



Long Island Sound Study Joint Science and Technical Committee and
Citizens Advisory Committee
IN PERSON Hybrid Meeting at Port Jefferson
September 12, 2024

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

- **Nancy Seligson** (NY Co-Chair, Town of Mamaroneck) began the meeting at 10:10 AM and invited attendees to introduce themselves and their organizations. Final attendance: 36 CAC members and 85 total attendees.
- Nancy then introduced Mayor of Port Jefferson, **Lauren Sheprow**. Mayor Sheprow thanked everyone for visiting Port Jefferson and for hosting the meeting at the Village Center. She highlighted the town's new soil erosion council and spoke about the importance of the LISS CAC's work and her hope to bring elements of that to the village of Port Jefferson.
- Nancy asked for a motion to approve the June 2024 meeting meetings. **David Miller** made the motion (NY League of Conservation Voters Environment Fund), seconded by Adrienne Esposito, (CCE).
- **Holly Drinkuth** (CT Co-chair, TNC) announced there a new member vote would not be needed. Holly raised the issue of potential structural changes to the CAC to align with the revised CCMP. She noted the need for succession planning for the CAC officers. Nancy proposed forming an ad hoc committee to discuss the possible changes.
- The CAC NY co-chair and CAC secretary positions will be up for re-election in December 2024. Nancy proposed forming an ad hoc committee of 3-5 CAC members to provide recommendations for officer elections by the end of November.
 - Ad hoc committee expectations: Members of this committee should be comfortable talking about CAC governance succession, defining the co-chair roles, reviewing term lengths, revisiting the CAC bylaws and making general recommendations to the CAC.
 - **Adrienne Esposito** (Citizens Campaign for the Environment) asked for clarification on the co-chair terms. Holly responded that co-chairs currently serve three-year terms.
 - Adrienne then asked if Nancy and Holly plan to serve out the full three years. Nancy responded that she is interested in seeing the CCMP process to conclusion but would not likely serve another full three-year term.
 - *Action: Nancy and Holly will reach out to individuals to identify members of the ad hoc committee.*
- Nancy reviewed the meeting agenda and goal of gathering CAC and STAC comments and determine priorities of the revised CCMP Objectives and Actions to produce a joint letter to the LISS Management Committee.

Policy Subcommittee Updates

- Adrienne provided an update on the CAC Washington DC LIS Education Day, which took place on July 10th, 2024. Overall, there were 27 attendees. Throughout the day, the group met with Senator Chris Murphy (CT), Senator Richard Blumenthal (CT), and Senator Chuck Schumer's (NY) staff. The group had successful meetings with Congressman Nick LaLota (NY), Joe Courtney (CT), Jim Himes (CT), Rosa DeLauro (CT), and Andrew Garbarino (NY). Holly emphasized the importance of the trip and encouraged attendance in the

future. **Penny Vlahos** (STAC co-chair, UCONN) said that she was contacted by Congressman LaLota's office after the meeting, and that the overall trip was "very empowering and keeps the program alive." The House passed the LIS Restoration and Stewardship Act with \$40 million authorized for restoration. The Senate has not acted on the bill yet. Senator Gillibrand (NY) confirmed support for the bill. Additional updates will be forthcoming.

- **Denise Stranko** (Save the Sound) gave an update on planning for the LIS 2025 Fiscal Appropriations.
- Adrienne reported there is a bill in the house to establish **Plum Island as a National Monument**. In March 2024, there was a House Committee hearing on the subject, and there is continued engagement on the bill. Adrienne says there are no further updates as of September 2024.

New York Policy Updates

- Adrienne reported that a strong Horseshoe Crab Harvesting Ban bill passed the NYS senate with immense support. Governor Kathy Hochul has until December 31st to sign the bill. CAC members were asked to send messages to Gov Hochul to support the bill. The Suffolk County Clean Water Ballot legislation would increase sales tax by 0.00125 USD to fund sewer infrastructure upgrades and replace septic systems within Suffolk County. The legislation will raise 1 billion USD over 30 years. A support campaign is underway.

