



**Long Island Sound Study
Management Committee Meeting Notes
Housatonic Community College
Thursday, October 18th, 2018**

Attendees: Jim Ammerman, NEIWPC; Casey Personius, NYSDEC; Robert Burg, NEIWPC; Mel Coté, EPA/NE; Nelle D’Aversa, NEIWPC/NYSDEC; Richard Friesner, NEIWPC; Chuck Lee, CTDEEP; Dave Lipsky, NYCDEP; Audra Martin, NEIWPC; Jonathan Morrison, USGS/CT; Leah O’Neill, EPA; Mark Parker, CTDEEP; Mark Tedesco, EPA; Harry Yamalis, CTDEEP; Gary Wikfors, NOAA Fisheries; Anna Weshner-Dunning, NY Sea Grant; Judy Preston, CT Sea Grant; Kathy Bunting-Howarth, NY Sea Grant; Koon Tang, NYSDEC; Holly Drinkuth, TNC/CAC co-chair; Evelyn Powers, IEC; Dawn McReynolds, NYSDEC; Vicky O’Neill, NYSDEC; Sylvain De Guise, CTSG; Denise Ruzicka, CTDEEP; Laura Grieco, NYCDEP; Todd Bobowick, NRCS; Tracy Brown, STS; Tripp Killin, Jeniam Foundations; Lynn Dwyer, NFWF. 30 people present

Welcome/Introductions/Logistics Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 9:35am. Mark reviewed the agenda for the day and relayed regrets from Darcy Lonsdale and Jim O’Donnell that they could not attend. Casey Personius, the new Long Island Sound Study Coordinator, Division of Marine Resources at NY DEC, was also introduced and welcomed to her first Management Committee meeting. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

REPORTS

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Jim Ammerman provided the STAC update. No meetings have occurred since the last MC meeting. The next meeting is on November 16th and will focus on habitats. Paul Shepson is an Atmospheric and Climate scientist at Purdue who will be coming on board. The [STAC meeting summaries](#) are available on the LISS website.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Holly Drinkuth, CT CAC co-chair, provided the CAC update. Holly gave updates from the September meeting where they had a local history from Deputy Mayor Larry LaPoint, gave members an opportunity to share observations, and had a presentation from Nelle D’Aversa about bioextraction processes. Creating two-way actions with local municipalities is at the forefront of their priorities. There will be an advocacy trip to Washington, DC in November to visit the LIS delegation. The Policy committee is also reviewing a proposed Army Corp of Engineers coastal protection project to study the efficacy of sea barriers throughout NY harbor and extended areas; the next meeting concerning this is at US Marshall Marine Academy in Kings point, NY, on Oct 23. The [CAC meeting summaries](#) are available on the LISS website.

CCMP IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORTS

Work group summaries were sent out to the Management Committee members prior to the meeting. There were no comments.

Social Media Campaign: Robert Burg, NEIWPC, presented an overview of this summer's social media campaign. The PIE work group completed an extensive focused message to "break the single-use plastic habit" over the summer. Beyond social media, they held a clean-up in CT and NY. More than 7000 stickers were distributed to promote goals, and received extensive media coverage from multiple organizations (NBC, CT newspaper, NPR, additional tv and news coverage). There was a 60% increase in responses/social media posts over last year's campaign.

Lynn Dwyer asked about barriers to implementation and action after awareness is achieved and suggested the use of a dashboard to track link use and follow-up from citizens.

Water Quality Monitoring Workgroup update: Jim Ammerman, NEIWPC, presented the latest 2018 summary Hypoxia Report. CTDEEP data shows 52 square miles of hypoxia at the end of August. Duration of hypoxia is not showing a long term trend although the area of hypoxia is decreasing. The maximum spatial extent of hypoxia is decreasing over time. Jim reviewed the general summer seasonal pattern to oxygen depletion from June through September. Jim cited CTDEEP, IEC, and LISICOS data. Questions included challenges of integrating data; correlations to wet and hot weather.

LIS WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Final FY18 Budget and work plan, and FY19 Budget Cycle

Process Overview and Priority Funding Needs: Mark Tedesco reviewed the final FY18 Budget and Work Plan overview and presented a handout projecting continued base program elements into FY19 (Attachment 1). The base program elements, without adjustments, total around \$8.2 million for FY19. FY19 funding at a similar level to FY18, \$12.6 million, would leave approximately \$4.4 million for enhancement project proposals. Mark stated that EPA will send out written guidance on preparing and submitting by November 28 detailed work plans and budgets for FY19 continuing base programs. This will allow the Implementation Team to review the total requests at its December 5 meeting.

