs to bundle projects together to move forward.
 - Suzanne Paton: Noted that if we can get projects through the design and permitting phase, then these projects would be much more competitive through the infrastructure bill’s funding.
- #40 LIS Environmental Justice Small Grants Program – **MC decided not to fund as proposed, but instead pursue a larger RFP now to be funded using FY2022 funds.**
 - Mark Tedesco: Noted that since the LISFF eliminated the small grants program, this project was proposed. However, there was a suggestion at the I-Team meeting to develop an RFP to administer an EJ assistance subaward program, which can range from small to medium grants. The organization selected could provide more hands-on technical assistance to EJ communities and organizations to increase their capacity and connect their issues to LISS. Proposed this option to have EPA issue an RFP (developed by the EJ workgroup), which will be released this summer to demonstrate a firm commitment to EJ and potentially expand the scope by making a larger commitment. Since it is unlikely that an applicant can be selected and an award made by September 30, the MC could pre-approve FY2022 funds to establish the agreement early in FY22. He highlighted that an award made under a competition can be amended in future years without recompeting.
 - Jim O’Donnell: Proposed administering an RFQ rather than an RFP as it is more engaging and avoids administration burdens.
 - Sylvain DeGuise: Agreed with a longer term commitment, but need to ensure the response justifies an investment before making a dollar commitment.
 - Richard Friesner: Agreed with the timing, but need to ensure there are no gaps in an RFP process as there are some groups that highly depend on this funding. Also emphasized that the needs assessment would play a role in getting groups more involved in the LISS.
 - Mark Tedesco: Responded that the LISFF highlights EJ and we expect to still receive EJ proposals. He also noted that the small grants program was not the lifeline of many organizations.

- Nancy Seligson: Agreed that the RFP would be helpful as LISS does not have the infrastructure to connect with EJ communities, and therefore connecting with an organization that has established relationships and network could be helpful in meaningful engagement.
- Becky Shuford: Proposed that the applicant selected through the RFP becomes a member, rather than a contractor, of the LISS.
- Bessie Wright: Highlighted that the workgroup has prioritized the importance of bringing in new partners to diversify representation, and the selected group will also have expertise that LISS currently lacks.
- Jim O'Donnell: Noted that the Governor's Council for Climate Change is also starting a small grants program in which will be expensive to run (i.e., \$500,000 - \$1 million/year allocated).
- Tracy Brown: Suggested in preparation to bring on an EJ partner, need to do training for DEI/JEDI as it is challenging to bring in a BIPOC partner into a non-diverse board.
- Sue Van Patten: Highlighted that NYSDEC has a long-standing EJ program and that this effort should build on those efforts and not act independently.
- Mark Tedesco: Responded that EJ workgroup has already met with NYSDEC and CTDEEP EJ contacts along with both EPA Region's EJ leads.
- #30 Coastal Ecologist and Community Outreach Liaison Position(s) – **MC decided not to fund.**
 - Mark Tedesco: Highlighted there is a newly develop federal coordination group to focus on FY2022 priorities in a collaborative approach. The workgroup currently includes USACE, NOAA, USGS, NRCS, USFWS, and EPA (potential to add more agencies). Recommended to hold off on this project until better coordinate and progress in that group.
- #19 High resolution sensor data to quantify contribution of NPS of N to LIS – **MC decided not to fund.**
 - Jeff Barbaro: Highlighted that this proposal is aimed to understanding processes that can be used for various management decision. This study is looking at paired watershed design using sensors to get high resolution event-based nitrogen data to understand export processes (agriculture focused in upper Connecticut).
 - Kelly Streich: Concerned about how usable it will be in Connecticut's modeling efforts as it is too soon to tell where additional information would be used. Once the statewide model is developed, we can take a closer look.
- #44 Open Science Tools into LIS Water Quality – **MC decided not to fund since it is covered adequately under the ORISE Fellowship already approved.**
 - Mark Tedesco: Noted that LISO made an offer to an ORISE fellow in which their priority task is to support this proposal, rather than hiring a contractor.
 - Jim O'Donnell: Supported to use Open Science tool, and the ORISE Fellow is a step in the right direction. However, concerned that it will not support the commitment to creating access to data that would develop open science tools.
 - Tracy Brown: Noted that a collaborative of subgroups coordinated by Save the Sound have been funded by the LIS Funders Collaborative to develop an open source data portal. The tool will be available for sharing in early 2022.
- Mark Tedesco: Noted that some funds are still unallocated. EPA will modify LISFF and LIS Research Program totals to utilize these funds. The MC agreed with this approach.

