

**Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Notes
Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport, CT
July 17, 2014**

Welcome/Introductions. Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 9:35am. After self-introductions, Tedesco asked if there were any changes or additions to the revised agenda.

Public Comments. No public comments.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Update – Larry Swanson gave an update on the STAC. At their most recent meeting in June in Groton, CT they voted to extend number of STAC members to 45-50 to broaden the opportunity for membership and received progress updates from 5-6 projects funded by LISS.

Put out a request for STAC members to provide comment on the LIS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

Making progress with the planning on joint STAC/CAC meeting in late September, anticipating University of Maryland team to give report card update both technical & communication.

Long Island Sound Economic Value Report Update. David Batker from Earth Economics gave an informational briefing and presentation on the economic valuation report title The Trillion Dollar Asset: The Economic Value of Long Island Sound. Report is talking about the work of the natural system and not the intrinsic value. Micro-macro-earth economics and looked at the whole LIS drainage basin and what it is worth as a capital asset.

Check out next steps – are they funded through this project?

Questions:

Bill Wise – cost benefit ratio was 6:1, asking for resources. 2) you have calculated total value, did you calculate what the optimal situation would be. How good could we be? Response: we need to know what a healthy ecosystem looks like from the scientific community. Work needs to be based on the natural sciences.

Joe Salata – what would you recommend for LIS partners to focus on as conducting original work? Response: value of estuaries for ocean acidification, also LIS aquifer valuation, also look at CT river buffer area as valuable for hypoxia reduction, also storm surge & barrier islands.

Georgia Basso – we have \$\$ figures for wetland value and could possible apply it to this study.

We may want to be careful about comparing habitats, we need to keep in mind that diverse habitats & for cost avoidance and caution against comparing habitats and ranking some with higher \$.

Rob Hust: what about the numbers that have X's instead of values. Response: We only valued 14 of 21 asset values – this is absolutely a low end estimate (this is a very basement level est.). You can look at this on a subbasin level.

Jim Latimer: This report will be very important for the CCMP revision. When is the final date?

We need to look at funding strategies. Response: we can share current draft with core team.

Curt Johnson: Have you heard of this being launch for an estuary wide funding mechanism?

Response: No examples, maybe Chesapeake?

Joe Salata: any jurisdictional breakout of assets? Response: maybe something we can do, we will check.

Larry Swanson: How would this stack up under peer-review? Response: we had 11 reviewers, some were economics from EPA and some were academia.

Curt NRDC is set to release a new report on aquaculture rebuilding and support and ocean acidification.

This report should be finalized in the next few weeks and will be released to the general public.

Please send follow-up questions to Emily Bird at ebird@neiwpc.org

For additional information contact David Batker at dbatker@eathereconomics.org

Habitat Assessment Presentation & Update. Georgia Basso gave a presentation on the Long Island Sound Habitat Restoration Work Group. The work groups last meeting was on June 10 in New London, CT and had several focus areas. The work groups next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Stewardship Work group.

Presentation covered progress towards goals & accomplishments, defining resiliency, historic & quality based assessment, habitat restoration database.

For additional information contact Georgia Basso at Georgia.Basso@fws.gov or Harry Yamalis at Harry.Yamalis@ct.gov

CCMP Revision Update. Jim Latimer, EPA AED, gave a presentation on the status of the revision of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Agency review comments are due tomorrow July 18. The presentation included information on planned timeline, anticipated changes, comments related to aspirations vs goals and targets.

Mid-August we will have a new draft. EPA conducted three public meetings during the 60-day comment period; synthesis during November; signing planned in early part of Spring 2015.

Slightly different time line with longer public review period; document posted on the website and broadcasted on social media; CAC and STAC need to get the word out to their constituencies during that time.

LISS CCMP Website: <http://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/our-mission/updating-the-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan/>

For additional information contact Jim Latimer at latimer.jim@epa.gov.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Update. Not provided at this meeting.

Announcements and Other Business.

Monitoring workshop update – No update given to due staff absence.

Embayment monitoring – No update given

NRCS Partnership – Seth Lerman provided an NRCS update on the most recent farm bill and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, an initiative to look at things from a watershed perspective. Anticipated schedule: July 18 they will be reviewed at the State level & a ranking score will be develop and submitted and everything will be ranked at the National level, July 22 scores go to NRCS leadership, July 28 the announcement should go out and then you would need to submit, Sept 26 full props due, and Oct 16 final selected projects.

\$19 million for 5 years

NYSDEC funding discussion Dawn McReynolds reported out that NYSDEC has \$230,000 on an award that needs to be reprogrammed. They are evaluating some nutrient modeling and stewardship ideas. NYSDEC needs to work within the original intent and purpose of the current cooperative agreement and justification and with the current agreements, under EPA approval. Jim Tierney & Cathy Mosner are up-to-date on this issue.

Lobsters/pesticides – Rob Hust gave an update from CTDEEP on the lobster and pesticide research. Previous results were inconclusive and they used two different methodologies. Another round of lobster testing for mosquito pesticides is scheduled, they are doing it in phases. The first phase is lab development, as the Quality Assurance Project Plan. CTDEEP formed a steering committee with UConn/EPA and others. Due to start lab comparison later summer/early fall. Will be collecting LIS lobsters & testing them this is to take place late summer/early fall and the report expected early 2015

Future Agenda Topics.

CT MS4 permit

Tappen Z bridge SRF

Lobster decline and pesticide use.

Update on System Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM).
