

**Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Notes
Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport, CT
October 16, 2014**

Welcome/Introductions. Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 9:35am. Attendees gave self-introductions.

Public Comments. No public comments.

Announcements.

Lynne Hamjian from US EPA Region 1 has been promoted to the Deputy Director of the Office of Ecosystem Protection and will no longer serve on the LISS Management Committee. Acting Surface Water Branch chiefs will serve as the interim Management Committee rep until a final replacement has been made.

Restore America's Estuaries Conference coming up in November. Some Long Island Sound Study staff will be in attendance.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy visited The Sound School in New Haven Connecticut on October 14 for a tour and roundtable to discuss Long Island Sound issues.

CCMP Revision Update. Jim Latimer from USEPA Office of Research and Development gave a presentation on the status of the revision of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan update (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 Long Island Sound Study released a draft Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) update for a 60 day public comment period, ending on November 8, 2014. Public meetings have been held in New York and Connecticut, additional public meetings are planned for October 27 in Old Saybrook, CT, for October 28 via webinar and for November 5 in NY.

The presentation included information on the current status of the revision, public review activities, Priority Action priorities, Long-Term Targets, next steps in the revision process, and where individuals can go to find more information.

Bill Wise – clarification on CCMP vs appendix

Rob Hust – metrics & indicators (how do we access progress?)

public comments (formal response?) *Jim – we have compiled all response to comments, WV will produce document in response to comments as part of public record.*

Good job looking forward

Jim – making long term strong target vs conservative targets. What is possible and what will encourage participation. Understanding tension for setting indicators.

Mark – This document does not end when the contract ends Nov 30 – we will get this right.

Sandy- tremendous amount of effort & expertise. Targets in letter taken out of exiting Fish & wildlife targets (plovers & terns) should be heavily considered. We want these included in priority actions.

Mark – this is not a priority work plan, this has to be something bigger, with a longer vision.

Curt – the power of ‘WE’ we need to view this as a partnership document, not just an EPA document. We are all implementers. We need to be partners in implementation. Thank you to NRCS for considering the LIS as partnership area. Fish & wildlife taking this on as critical wildlife area. Invested in restoration activities. ‘Lead us to the promised land’

Rob – State agencies programs, we have all of these different plans. Should have a crosswalk with State programs.

Joe – this is section 320, this is a partnership document. The first one was an implementation document through existing channels. Agency can then use this as a budget justification.

Bill – Vision of what a restored LIS vision means. What is this vision? What we want are results and what we often get are consequences.

Lynne – consensus around partnership – commitment to larger focus & priorities

We need stretch goals that are possible. We need this to drive the way we work & more alignment. Overlap with TMDL work group actions.

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) & Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Update. Curt Johnson and Nancy Seligson gave an update on the joint CAC/STAC meeting held on October 10 in Mamaroneck, NY. They distributed a joint letter, addressed to the Long Island Sound Study office asking for bold vision in the new CCMP. Most of the comments on summary brochure.

N big area of concern. Strong call for further actions

Actions that are more aggressive & outcomes that are bolder.

Not just pathogen reduction, but beach management. This plan is about making our own future.

General Updates.

August 15 Connecticut/New York State Commissioner-EPA R1/R2 Administrators Meeting.

Mark Tedesco gave an update. He expressed a need for a joint plan & highlighted a convincing story as to why it is worth it and here is what we could get out of it.

Long Island Sound Report Card. CAC/STAC received a presentation on the LIS Report Card at their October 10 joint meeting. It was requested that the developers present their results to the Management Committee, maybe at the January meeting via webinar.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshop. Jason Krumholdz Long Island Sound Study liaison to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association gave a presentation on the Water Quality Monitoring Work Group progress and an update on the 2-day workshop planning.

For additional information contact Jason Krumholdz at Jason.Krumholdz@noaa.gov.

2014 Long Island Sound Futures Fund Project Summary. Lynn Dwyer presented the results of the 2014 LISFF project selections and highlighted previous accomplishments. Presented funding allocation by grant category. Noted that education proposals needed an on the ground component for selection.

More information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/lisff> or contact Lynn Dwyer at:

Lynn.Dwyer@NFWF.org

2014 Budget Planning

EPA is anticipating a EPA headquarters Long Island Sound Study Program evaluation during the summer of 2015. This usually a triennial review consisting of an entrance conference, site visits, partner meetings, an exit conference and a letter of recommendations. More information to follow on this item. Joe Salata will be planning and draft a the required self-evaluation as well as a proposed agenda.

EPA raised this issue of hosting a two-day Management Committee meeting. The LISS historically hosted annual two-day meetings, but the last one was in 2010. Now with the planned release of the new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan it might be a good time to delve deeply into the Management Conference structure, highlight priorities for the next few years and discuss program direction. We would like to hear from the Committee members with their thoughts on a possible two-day meeting next year and thoughts on workgroup engagement with the Management Committee.

Discussion:

Curt Johnson– 2 day meeting would be good. Ask some major partners to present. Hear from key partners & leadership on what we should be doing to going forward – panel on

Rick Balla- Regular update on the TMDL work group

Lynne Hamjian– conversation about priorities and discussion on direction. Not just on presentations.

Rob Hust– Quick work group report-outs, but when a big project is completed it is good to have an update. Provide enhancement report before the Jan MC meeting.

NYSDEC - Paragraph update attached to final report and sent to the MC. With a headline and update
SeaGrant - Partner updates. Integrate with priorities of CCMP

**Consensus from the Management Committee members on 2-day meeting. I-Team should propose options for two-day meeting, workgroups structure and agenda back to MC.

Try to engage highest level of engagement – hear from them at the start.

All need to get better at giving ‘Ted’ talks

NEPORT. Leah O’Neill thanked all the staff responsible for the required National Estuary Program On-line Reporting Tool (NEPORT) annual submittal. This tool tracks acres of habitat protected and/or restored, river miles reopened and leveraging activities. More information can be found at: www.epa.gov/nep

Lobsters/pesticides. Rob Hust 5 commonly used pesticides and focused on lab methods. Broad steering committee meeting and lab is working on test methods. Lobster collection is taking place.

Marsh loss workshop. Hosting at Danfords next Wed/Thurs on the subject of wetlands, trends, monitoring techniques, working group to revisit biological, physical and chemical stressors to wetlands and marsh & make some key recommendations on where we need to be.

NRCS workshop on soil Health – basic soil health workshop in East Windsor, CT at Scout Hall on November 4. For more information contact Nancy Ferlow @ Nancy.Ferlow@ct.usda.gov

Future Agenda Topics.

RCPP announcement & presentation from NRCS
