

Management Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, October 15, 2020
Meeting conducted remotely due to COVID-19



Attendees

Mark Tedesco, EPA LISO
Nikki Tachiki, EPA LISO
Cayla Sullivan, EPA LISO
Mel Cote, EPA R1
Leah O'Neill, EPA R1
Bessie Wright, EPA R1
Richard Balla, EPA R2
Robin Parker, EPA HQ
Darcy Lonsdale, STAC/NY
Paul Stacey, STAC
Nancy Seligson, CAC/NY
Holly Drinkuth, CAC/CT
Denise Savageau, CAC/ CT
Association of Conservation
Districts
Harry Yamalis, CTDEEP
Mark Parker, CTDEEP

Phil Trowbridge, CTDEEP
Erik Bedan, CTDEEP
Brian Thompson, CTDEEP
Kelly Streich, CTDEEP
Casey Personius, NYSDEC
Sue Van Patten, NYSDEC
Dawn McReynolds, NYSDEC
Koon Tang, NYSDEC
Victoria O'Neill,
NYSDEC/NEIWPPCC
Kristin Kraseski,
NYSDEC/NEIWPPCC
Richard Friesner, NEIWPPCC
Audra Martin, NEIWPPCC
Jim Ammerman,
LISS/NEIWPPCC
Robert Burg, NEWIPCC

Kathy Bunting-Howarth,
NYSG
Rebecca Shuford, NYSG
Jimena Perez-Viscasillas,
NYSG
Sylvain De Guise, CTSG
Judy Preston, LISS/CTSG
Suzanne Paton, USFWS
Nancy Ferlow, USDA-NRCS
Gary Wikfors, NOAA
Jonathan Morrison, USGS
Jayne Beckman, NYCDEP
David Lipsky, NYCDEP
Evelyn Powers, IEC

[Web Link to Presentations](#)

Introduction

Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00am and introduced everyone present in the Microsoft Teams Meeting. He outlined the meeting agenda: review the 2015-2019 CCMP Evaluation and Report, discuss and adopt the 2020 CCMP Update, and initiate discussion of the FY2021 Budget and Workplan, including enhancement funding suggestions. No proposed additions or changes to the agenda. Since we did not send out July 23, 2020 Management Committee (MC) notes he did not ask for any corrections on it. EPA will distribute following the meeting.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Update provided by Nancy Seligson and Holly Drinkuth

- Nancy Seligson: CAC met online on September 10, 2020 in a joint meeting with STAC to address Environmental Justice (EJ) issues with an emphasis on the public access ecosystem target. The meeting had two guest presentations that were organized by STAC (Jim O'Donnell and Jim Ammerman). Jim Ammerman also presented. The presentations followed break out group discussions to determine specific issues that should be addressed through the 2020 CCMP Update to refine EJ Implementation Actions (IAs). Pleased to see that comments were addressed through the 2020 CCMP Technical Supporting Documents, and looking forward to focusing on EJ work with partners.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Update provided by Jim Ammerman

- Jim Ammerman: No additional comments to CAC/STAC Meeting Update. He urged everyone to keep having these discussions for future EJ implementation.

2015 CCMP Tracking and Reporting – Nikki Tachiki

The Long Island Sound Study is a cooperative Federal/state Management Conference researching and addressing the priority environmental problems of the Sound identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The Management Committee provides support to the Management Conference partners in implementing the Plan.

- Nikki Tachiki: Presented on the status of the 2015-2019 CCMP IA Assessment and Report to Congress. The Assessment has been finalized, and the Report to Congress will be finalized and distributed by early December 2020. Please contact Nikki if you would like to review the Report to Congress as reviews are due by Tuesday, October 20, 2020 COB. See PowerPoint presentation for details of this section.
- Mark Tedesco: Opened the floor for discussion on the presentation.
 - Jim Ammerman: Suggested to add Long Island Sound Future Funds (LISFF) to the Sound Science and Inclusive Management Success Stories in the Report to Congress. Mel Cote: Suggested to add the Research Grant Program to the Sound Science and Inclusive Management Success Stories in Report to Congress.
 - Nikki Tachiki: Agreed to add Long Island Sound Futures Funds to the Sound Science and Inclusive Management Section as there is still available space since we did not exceed the word count. However, for the other three themes, we need to be careful when adding more text as we did exceed the word count.
 - Casey Personius: Noted that the LISFF is mentioned in the other themes, as projects included in the success stories were funded by those programs.
 - Mark Tedesco: Encouraged writers and reviewers to consider these recommendations in preparing the final draft. When the Report to Congress is completed, a number of copies will be printed for distribution, and will also be posted on the LISS website.

