



**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee, Sept. 13th, 2018
Port Jefferson Village Center, Port Jefferson, NY
Meeting Summary**

Welcome

Start time: 9:41am

Nancy Seligson, New York CAC Co-Chair, welcomed participants and established that a quorum of 24 was present. Deputy Mayor of Port Jefferson, Larry LaPointe gave an introductory speech about the venue and provided a history of Port Jefferson.

Membership and Nomination

The membership subcommittee recommended Garrett Owen Grant, commodore of the Pequonnock Yacht Club, for nomination. He was granted membership by a full vote of the CAC.

Nancy Seligson announced that Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability for Westchester County, will be the new Westchester County representative on the CAC.

Theme and Priorities

-The priority for the meeting was to discuss how to align CAC priorities with LISS CCMP, and strategies the CAC, as a group and individual organizations, can contribute.

-A significant part of the CCMP is getting local governments involved. The discussion focused on ways to achieve this and how to keep local governments informed on what the LISS is doing.

-Part of the feedback from the GAO evaluation is that we improve the way we evaluate progress in implementing the CCMP and communicate and report to a wider audience.

2018 Water Quality Conditions

- Observations from members:
 - George Hoffman reported that the Setauket Harbor Task Force was selected to do water quality testing through Save the Sound. It has been successful and a good training experience. Many volunteers have come out to test Port Jefferson Harbor.
 - Nancy Seligson noticed that the water temperature was hot/warm when she was doing a swimming competition. She also noticed a decreased number of bunker and schools of fish.
 - Bill Lucey noticed that a lot of menhaden were present in the Sound, and that the water quality differs vastly in different harbors.

- Carol DiPaolo noticed that fishes stayed in deeper water and were not surfacing as much as in the past, but that juvenile fishes are surfacing more. More blue crabs and diversity of fish coming back.
- Water Quality Monitoring Work Group Update- Jim Ammerman
 - Record warm August temperatures in northeast.
 - CTDEEP 2018 preliminary estimate for the maximum extent of hypoxia (defined as less than 3 mg/liter) 70 miles², due to warm temperatures in August (**Note that this estimate has now been modified to 52 miles².**)
 - IEC survey shows that hypoxia came earlier in the summer, and the duration of hypoxia is predicted to be 4 weeks long.
 - Buoys show similar findings, in western LIS (Execution Rocks). June-Sept. shows a continuous decline of oxygen.
- LIS Report Card Preview- Save the Sound- Tracy Brown
 - The 2017 Report Card data went back 10 years (2008-2017). Gathered open water data from NYCDEP, IEC, UWS. Data on 36 embayments monitored by 26 different groups. This information will be published in 2020 to the public.
 - STS will release the Report Card on Sept 24, 2018 in events in CT and NY.

Aligning CCMP Strategies and CAC Priorities - Nancy Seligson and Holly Drinkuth

- Nancy and Holly reviewed the CCMP and shared the CAC priority actions identified during June 2018 CAC meeting. CAC members reviewed and discussed recommended actions. (See presentation attached)
- Compile and regularly update an inventory of emails/contact information from organizations, governments and municipalities using available state-level databases for a listserv to increase our reach.
- Develop a 2-stage communication plan to 1) contact local government representatives to get feedback on their needs and 2) strategically keep these stakeholders informed through targeted communications and fact sheets highlighting CCMP strategies and opportunities, specific and relevant issues, and how they can get involved.
- Create an “Ambassador Program” or speaker bureau to promote LISS and the goals of the CCMP. Holly and Nancy will contact Peconic Estuary Program to learn about the CAC “Ambassador Program”.
- Work with existing inter-municipal partnerships in the LIS watershed and get elected officials to have a representative sit on the CAC.
- Hold events, workshops etc. that engage a more diverse audience including municipalities.
 - Educational boat tours/meetings on-the-water workshops with municipal officials to discuss issues and priorities. (Ex) zoos, museums, aquariums, boat tours etc. Project O, Soundwaters, etc.)

