



**Long Island Sound Study  
Citizens Advisory Committee March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Morrison and Foerster, New York, NY  
Meeting Summary**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

- Nancy Seligson, NY Co-chair called the meeting to order at 9:35am. A total of 28 attendees were present, representing 15 voting member organizations.
- Invited Guest: Dan Bader, Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University; Program Manager, Consortium for Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast

**Officer Elections** At the December 13, 2018 CAC meeting Nancy Seligson (*NY Co-Chair, Town of Mamaroneck*), was nominated for re-election to CAC NY Co-Chair and Marty Garell (*Adelphi University*) was nominated for re-election to CAC Secretary. No additional nominations were received. A quorum of 22 voting members was not present. A motion to proceed with business and take action subject to the review of minutes was made by Tracy Brown (*Save the Sound/CT Fund for the Environment*) and seconded by Mickey Weiss (*Project O*). The motion carried unanimously.

Holly Drinkuth, Connecticut Co-chair called the vote:

Nancy Seligson for NY Co-chair, 3-year term: (15 in favor, 0 opposed)

Marty Garrell for Secretary, 3-year term: (15 in favor, 0 opposed)

Officer elections carried unanimously, subject to approval of the meeting minutes.

- *Vice Co-Chair Discussion:* Carol DiPaolo (*Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor*) raised discussion of creating the positions of vice co-chair officers to provide opportunity for new officers to take on leadership roles, support CAC co-chairs and learn about the position. Carol DiPaolo, Tracy Brown, Nancy Seligson and Holly Drinkuth agreed to review the 2006 Bylaws and make recommendations for vice co-chair roles and responsibilities to the CAC for consideration at the June CAC meeting.

**Policy Committee Updates and Aligning CAC Priorities with Strategies**

*Budget:* The FY 2019 federal spending bill includes a budget of \$14.6 million for the LISS. The Management Conference is currently reviewing the base budget and enhancement proposals for 2019. T

- *FY20 and Future Budget Need Discussion:* Following discussions with congressional leaders, Tracy Brown and Curt Johnson drafted and shared suggested budget priorities by CCMP theme with the Policy Committee. CAC members reviewed and provided feedback at the meeting. A one-page document outlining increased budget needs for LISS restoration and stewardship will be sent by the Co-chairs to the LIS Caucus and Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey's office by March 20. Denise Savageau (*CT Association of Conservation Districts*) suggested including funding (\$500,000-1 million) for drinking water protection due to the harmful algal blooms (HAB) in drinking water watersheds. HABs put the public drinking water supply at risk. Chantal Collier (*The Nature Conservancy*) suggested that the proposal add 'increased protection/preservation and improvement land management,' in addition to the existing restoration work. Mickey Weiss (*Project Oceanology*) suggested the need for more monitoring sites and funds to support existing monitor sites.
- *CAC Priority Letter:* The Co-chairs drafted a letter to the management committee highlighting three CAC priorities for 2019: 1) Increase nitrogen science collaboration and clarify management actions, 2) Improve implementation action tracking and 3) hold Region 1 & 2 LISS Nitrogen Summit and Two-day Management Committee for planning and prioritizing. The co-chairs will edit based on recommendations and recirculate for CAC members to review prior to submitting to the Management Committee.

#### **Sea-Level Rise -Daniel Bader, Consortium for Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast (CCRUN)**

Dan Bader shared his extensive expertise on climate scenarios, sea level rise, risk and adaptation opportunities. The New York City Panel on Climate Change 2019 Report he referenced was released the following day and is available online [here](#).

- On average sea-level rises at a rate of 3.32 mm/year. Average based on data from 1993-2018. Over the last century sea-level has risen 8 inches.
- LIS trend: rates are close to global average, about 1 ft per century. Land (natural geological) subsidence has caused LIS to rise. Geography, industrial activity etc. contributes.
- Solution/Preparation is four-fold: policy, engineering, social programs and ecosystem-based adaptation.

#### **NY/NJ Harbor Tributary Storm Surge Barrier: Tracy Brown**

- The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was granted \$6 million and 6 years to complete a feasibility study of storm surge barriers for NY and NJ Harbor. They issued an interim report with an addendum that answered public comments. The ACOE is holding public meetings and accepting comments through April 17 on the interim report, which includes 5 options - 3 with barriers at Throggs Neck in LIS. A Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Study will be released in March 2020. The CAC NY/NJ HATS and Policy subcommittee will continue to track progress and provide public comment on the interim report, including submitting the LISS CCMP to be included in the public record.

### **Estuary Day- Anna Weshner-Dunning**

- In 2018, Estuary Day was the first collaborative event among the three Long Island estuary programs (South Shore Estuary Reserve, Peconic Estuary Program and Long Island Sound Study). This year, the event will be in Oyster Bay at Theodore Roosevelt Park. Anna Weshner-Dunning (*NYSG*) submitted a proposal to the Town in late January and has a meeting in late March to follow-up. The theme this year is marine debris, with a goal of it being a zero waste event. It is still in the early planning phase however, the CAC is welcome to participate and partner for this event on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **LISS Workgroup and Follow-Up Updates**

- *Farm Bill Update- Denise Savageau*: The Farm Bill passed, but still does not have any mention of aquaculture. Aquaculture is an important technology that needs to be added to the bill. The Farm Bill also states that no work can be done on public lands. The letter will be asking for the language to be modified to state, “no work can be done on Federal Lands.” This amendment would help wildlife rehabilitation. Nancy will circulate draft letter for CAC review.
- *Award Acknowledgement*: Congratulations to Tracy Brown, Recipient of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County Environmental Leader Award.
- *Seismic Blasting Update* –Carol DiPaolo provided an update on advocacy action to ban seismic blasting and oil gas drilling in state waters (3 miles off coast), in addition to banning in federal waters as well. The CAC will review and circulate this letter.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm

**Upcoming meeting: Housatonic Community College Bridgeport, CT – June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**