

Habitat Restoration & Stewardship Work Group
Virtual Meeting
Sept. 9, 2020 – Meeting Summary



Attendees-24

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| Victoria O'Neill (NEIWPCC/LISS) | Alison Verkade (NOAA Habitat) |
| Harry Yamalis (CTDEEP/LISS) | Min Huang (CT DEEP) |
| Dave Kozak (CTDEEP) | Cayla Sullivan (EPA, LIS Office) |
| Christina Clayton (CT Audubon Society) | Angela Schimizzi (NYSDEC) |
| Alex Krofta, Save the Sound | Amanda Pachomski (Audubon New York) |
| Bessie Wright (EPA Region 1) | Alex Krofta (Save the Sound) |
| Arielle Santos (Seatuck Environmental Association) | Bill Hyatt (CT Audubon Society) |
| Mark Tedesco (EPA LIS Office) | Dave Carey (CTDEEP) |
| Emily Hall (Seatuck Environmental Association) | Jamie Ong (NYC Parks) |
| Patrick Comins (Connecticut Audubon Society) | Jimena Perez (NY Sea Grant/LISS) |
| Heather Johnson (Friends of the Bay) | Juliana Barrett (CT Sea Grant) |
| | Leila Mougoui (NYC Parks) |
| | Nikki Tachiki (EPA LIS Office) |

Revised 2020 CCMP Implementation Action Review and Strategize Session

For this discussion we collected raw comments in a spreadsheet (*LISS HRSWG IA Sept 9.xlsx*).

Our discussion on Implementation Action priorities and projects focused on a few main topics:

Living Shorelines

Eelgrass Restoration

Shellfish Restoration

Culvert Assessment and redesign

Using drones for management and monitoring

Major Comments:

-The majority of the group considered living shorelines to be a major topic for the next few years within LIS. The group identified many limitations to accomplishing these types of projects including lack of match, staff, and overall funds since the projects are so expensive. Many also identified regulatory issues impeding implementation of projects. In regards to match, the Audubon-CT/ACOE In Lieu Fee program was mentioned as a possible source of match. Upon further review, it seems, at the moment, that it may not be possible to use as non-federal match.

-Two questions posed to the group surrounded eelgrass restoration and shellfish restoration. How should we proceed to push these targets forward in LIS? What strategies should we be using and/or piloting?

- There was talk about using drones for management of Phragmites by identifying places to spray herbicide. Also, use of drones for monitoring Phragmites spread. LISS just funded a project at CTDEEP that will look at how drones can be used for monitoring tidal wetlands and eelgrass so there will be further information coming on techniques.
- There was talk about the need to replace and redesign failing culverts to improve water quality aquatic organism passage. Addressing culverts and hardened shorelines addresses resiliency issues within communities as they prepare for more flooding and storms.
- Conversation around the need for restoring more high marsh in tidal wetland restoration, to improve nesting habitat for marsh dependent birds and prepare for marsh migration.
- There were conversations about the need

Links presented by the group in the chat:

NOAA has put together a website specific for living

shorelines: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/understanding-living-shorelines>

CTDEEP Coastal Resources Management

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Coastal-Resources/Coastal-Management/Living-Shorelines>

The Hudson River Estuary Program has a project with Cornell that works on assessing culverts and bridges:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/culvertfactsheet19.pdf

USFWS has a Coastal Marsh Project Inventory:

<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=38020578d8854152a6bae05af5437581>. There aren't many NY or CT projects currently listed so please consider adding relevant

work to the map via this

link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/9feb42367c7b47028bcd304390cca94b>.

Northeast Ocean Council report- initial stages of the project(s) available:

<https://www.northeastoceancouncil.org/committees/coastal-hazards-resilience/living-shorelines-group/>

UConn-landowner attitudes towards migration and conservation.

Field et al. 2017 www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1620319114

NWF-Softening Our Shorelines report

<https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/NWF-Reports/2020/Softening-Our-Shorelines.ashx>