Discussion of FY2022 Work Plan and Budget Approaches – Mark Tedesco

- Mark Tedesco: Highlighted that the newly developed federal coordination group will produce an outline of ideas by September 30 to fit into FY2022 budget process and also consider additional RFPs to select program area leads (e.g., EJ Small Grants Program). There will be more in-depth discussion at the July 15

MC meeting to further develop ideas and feasibility of moving forward with EJ RFP. Additionally, will be asking workgroups if proposals are addressing needs and LISO will send out guidance for workgroups to outline their needs for FY2022.

Updates

- Cayla Sullivan: Provided an update on the LISS Tracking and Reporting Progress, in which two training sessions were held for the upcoming Progress Report (March 24 and April 13, 2021). The trainings were recorded for anyone who is interested. Within the next couple of months, LISO will work on populating the Projects and Progress Report Tables (the Implementation Action Table is already complete). Additionally, LISO will work with Taylor Designs to develop a LISS Projects web page on the website for public view.
- Cayla Sullivan: The 2015-2019 CCMP Report to Congress was approved by Region 1 and 2 and has been transmitted to EPA HQ for approval. The Report is currently being reviewed by Office of Management and Budget. Once approved, the Report to Congress will be transmitted to Congress and published on the website. Additionally, the LISS CCMP 2020-2024 Action Plan was approved by HQ on January 20, 2021 and is posted on the website.
- Robert Burg: Provided an update on the LISS Strategic 5-yr Communications Plan, in which the request for bid was distributed to contractors with the intent to get the project started in July.
- Mark Tedesco: Noted that the LISFF RFP was released, and the final amount allocated will be decided.
- Mark Tedesco: Requested MC to suggest items to cover in future meetings.
 - Gary Wikfors: Proposed for the October MC meeting to invite Emily Van Gulick and Kristin DeRosia-Banick from Department of Agriculture to present on Connecticut's Harmful Algal Blooms monitoring program.
 - Sylvain DeGuise: Proposed to hear more about the Federal Coordination Group.
 - Paul Stacey: Proposed for Ashley Helton to give a presentation on their LISS funded research about groundwater legacy and expected outcomes.
 - Mel Coté: Proposed presentation on projects which are wrapping up.
- Leah O'Neill: Reminded that base program grantees to reach out immediately if there are any differences in requested funding from October. Additionally, there will be an ad-hoc work group to discuss program planning and if interested or have any recommendation, please reach out.

Next Meeting & Adjournment – Mark Tedesco

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.
- Next meeting: July 15, 2021



long island sound study

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OF THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY

Website: <http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net>

LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Save the Sound
Setauket Harbor Task Force
SoundWaters, Inc.
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
The Nature Conservancy
The Sound School Regional Vocational Aquaculture Center
The Whaling Museum and Education Center at Cold Spring Harbor
Town of Mamaroneck
Town of North Hempstead
Westchester County, Dept. of Sustainability

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Tracy Brown, Save the Sound

STAC LIAISONS

Kamazima Lwiza, Stony Brook University
Jamie Vaudrey, University of Connecticut

The CAC meets quarterly on the second Thursday of March, June, September, and December at alternating locations in New York and Connecticut. Meetings are open to the public.

April 14, 2021

Long Island Sound Study Management Committee

Attention: Mark Tedesco

US EPA

Stamford Government Center

888 Washington Blvd.

Stamford, CT 06904

RE: LISS CAC 2021 Priorities

Dear Management Committee Members:

On behalf of the member organizations of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), we are pleased to provide the following budget and CCMP implementation priorities for FY2021.