- Citizen Summit. CAC members would need to figure out how to facilitate event, determine resources needed (past events \$30,000), priorities, which groups to invite etc. The CAC may request funds /budget from the Management Committee.
- Other ideas include invitation-only events such as Latitude 41 and a 30-year anniversary of Listen to the Sound in 2020.
- Mark Tedesco mentioned that EPA is discussing a follow-up conference to Latitude 41 in summer 2019. The conference would showcase nitrogen pollution planning and actions being taken around the Sound and region.

Holly and Nancy agreed to continue discussion about CAC priority actions and events to help address these goals with LISS staff and update the CAC at the December meeting.

Bioextraction Presentation- Nelle D'Aversa

- Nelle D'Aversa provided information on NEIWPCC's Bioextraction program. Currently, she is working on creating a road map for community members and potential harvesters. She has developed a tool to better understand the permitting process and a guidance for which species to harvest and where. D'Aversa is developing a GIS based-tool to identify best areas in LIS of bio extraction operations. A Bioextraction Advisory Committee was created for guidance and to inform management decisions. D'Aversa has also developed partnerships with organizations that may serve as stakeholders.

Policy Committee Updates

- Adrienne Esposito announced that the LIS Restoration and Stewardship Act, which authorizes appropriation of funds for restoration and stewardship, is included in the Water Resources Development Act. The bill has passed the House, and is awaiting a Senate vote. The Act would authorize appropriations for LIS of up to \$65 million dollars. CAC members will be taking a trip to DC to advocate on Oct 11th (**note: this date has now been moved to November**).
 - Adrienne Esposito also announced that officially Sept 15th was named LIS Estuary Day.
 - NYS Assembly held LIS hearing at which several CAC members spoke.
 - CAC requested that members draft a letter to assembly to ask for funding for DEC for staffers.
- Tracy Brown presented the ArmyCorps of Engineers proposal for NY NJ Harbor sea barrier infrastructure. Save the Sound submitted a letter of concern about the project, which would build barriers between LI, NJ and NY. The letter highlighted the flooding risks, tidal restrictions, loss of biodiversity, boat traffic, etc. that would result in these proposed plans. There was also concern that review process and public comments timeline etc. was being rushed and not thoroughly vetted. The CAC is also going to write a letter of concern and encouraged members to call their Congressional representatives. (**Note: Additional public hearings were held in Westchester County and are planned for Long Island.**)

LISS Social Media Campaign

Robert Burg highlighted metrics/analytics of the 2nd annual 2018 #DontTrashLISound Campaign:

- Instagram- over 270 followers and 13 posts. This was the first year using Instagram.
- Facebook had a reach of over 66,000.
- Twitter had a reach of over 48,000.
- Twitter outperformed Facebook this time in terms of reach/likes.
- More impressions/outreach than last campaign in 2017.
- Stickers theme: breaking single-use plastic habit and protecting LIS wildlife. Distributed over 7,000 stickers to partners and community members.
- Thank you to CAC for sharing posts!
- Beach clean-ups were added and was a successful outreach strategy as well.
- Media coverage this summer increased. Judy Preston was featured on a piece for CT WNPR. Newspaper articles in CT were also published to help announce the summer campaign.
- Challenges are to encourage more sharing of posts and not doing Excel file for scheduling in the future. It was too confusing and hard to manage all the edit changes.

Work Group Updates

- Vicky O'Neill gave an update on the most recent Habitat and Stewardship Work Group meeting held at the Mystic Aquarium. The group toured the Aquarium's Long Island Sound Exhibit, funded through the LIS Futures Fund (LISFF) grant. Presentations included topics on seaweed and harmful algal blooms, and LIS Cable Fund and Ecological Mapping. A field trip to Dodge Paddock restoration site, which was funded through the LISFF. The next meeting will most likely be at Sunken Meadow on November 28th.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm. The next meeting will take place on December 13 in Connecticut at the Housatonic Community College.