

**Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Notes
Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, CT
Jan 16, 2014**

Welcome/Introductions. Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 9:40am. After self-introductions, Tedesco asked if there were any changes or additions to the revised agenda; none were proposed. Celebrate the announcement of & distribute copies of synthesis book- *Long Island Sound: Prospects for the Urban Sea*.

Public Comments. No public comment.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee Report. Jim O'Donnell and Curt Johnson reported on the joint STAC/CAC meeting on September 20, 2013. Meeting notes can be found at: http://longislandsoundstudy.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/CAC-STAC_Minutes_Sept2013.pdf. The joint meeting focused on the revision of the Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). They conducted break-out sessions for each of the four themes: Waters and Watersheds, Habitats and Wildlife, Sound Communities, and Science and Management. It was recommended that the Core Team should focus on prioritization of actions, streamline the document to reduce redundancies and make it readable and relevant to the general public.

2014 Budget Planning Mark Tedesco gave an overview of the 2014 planning target, the base proposal requests, the base+ enhancement proposals and the guidelines for discussing proposals. Base proposals have been received from each of the grantees and are being reviewed for consistency with program goals and potential unliquidated obligation (ULO) reductions. The Implementation Team (I Team) will follow-up with a meeting to discuss the Base+ enhancement proposals in-depth and send recommendations to Management Committee (MC) in advance of the April Management Committee meeting.

CCMP Revision Update. Jim Latimer gave a presentation on the status of the revision of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP identifies the specific commitments and recommendations for actions to improve water quality, protect habitat and living resources, educate and involve the public, improve the long-term understanding of how to manage the Sound, monitor progress, and direct management efforts.

The presentation included information on the Core Team Members, the revision timeline, the CCMP framework, the feedback from State & Federal Agencies, the 5-Year Implementation Actions, the draft CCMP outline, the next steps in the revision process and where individuals can go to find more information.

Phase 1 of the CCMP review process has been completed. An agency and partner review of phase 1 was conducted and a synthesis of agency comments was handed out. A draft CCMP should be ready for review by the beginning of March.

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

Water Quality Monitoring. Jason Krumholz gave a presentation on the progress and recommendations of the Water Quality Monitoring Work Group. The presentation included information on the scope of the current monitoring program, the original MC charge, the accomplishments to date, and the recommendations.

In Summary:

- Eliminating individual analyses or stations not likely to result in substantial savings
- Data show substantial similarity across years and depths between November/December and January/February
 - Lack of statistical difference \neq statistical similarity
 - “One Out” test still highly skilled at differentiating
- There is sufficient evidence in the preliminary data to justify a more comprehensive review
 - Incorporate all years, and IEC & buoy data
 - Assess for possible elimination of stations, months, or analyses

It was suggested that the group pull together a subset of people to review this in detail, that we need a revised monitoring design plan. Maybe a workshop?

For additional information contact Jason Krumholz at jason.krumholz@noaa.gov.

5 State/EPA TMDL. Emily Bird gave a presentation on the progress and recommendations of the 5 State/EPA Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Work Group. The presentation included information on the Enhanced Implementation Plan, a report on nonpoint source (NPS) and stormwater (SW) controls, the September 10 Long Island Sound TMDL work group meeting and next steps. The enhanced implementation report focused on; nitrogen loading trends, drivers of changes in nitrogen loading, Qualitative evaluation of the scope & effectiveness of NPS and SW nitrogen control programs, data Gaps for quantitative TMDL evaluations, and finally suggested data and tool improvements.

For additional information contact Emily Bird at ebird@neiwppcc.org.

Long Island Sound Futures Fund. Lynn Dwyer and Amanda Basso from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) gave a response to the Stratus Consulting LISFF program evaluation. There were two Strategic recommendations and six Implementation recommendations, with four Other general operational recommendations.

Management Committee members were asked to provide any comments or thoughts about the response by Friday, January 31 to EPA. EPA will take the comments under advisement in developing its recommendations to NFWF.

Strategic:

1: Define and possibly restrict the program’s focus, perhaps holding a facilitated retreat to reaffirm the program’s mission. 2: Invest in portfolio-wide services

Implementation:

1: Address the effectiveness of outreach and education. 2: Emphasize volunteer effectiveness. 3: Seek and support project champions. 4: Wherever possible, LISFF should seek either to foster or to fund into existing communities of practice within Long Island Sound. 5: Adopt a more explicit focus on adaptive management. 6: Favor proposals that combine the skills, experience, and resources of multiple formal partners.

Other:

A. Large grants - increase the period of grant coverage. B. Planning Grants - support planning grants that include a strong emphasis on community- or relationship-building, as opposed to merely designing a structure. C. Link LISFF explicitly to “Citizen Science” programs and partners. D. Continue to Emphasize Metrics.

For additional information contact Lynn Dwyer at Lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org.

Future Agenda Topics.

Decision support tool for SPARROW (SPAtially-Referenced Regression On Watershed attributes)

Update on System Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM)
