

Habitat Restoration & Stewardship Work Group

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – Meeting Summary



A recording of the meeting can be found here:

Welcome and Roll Call

A total of 37 people attended the meeting. Roll call Victoria O'Neill (NEIWPC/NYSDEC/LISS); Harry Yamalis (CTDEEP/LISS); Juliana Barrett (UConn/CT Sea Grant); Robert Doscher (Westchester County); Jimena Perez-Viscasillas (NY Sea Grant/LISS); Cayla Sullivan (EPA/LISS); Diana Nguyen (The Nature Conservancy); Sarah Schaefer-Brown (NYSG/ LISS); Sara Powell (NY Sea Grant); Zofia Baumann (Department of Marine Sciences, UConn); Samantha Dietz (Audubon NY); Beth Amendola (Audubon CT); Deb Abibou (CT Sea Grant/UConn); Sabrina Pereira (NOAA Fisheries); Katie Friedman (Save the Sound); Sylvain De Guise (CT Sea Grant); Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe (Audubon Connecticut); Judy Preston (LISS & CTSG); Alicia Tyson (CT Sea Grant); Jim Turek (NOAA Restoration Center, RI); Elizabeth Hornstein (NY Sea Grant/LISS); Esther Nelson (EPA Region 2); Nikki Tachiki (EPA Long Island Sound Office); Ellen Hartig (NYC Parks); Paul Stacey (Footprints in the Water); Suzanne Paton (USFWS); Kevin O'Brien (CTDEEP); DeAva Lambert (CTDEEP); Jacob Isleib; Jeff Main (Westchester County Parks); Peter Solomon (Sound School); Jane Jackson (North Shore Land Alliance); Tim Visel (Sound School); Mark Parker (CTDEEP); Heather Johnson (Friends of the Bay); Alex Krofta (Save the Sound)

Announcements

- We introduced DeAva Lambert to the work group DeAva will be replacing Dave Kozak as our new co-chair.
- Jim Turek discussed the pending federal infrastructure funding. Specific funding coming through NOAA will focus on fish passage and habitat restoration. Year 1 is anticipated to be ~\$92 million available in funding. If you have a project idea, Jim suggests reaching out to him to discuss ideas. Possible RFP announced in February.

Introduction to the Sustainable & Resilient Communities Work Plan and the new Sea Grant Extension Professionals

- Sylvain discussed the origins of the Sustainable & Resilient Communities Work Group, the work group's work plan, timeline for implementation, and the new Extension Educators.
- Here are the locations, names, and email addresses for all of the new Sustainable & Resilient Communities Extension Educators:
- Suffolk County NY
 - Elizabeth Hornstein, elizabeth.hornstein@cornell.edu
- Nassau County NY
 - Sarah Schaefer-Brown, sarahschaefer-brown@cornell.edu
- Westchester County NY
 - Sara Powell, slp285@cornell.edu
- Western CT
 - Deb Abibou, deb.abibou@uconn.edu
- Eastern CT

- Alicia Tyson, alicia.f.tyson@uconn.edu

Fenwick Living Shoreline Project & Living Shoreline Discussion

- Juliana gave background information on the Fenwick Island project and presented the work to date, as well as project successes, project setbacks, and lessons learned.
- GZA did the design for this project; SumCo did the construction
- CT River Conservancy stepped in as project lead after the land trust decided it could not continue with the project. Conservancy was able to do fundraising, collect bids, do the paperwork, etc.
- There is post project monitoring required by the permitting agencies but also will be conducted long term by CIRCA.
- Some lessons learned: paperwork can be overwhelming for project partners, engage with regulatory folks early on in the planning process, there are local hammer laws that can impact project timing, these projects are not cheap, viewsheds for residents is a concern and can impact project design, crows were found to pull up young plants in the upland area.
- We discussed potential new sites for living shorelines and projects underway. We discussed potential partners and how to help grant applicants come up with match (which can be a hinderance)
- We discussed potentially having Ralph Lewis come to a work group meeting to discuss the geology of the CT coast and how it relates to Living Shorelines design and implementation (maybe there is someone that could present for the NY coast as well?)
- The Sound School mentioned that they are always looking for opportunities for their students to be involved in living shoreline work. Their time can be used as match on these projects.
- Some helpful links provided by attendees in the chat:
 - https://www.northeastoceancouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Final_StateofthePractice_7.2017.pdf
 - <https://beachduneguide.uconn.edu/362-2/>

LIS Seafloor Mapping Update

- DeAva provide the history behind the LIS Cable Fund and the projects that have resulted to date. She discussed the various responsibilities of the research teams, the data collected to date, and the plans for the future.
- Here are some links to photos, data, and more:
 - <https://lismap.uconn.edu/>
 - <http://www.marine-geo.org/portals/lis/>
 - <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/research-monitoring/seafloor-mapping/>

FY21 LISS HRSWG Base Budget Proposals

- Harry and Vicky briefly discussed the outcome of the 2022 LISS HRSWG Work Plan and the plans for identifying priorities in the work plan for funding.