Connecticut Policy Updates

- **Denise Stranko** reported that a CT Riparian Buffers Workgroup is currently being formed. The workgroup will generate recommendations to the legislature to protect riparian buffers and increase inland wetlands program capacity at CT DEEP. This workgroup will also seek to better incorporate climate change vulnerability into planning across the watershed. The next meeting is in October and will review the next steps.
- **Bill Lucey** (Save the Sound) reported that Atlantic Herring Catch Limits will be set in September. A biological catch cap is required for herring populations. There will be a shutdown in Atlantic Herring fishing, which affords an opportunity for LISS and its partners to maintain/increase a count of the herring population in the NY and CT Long Island Sound watershed. This monitoring enhancement will occur over the next 3-5 years.
- The CT Eelgrass Coordinator position is currently being established and will be a counterpart to the NY Eelgrass Coordinator position. **Action: STAC/CAC to consider and recommend approaches for LISS to provide additional support as this position gets established.**

Summary of Science Priorities Survey Findings

Penny Vlahos (STAC CT co-chair, UCONN) and **Kamazima Lwiza** (STAC NY co-chair, Stony Brook University) reviewed the results of the CAC Science Priorities Survey. The overall goal of the survey was to facilitate the flow of information and engagement between the STAC and the CAC, to encourage STAC members to consider projects that could meet the needs of the CAC, and to match investigators with projects CAC and STAC members discussed the findings and shared further input.

[Link to PPT here.](#)

Action: Penny and Kamazima to share the findings with STAC members and promote opportunities to generate partnerships.

Digital Communications Update

- **Anya Grondalski** (NEIWPC) provided an update on LISS digital communications. She reviewed the variety of communications LISS communication channels, including LinkedIn, Instagram, the LISS website, and Facebook and other channels.

[Link to the PPT here.](#)

Anya noted that LISS experiences above-average digital engagement and is steadily increasing communications and engagement reach. She provided recommendations for best practices in digital communications, shared an overview of LISS social media channels and content types and encouraged attendees to LISS on social media channels.

[@lisoundstudy](#): Instagram

[@longislandsoundstudy](#): Facebook

[@longislandsoundstudy](#): LinkedIn

Presentation: CCMP Revision (EPA)

Nikki Tachiki (EPA) presented an updated overview of the CCMP revision process and reviewed the key differences between the 2015 CCMP and the revised CCMP:

- The new CCMP is shorter, leaner, and more directly to the point.
- Organizational structure: goals → objectives → actions
- A one-page summary will be produced for the public.
- 136 implementation actions have been reduced to 47 actions.
- A supplemental document will contain technical descriptions of the objectives and actions.
- Greater emphasis on action at the watershed scale
- Prioritization of human engagement as demonstrated by the new Informed and Engaged Public (IEP) goal

CCMP revision timeline:

- Public comment period is open until November 22nd.
- A presentation by the contractor (ERG) summarizing public comments is slated for December 16th, 2024.
- CCMP text will be finalized by the end of 2024.
- All clean text will be sent to the graphic designer in early January 2025.
- LISS Management Committee review and approvals will take place in March 2025.

[Link to PPT here.](#)

CCMP Breakout Discussions

Meeting participants were divided into 8 breakout groups (5 in-person and 3 online). The groups reviewed objectives and actions from the revised CCMP draft and provided their feedback, suggestions, and general comments.

See comments attached.

Breakout leads shared highlights of discussion. The Following the report out, **Isabella Espinoza** (ERG) facilitated breakout leads in presenting key elements of discussion. The STAC/CAC co-chairs highlighted the need for consistency throughout the CCMP and the importance of removing silos within the structure of the CCMP. Nancy reminded everyone that the public comment period is open until November 22.

Action: Kamazima, Penny, Nancy, and Holly to compile comments and draft a letter for the Management Committee for discussion in October.

Meeting adjourned at 230 PM. The next CAC meeting will take place virtually on December 12 at 9 AM.