Discussion then switched to identifying enhancement needs. Mark gave a list of the 2019 Enhancement needs that have been identified to date; items #1-10 are continuing projects and #10-14 are potentially new areas of enhancement. Discussion ensued on other possible needs. Chuck Lee emphasized the potential need for further enhancements to embayment monitoring. Denise Ruzicka mentioned the need to continue to include the upper watershed as eligible for the the Futures Fund (LISFF) for nitrogen-related water quality improvement projects. Jon Morrison noted that further enhancements to the tributary monitoring would be desirable. Gary Wikfors suggested supporting fish passage projects and Koon Tang suggested a possible project with Permeable Reaction Barriers. It was pointed out that such implementation projects have been or could be funded through the LISFF. In general, implementation projects should be funded out of the LISFF pot. Chuck also mentioned potential operation and maintenance issues with RV *Dempsey* that could jeopardize its continued viability. Harry Yamalis mentioned potential habitat

restoration programs that don't fit well under the Futures Fund. Sylvain suggested adding "restoration" to the "stewardship" base funding that each state is eligible for to provide flexibility for habitat restoration and stewardship initiatives that don't match well with LISFF. The Management Committee agreed to add this to the base program option under Stewardship. Evelyn Powers suggested adding alkalinity parameters in monitoring and to develop IEC's in-house lab capability to analyze carbon. Mark recommended that these monitoring suggestions first be discussed by the water quality monitoring work group. Holly Drinkuth requested consideration of funding for restarting the Citizens Summit. Mark mentioned that a local sponsor would first need to be identified.

EPA will also send out guidance for developing submitting by November 28 streamlined 1-2 page enhancement proposals. The guidance will include a modified list of possible enhancement needs. Proposals will need to identify a cost (or range of cost) and possible match, and directly link activities and outcomes to CCMP priority actions and ecosystem targets. The proposals will be reviewed at the December I-team meeting and included in a budget for the January 2019 MC meeting.

Mark noted that the Water Resources and Development Act, approved by Congress and on the President's desk for signature, reauthorizes the LIS Restoration and Stewardship Act. The legislation adds new authorities and specific reporting requirements that will have to be implemented and must be considered in the budget planning process. The bill would also modify the federal match has ratio from 50:50 to 60:40. Mark reminded everyone that both the House and Senate FY19 appropriation bills fund LIS at the \$12 million level, so steady funding is possible.

FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE

Overview and new initiatives: Tripp Killin from the JENIAM Foundation presented the JENIAM foundation goals and desire to help with Long Island Sound goals through the Funders Collaborative. The Collaborative so far has funded:

- Centralizing water quality monitoring data across organizations and geography
- Unified water study
- Is looking at creating a LIS Stewardship Fund

Tripp asked for potential projects and collaborations from the MC. These could include high risk technical projects, assessment projects, bio extraction projects, media outreach assessment projects.

PROPOSAL FOR NITROGEN STRATEGIES SHOWCASE/SUMMIT

Leah O'Neill gave an overview of the "nitrogen summit and showcase", a one-day conference that would bring together federal, state, and local municipalities with NGO's to highlight current actions, efficiency, and the state of the science of nitrogen reduction projects. It is tentatively scheduled for June of 2019. There was discussion about the purpose and goals of the showcase, its relative focus on past accomplishments or future policies, and relative emphasis on tributary state involvement versus and CT and NY focus. EPA agreed to provide a more detailed concept

of the showcase and to involve partners in further discussions and planning before proceeding with scheduling.

Leah also provided a quick update of Phase 1 activities of Tetra Tech contract report and plans for Phase 2 work. There will be a webinar providing a brief update on activities on Nov 28.

LINAP Data Sharing Project

Koon Tang, NYDEC, gave an update on the LISS Data Management Team efforts and the goal of creating a “one-stop shop” for water quality data. This will minimize duplication, spot data gaps, track progress, and provide the most complete possible picture available in order to make the best decisions possible. The organizations involved are: Suffolk County Water Authority and Health, NYSDEC, Nassau County, and USGS. The data will be used to make science based policy decisions. The projected costs are \$500K, with \$25k in annual maintenance. A USGS contract is in place, with an anticipated completion in November of 2019.

Updates

Time did not allow for updates.

The next meeting of the Management Committee will be scheduled for January 2019. Mark Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

.....