Despite unprecedented challenges over the past year, the CAC continued its efforts to advocate for increased federal funding directed to the Long Island Sound Study. Although it was not possible to visit legislators in person, the CAC remained actively engaged with congressional leaders - carrying out remote visits and providing regular updates on LISS progress and ongoing needs for implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Once again, the annual federal allocation has increased, bringing **FY21 Budget to \$31.1 million.**

In addition to advocating for additional federal investment throughout 2020, the CAC contributed to both the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update for 2020-2024*, as well as the five-year review of *2015 CCMP Progress*. The CAC is pleased with the increased focus and direction dedicated to the CCMP's crossing cutting issues of **environmental justice and climate** through the formation of the EJ work group and the Sustainable and Resilient Communities work group and 5-year work plan. We also appreciate the increased staff capacity and development of tracking and reporting tools to accurately measure and report progress.

As federal investment in the Sound increases, it is imperative that we inform and **effectively engage public audiences** in appreciating the estuary's value and the need for restoration and management. We must also adapt our approach to managing the budget, ensuring we have effective coordination and an appropriate balance of science, monitoring and implementation to accomplish the goals of the CCMP.

At the March 2021 CAC quarterly meeting, we reviewed funding and implementation priorities for FY21. Based on that discussion, the review and update of the CCMP IA's and the 5-year report of CCMP progress, we share the following recommendations for FY21 spending.

LISS CAC FY21 CCMP/Budget Priorities:

- 1. Enhance visibility and links between cross-cutting issues for all programmatic activities including Environmental Justice, Climate and Sustainability**
 - Conduct EJ needs assessment. Reach more EJ communities and groups - include a focus on equitable access and engagement in all coastal communities (not just underserved communities)
 - Support Sea Grant proposal for NYC circuit rider – make sure outcomes are cross-cutting and coordinated with the 5-year strategic communication plan (i.e. contribute content to public facing communications and updates)
- 2. Increase investments in CCMP tracking and performance reporting (staff capacity, reliable online systems, enhanced stakeholder and partner reporting and engagement)**
 - Hold partners accountable for regular, consistent reporting
 - Ensure reporting is publicly accessible and understandable
 - Right-size reporting for small grants
- 3. Bolster investments and capacity for public communication and targeted municipal engagement to speed up local implementation of CCMP actions**
 - Conduct public perception survey
 - Develop a Sound-wide social marketing campaign
 - Simplify and make communications more accessible to the public (translate the science, translate languages)
 - Increase active communication (e.g. interviews, earned media, advertising) not just passive (websites, social media)
 - Increase active communication with municipalities – focus on successes and opportunities. Make sure SRC circuit rider communications are coordinated with the 5-year strategic communication plan (i.e. contribute content to public facing communications and updates)
 - Increase communication about and demonstration of success stories
 - Create opportunities for the public and decision makers to visit (or digitally experience) successful project sites
 - Hire a LISS publicity person – strengthen relationships with media outlets – reach more people
- 4. Accelerate implementation projects**
 - Identify and manage investments in research and monitoring to increase investment in implementation (e.g. Clarify how much of the SRC work plan (\$7.5M over 5 years) will go to local communities for implementation vs. research, staff, admin, etc.)
 - Invest more in projects tied to existing research and plans (e.g. Blue Plan, infrastructure upgrades, LINAP, watershed plans, etc.)
 - Make the Futures Funds grant process less onerous (applications, reporting, match, streamline or develop standardized QAPPs)
 - Incentivize geographic and cross-sector collaboration in LISFF grants – e.g. intermunicipal, interstate, researchers and public/private partnerships; require and support local to regional

outward facing communication and awareness building to better socialize implementation projects and activities

5. Coordinate Science and Management:

- Coordinate, analyze and communicate existing research to direct implementation actions (e.g. coordinate pathogens research and monitoring with implementation actions and CCMP outcomes)
- Identify opportunities and needs for pathogen research, local monitoring, and implementation actions – particularly related to climate impacts, public use of LIS waters (beaches, fishing, boating) and environmental justice outcomes



Holly Drinkuth
LISS CAC Co-chair, CT



Nancy Seligson
LISS CAC CO-chair, NY