2020 CCMP Implementation Action Update – Nikki Tachiki

- Nikki Tachiki: Presented on the 2020 CCMP IA Update. After the last July MC meeting, IA List was distributed and did not receive a lot of feedback, so minor changes have been made. Received Comments from the joint CAC/STAC meeting, in which are incorporated into the 2020 CCMP Technical Supporting Documents.
 - Phil Trowbridge: Requested a summary as to where the CAC/STAC comments were incorporated in the Technical Supporting Documents.
 - Nikki Tachiki and Cayla Sullivan: Based on the CAC/STAC comments, there were no changes to the IAs themselves. However, they were incorporated into the Technical Supporting Documents throughout the one-page descriptions for the IAs that were specifically highlighted in the CAC/STAC comments.
 - Holly Drinkuth: CAC will send out the finalized CAC/STAC meeting notes soon.
- Nikki Tachiki: Presented on the LISS EJ Initiatives to identify how EJ is captured throughout the 2020 CCMP Update. Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, Nikki Tachiki, Bessie Wright, Casey Personius, and Cayla Sullivan are participants of the ad-hoc EJ Work Group. During the meetings, potential enhancement project topics and additional program initiatives are discussed. See PowerPoint presentation for details of this section.
- Bessie Wright: Discussed ways to strengthen LISS EJ Initiatives: 1) Formalizing the EJ Work Group, 2) Conducting a Needs Assessment, and 3) Transforming the Small Grant Program to an EJ Grant Program. Asked the MC: 1) Is there support for and any partnership capacity to make the needs assessment and the EJ grants program a reality for LISS? and 2) Does anyone have other EJ ideas, projects, or activities to propose?
 - Mark Tedesco: Further discussion of these EJ Initiatives will be addressed during the FY2021 Budget and Work Plan discussion.
- Mark Tedesco: The point of action for MC is to discuss and adopt the 2020 CCMP Update, and opened the floor for discussion.
 - Sylvain De Guise: Noted that the new Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group is in the process of identifying work plan actions, which will be finalized by December, to address the

- CCMP, but unsure how much it will align with the IAs.
- Mark Tedesco: There is an IA highlighting this Work Group, where the CCMP will adopt the workplan actions - SM-37: *In 2021, develop a Sustainable and Resilient Communities five-year plan that identifies specific actions, which, when approved by the MC will be added to the 2020 CCMP update.*
 - Koon Tang: Requested clarification on the meaning behind the 12 Priority IAs identified in each theme, specifically on whether they were priorities for this year or during the five-year period. Additionally, he noted that some IAs address more than one theme, so how can these crosscutting actions be mentioned in multiple themes throughout the CCMP.
 - Mark Tedesco: All the IAs are actions to be implemented during the 2020-2014 period. However, each theme contains 12 priority actions for special emphasis. Each IA has associated strategies, which is how cross-cutting themes are acknowledged.
 - Mel Cote: Noted that the 2000 TMDL is referred to Dissolved Oxygen TMDL in the 2020 CCMP Update. However, it should be referred to as the nitrogen TMDL as we characterize TMDLs by the pollutant, not the end product.
 - Casey Personius: Noted that if you search nitrogen TMDL, it will be referred to as the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL.
 - Paul Stacey: Noted that it is not just nitrogen addressed in the TMDL, it is also carbon and other matters, and therefore suggested to keep it as Dissolved Oxygen TMDL.
 - Mark Tedesco: Noted that the writing team will review this and, at minimum, assure consistent language throughout, in both the IAs and in the Technical Supporting Documents.
 - Koon Tang motioned to approve the 2020 CCMP Action Plan, and Sylvain De Guise seconded the motion. All MC members were then asked to raise their hand in favor to adopt the 2020 CCMP Action Plan. The motion was passed.
- Cayla Sullivan: Presented on status of the completion of the Technical Supporting Documents, in which LISO is concurrently working with the technical leads on final edits and comments, which will be completed by October 30. At the September 10 Joint CAC/STAC meeting, we distributed the EJ related IAs, in which in response CAC/STAC provided comments that were incorporated into the Technical Supporting Documents. The documents were distributed on October 9, to the MC and I-Team, and welcome feedback by October 30. The Final LISS CCMP 2020 IA List along with the associated Technical Supporting Documents will be posted by November 16.

