

**Long Island Sound Study  
Management Committee Meeting Notes  
Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport  
July 18, 2013**

**Welcome/Introductions.** Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 9:10am. After self-introductions, Tedesco asked if there were any changes or additions to the revised agenda; none were proposed.

**Public Comments.** No public comment.

**Science and Technical Advisory Committee Report.** Larry Swanson reported on the June 14 STAC meeting, rescheduled from February due to weather. At the meeting Larry was elected by the CAC to another two year term as the New York STAC co-chair. Georgia Basso and Suzanne Paton, USFWS, gave a brief presentation and led a discussion on tidal wetland restoration. Announced upcoming joint STAC/CAC meeting scheduled for September 20. They are working on a draft agenda. Expecting a proof of the Long Island Sound synthesis book in August, will have a very quick turn-around. Jason Krumholz, the NOAA Liaison to the LISS, gave an update on the water quality monitoring work group's ongoing work, and Jim O'Donnell described the overall data management issues the group is discussing and accepted some STAC members that volunteered to participate. CTSeaGrant recently released a report on the economic value of the maritime industry in the Sound

**Citizens Advisory Committee Report.** Curt Johnson reported on the June 13 CAC meeting. A number of CAC members traveled to DC to meet with EPA, OMB, and the Congressional Caucus. Sandy Breslin summarized the meeting and emphasized the importance of CAC organizations getting involved. The Management Committee discussed the current funding challenges and the need to identify estimates the costs of implementation. The CAC then discussed the CCMP revision process, giving input on its structure and communication. Finally, Gary Wikfors, NOAA, gave a presentation on nutrients in coastal ecosystems and the potential for bioextraction through shellfish to have positive outcomes. Plum Island, Bishop has introduced legislation to preserve Plum Island.

**Long Island Sound Futures Fund Evaluation.** Lynn Dwyer from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) gave introduction and started presentation. The purpose of the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) is to support local and regional on-the-ground implementation of projects that contribute to improving conservation and environmental quality Sound-wide. LISFF is administered by the NFWF in partnership with the Long Island Sound Study (LISS). Since 2005, LISFF has invested over \$10 million in 258 projects to protect and restore the health and living resources of LIS.

In 2012 Stratus Consulting was commissioned to conduct an independent evaluation of the LISFF. Charles Herrick, from Stratus Consulting, then presented on the findings and recommendations from the evaluation. Overall LISFF was found to be a vital, well-run program that has completed a wide range of innovative, successful, and visible conservation and

restoration projects within the LIS region. They found that LISFF grants are consistent with goals articulated in the LISS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), nevertheless the program would benefit from greater definition with regard to its core mission and programmatic identity. They also suggested a number of program deployment changes that they believe would increase grantee success and enhance overall LISFF results.

Lynn announced next steps. NFWF will prepare a formal response to the evaluation and present response to EPA. MC members can provide comments to EPA in the near-term. MC should take this on and address findings at next MC meeting or with sub-committee. Move up timing of new RFP to include responses & engagement

**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.

Two public/stakeholder listening/scoping sessions were conducted, one in Stony Brook NY (June 5) and one in Bridgeport, CT (June 25).

Complete Phase 1: Content development

- Complete the overall goals, outcomes, and objectives of the plan (End of July)
- Complete work on indicators, targets, actions (anticipated completion date 8/31/13)
- Send review package to Management Committee (estimated 9/1/13)
- Collect and synthesize comments from partners and complete phase 1: goals, outcomes, objectives, indicators, targets, and actions (estimated 9/30/13)

The MC agreed that it is time to start the process to initiate Executive Steering Committee involvement in the CCMP revision process.

For additional information contact Jim Latimer at [latimer.jim@epa.gov](mailto:latimer.jim@epa.gov).

**Stewardship Site Designation.** Dave Kozak from Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection gave a presentation proposing the Old Black Pt. Beach Stewardship site designation within the existing Pattagansett-Watts Island Stewardship area.

2006 Stewardship Act & CCMP tasked LISS with setting aside stewardship areas. Ecological site evaluation criteria considered to select the 33 inaugural EPA LIS Stewardship Sites where used to evaluate the current Stewardship Site designation proposal. Criteria included whether the site: (1.) represents a natural habitat type or ecosystem typical to the Long Island Sound; (2.) contains examples of unique or rare habitats or ecosystems (e.g. unditched tidal marshes, secondary dunes etc.); (3.) supports or has supported significant baseline scientific research worthy of continued support or contains areas of intrinsic value (e.g. unditched tidal wetlands) for future long-term scientific research; (4.) provides habitat for a Federal or State-listed endangered, threatened, or species of special concern; or (5.) may provide rare habitat for an assemblage of rare species or for an unusually high concentration of a single rare species.

For maps and site information visit: [LISStewardshipAtlas.net](http://LISStewardshipAtlas.net)

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At the suggestion of co-chairs of the EPA LISS Stewardship Work Group, the Old Black Point Association has requested Stewardship Site designation for the majority its 17- acre property within the existing Pattagansett Marsh – Watts Island Stewardship Area in East Lyme, Connecticut. This recommendation is offered due to the high quality and uniqueness of the coastal habitats at the site, rare species occurrence, significant historic estuarine ecological research conducted in the past, and, because it is an integral part of the larger existing Pattagansett-Watts Island Stewardship area/ecological complex.

The Management Committee agreed by consensus to support the designation of the site as a new stewardship site.

The Stewardship work group will develop a process for designating stewardship sites in the future.

Both CTDEEP and NYSDEC then gave an update on the status of their stewardship acquisitions using prior year LISS funding.

### **Other Announcements.**

Hurricane Sandy \$\$ applications for easement program will close Sept 2! CT & NY have separate application programs but both are open now & due Sept 2.

Upcoming CTDEEP green infrastructure conference in Cromwell, CT Thursday, Sept 13 – Overcoming Barriers to Implementation.

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