Stretch Break at 10:05am

FY 2021 Budget and Workplan Kick-off – Leah O’Neill

- Leah O’Neill: Presented on the LISS Funding and Sources: two main appropriations - CWA Section 119 (LISS Funding) provided ~\$21 million, and CWA Section 320 (NEP Funding) provided ~\$600,000. Between the funds are three separate match amounts. See PowerPoint presentation for details of this section.
- Mark Tedesco: Presented on the 2017-2019 Investments, FY2020 funded topics by CCMP theme, existing FY2021 base program commitments, and the annual LIS Budget Process. Existing FY2021 commitments are estimated at \$12,452,450, meaning there is at minimum an additional ~\$8,000,000 to be used for enhancement projects. There is also a possibility that LISS can receive additional funds for enhancement projects as the House passed appropriations of \$30,000,000, and therefore could put enhancement funds at \$18-19 million. See PowerPoint presentation for details of this section. Key action items are to introduce areas that are important to address as part of the enhancement funding, and who would be leading these preproposals. An enhancement package will be distributed to discuss at the January MC meeting. Opened the floor to suggestions and questions.

- Mark Parker: Suggested to continue the research fund at the same level as FY20.
- Mark Tedesco: Clarified that two years of LIS contributions were used in the funding available for the research competition. The amount of money for both the CT and NY Sea Grant was combined with funds that have been provided in the FY2019 to provide overall support of the RFP in process now.
- Sylvain De Guise: Noted that Sea Grant held a call for proposals last year, with input from STAC, to advance CCMP ideas. Received 36 preproposals with a total request for \$12,000,000, and selected the top 17 preproposals to submit full proposals which requested \$6,200,000, in which 6-7 full proposals will be funded. Previously the cap was \$400,00 over 2 years, and increased it to \$500,000 or more, but need to justify amount.
- Suzanne Paton: Suggested to increase funding for the LISFF and research grant programs, as well as other potential grant opportunities.
- Mark Tedesco: Responded that the base program funding can be increased to provide funding for these programs.
- Sylvain De Guise: Noted that the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Working Group is working at an aggressive pace to be able to draft a work plan to request funds by December.
- Mark Tedesco: Responded that at the January MC meeting, there will be a presentation of the submitted preproposals, followed by discussion of additional recommendations to the current package. This discussion will be continued by the Implementation Team, and final projects will be proposed at the April MC meeting.
- Leah O'Neill: Clarified that there is an increase in research to the existing FY2021 commitments: \$1,500,000 to each CT and NY SG, totaling at \$3,000,000.
- Richard Friesner: Expressed interest in the EJ work as NEWIPCC currently has developed the framework to run an EJ Grant Program as suggested. However, unsure if they have the full capacity to run it, but it is something that can be acquired.
- Holly Drinkuth: Expressed interest in the Needs Assessment, and asked who could lead it. Additionally, expressed interest in conducting an engagement survey to better track ecosystem targets.
- Richard **Friesner**: NEWIPCC will start discussing potentially managing the Needs Assessment, in addition to the Grant Program.
- Phil Trowbridge: CTDEEP is developing Urban Waters Program, which can be used when developing the Needs Assessment. EJ communities are looking for more attention from state agencies and officials; however, ability to provide in-kind support is limited as time is state is looking to decrease staff time.
- Holly Drinkuth: Agreed with Phil, and emphasized the importance of involving EJ communities in the work.
- Evelyn Powers: Expressed interest in identifying and expanding bacterial monitoring in the embayments. Emphasized the need to work appropriate partners and work groups to investigate this issue, and proposed the idea that this work could also address EJ issues by targeting EJ communities.
- Rebecca Shuford: Expressed support to conduct the Needs Assessment, and suggested to hire a dedicated extension coordinator to address EJ issues in western Long Island Sound.
- Kristin Kraseski: Suggested to continue funding to advance the nutrient bioextraction initiative. Specifically, to expand upon the work that has previously been funded through the enhancement package including working with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Suffolk County to use sugar kelp as fertilizer amendments, and researching culturing ribbed mussels in hatchery

- aquaculture facilities. Additionally, suggested to initiate the second-phase to focus on more detail aspects of economic viability.
- Gary Wikfors: Suggested to investigate the threat to Living Marine Resources posed by pharmaceutical and personal care products in the Sound, as no agency other than EPA has the responsibility for chemical pollutants. Researching this topic can provide an answer for politicians who should ask what "revolutionary" change in LISS is being enabled by 4X increase in the annual budget?
 - Sue Van Patten: Noted that the \$300,000 for the Solute Transport Model was not included in the existing FY2021 funding table.
 - Jimena Perez-Viscasillas: Stated that Sea Grant has been having internal discussions about the submitting an enhancement proposal for the Needs Assessment, and would like to continue conversations with NEWIPCC as to who should submit the proposal (NEWIPCC or Sea Grant), and if it can be completed in-house or through a contractor.
 - Casey Personius: Stated that at the Division of Marine Resources there have been internal conversations about ecosystem targets, so expect to see enhancement proposals submitted for restoration projects on recently acquired lands through LISS funds. Additionally, restoration to potentially create public access, and/or progress shellfish target.
 - David Lipsky: Expressed support for an outreach coordinator in NYC as EJ issues are different in there compared to Nassau/Suffolk County, conducting the Needs Assessment, and investigating new pollutants of concern (marine anti-fouling paints).
 - Sue Van Patten: Noted that NYSDEC will be submitting a proposal to pilot a second-phase of the asset management of wastewater treatment plants, which includes building engineer capacity and expertise.
- Leah O'Neill: Presented on match requirement issues/needs: Under the two appropriations, there is a 50% required match for CWA Section 320, and a 40% required match for implementation and 5% required match for outreach and education for CWA Section 119. In previous years, struggled to fulfill the match requirements, and the ability to aggregate match is very helpful. However, some partners that have been long-standing in overmatching are looking at other ways to provide funding. EPA HQ has confirmed that SRF revenues can be used as program match, and as always, need to be non-federal funds, eligible under our statute, and directed towards the CCMP.
 - Koon Tang: Spoke with NYSDEC to better frame and focus discussion, and will bring this new information back to them to produce a list of questions to better identify the process and limitations.
 - Dawn McReynolds: Expressed the interest to be involved in the discussion of match requirements, and posed the idea if these SRF can be used for other projects including restoration.
 - Sylvain De Guise: Due to the pandemic and uncertainty of the future, there are sectors that are severely affected (Shellfish Aquaculture), and may want to consider funding these sectors to help.
 - Sylvain De Guise: Expressed support to expand ongoing training, seminars, workshops, and efforts about EJ to better raise awareness and implementation across all LISS projects.
 - Mark Tedesco: Formalizing the ad-hoc EJ Work Group can help implement that idea, and following this meeting an invitation to participate in the Work Group will be sent out.
 - Mark Tedesco: Noted that EPA will send out direction to Management Conference participants for developing enhancement pre-proposals. These pre-proposals will be packaged for discussion at the January Management Committee meeting, with final decisions at the April meeting. EPA

will summarize the ideas presented and develop direction on the format, timeline and requirements for preproposals. These directions will be distributed by the end of October.

Updates

- Kristin Kraseski: Noted that USACE recently published a proposal to reissue and modify nationwide permits (NWP), emphasizing that these new NWPs would authorize seaweed mariculture and multispecies aquaculture activities in coastal and marine waters of the US. USACE are looking for general comments or input if seaweed mariculture activities may result in discharge of dredged or fill materials. Comment period closes Nov 16, 2020. NYSDEC plans to submit comments on the proposal, and wanted to inform LISS partners.
 - Brian Thompson, Richard Friesner, David Lipsky, Holly Drinkuth: If helpful, offered to review NYSDEC's comments on proposal. Additionally, NEWIPCC can write a comment letter on behalf of the member states that are affected.
 - Sue Van Patten: Stated that multiple divisions of NYSDEC are writing these comments, and we will heavily advocate for sharing, but we do not know the ability to share these comments.
- Mark Tedesco: Thanked to Robert Burg for setting up the Community Based Social Marketing Webinar, and in the future, encouraged LISS to think about this idea and incorporate it into our projects. Additionally, highlighted pre-kick off meeting, on the integrated modeling effort with NYCDEP, and a formal kick-off meeting on October 23, 2020.
- Paul Stacey: Mentioned that CT Governor's Climate Change Plan are posted for comment and review.
 - Brian Thompson: Added there is a strong equity and EJ considerations in the plan.

Next Meeting & Adjournment – Mark Tedesco

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:38pm.