

Citizens Advisory Committee
ZOOM Online Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2020 – Meeting Summary



Welcome and Roll Call

- Holly Drinkuth (CAC CT co-chair, TNC) called the online meeting to order at 9:19 am. Attendees were invited to share personal observations and changes to their interactions in and around the Sound during the Coronavirus pandemic. Observations included an increase in PPE litter; many people, especially younger, on the water; and needing to rethink water quality monitoring and outreach.
- Judy Preston conducted the rollcall and determined a quorum of 16 member organizations were in attendance.
- Nancy Seligson (CAC NY co-chair, Town of Mamaroneck) introduced and welcomed Olivia Del Vecchio, the new CAC Member Coordinator and new STAC liaisons to the CAC: Jamie Vaudrey (UConn Marine Sciences) and Kamazima Lwiza (Stony Brook University, NY).
- Holly provided a brief statement acknowledging how difficult the last three months have been, not just regarding the Coronavirus and socialization, noting the disproportionate impact on Black Americans and communities of color. She highlighted the importance of the meeting topic and called on the CAC to make the effort to understand and address these challenges in the days ahead.
- The March meeting summary was approved by David Miller (NY League of Conservation Voters) and seconded by Carl Harvey (Menunkatuck Audubon). The motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Miller to formally adopt the Revised CAC Bylaws final in-person and remote vote which requires two-thirds majority approval (**22 in favor; 1 abstention**); seconded by Denise Savageau (CT Association of Conservation Districts). All voted in favor – motion carried.
- The Restore America’s Estuaries (RAE) Summit will be held virtually September 29 – October 1, 2020.
- The Social Marketing Behavior Change Workshop will be held online from September 21 – September 23; a “save the date” notice will be going out in a couple weeks.
- The new CAC letterhead with one minor edit was noted.

Membership Nomination

- Holly introduced Judy Rondeau, representing the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) and noted her letter requesting membership in the CAC. Judy provided background about herself and the purview and activities of the District. Mickey Weiss (Project Oceanology) made a motion to accept the nomination, noting that the ECCD is a great organization. Marty Garrell (CAC Secretary, Adelphi University) seconded. The motion carried (22 in favor, 1 abstention).

CCMP 2015 Report to Congress and CAC 2020 Draft Actions

- Nikki Tachiki (EPA LIS office) provided an overview of the outline for the CCMP 2015 Report

to Congress as the basis for consideration and input from the CAC. The purpose of the report is to track progress on the implementation actions (IA's) from 2015 – 2019. She requested that comments from the CAC should provide the actual language for any proposed changes or generation of new IA's.

- Holly provided a framework for CAC input to the 2020 Review of CCMP Implementation Actions (IAs) by outlining important considerations such as changes, clarity, feasibility and relevance to the CCMP. These are included in the separate compiled comments document.
- Mark Tedesco (EPA LIS office) referred to cross-cutting strategies, noting in particular that environmental justice should be integrated into everything that we do, to which Holly commented that this was also called out in the GAO report.
- CAC members were assigned to Break Out groups to discuss the 2015 Report to Congress and the 2020 CCMP Update. Questions are recorded in the guidance document that went to CAC members.
- Groups reported out through the chat function of Zoom or individual group representatives. CAC discussion and comments are included in the attached document of compiled CAC comments.
- **Action: Additional CAC comments must be provided to Holly and Nancy by Friday, June 26th! Final compiled CAC comments will be submitted to the LIS office for consideration in the final draft 2020 Update of CCMP IAs and will be reviewed by the LISS Management Committee on July 23.**

New Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group

- Becky Shuford (NYSG) and Sylvain De Guise (CTSG) provided an overview of the newly formed Sustainable and Resilient Communities work group, starting with the group's origin, the select CCMP objective that will be focused on, deliverables, and plan for how to get there.
- The year-one deliverable will be a five-year work plan and implementation strategy with accompanying LISS budget request, and an engaged working group ready to implement the work plan.
- The Work Group will convene a 2-day meeting to inventory existing actions and hear opinions on future projects, engage 1 or 2 graduate/undergraduate interns to help shepherd the project, convene the working group in a one-day in person meeting to present the draft work plan for feedback; and finalize the work plan and prepare an implementation strategy, with associated budget request.
- **Action: CAC members interested in joining the new working group should contact Nikki Tachiki.**

Policy Subcommittee Update

Adrienne Esposito (Citizen's Campaign for the Environment) and Tracy Brown (Save the Sound)

- A letter to congressional representatives (House and Senate) regarding the environmental benefits to Long Island Sound of a stimulus bill has been drafted.
- **Action: A draft letter will be circulated to CAC members for a 24-hour review and comment.**
- Tracy commented on the Sound *not* looking better in the time of the pandemic because of plastic waste. This is a huge setback from what was a great deal of momentum regarding the public's use of plastic bags. Some towns are permitting people to bring their own bags if they fill them themselves, but this is the exception. Mickey recommended a strongly worded letter to the CT

governor and legislature. **Action:** The Policy sub-committee will draft letters on plastic waste appropriate for both states.

- Trump rollbacks of environmental legislation, including an executive order that allows commercial fishing in the [Northeast Canyons and Seamounts](#) – the only protected area in the Atlantic Ocean. Senator Blumenthal is working on this. MaryEllen Mataleska (Mystic Aquarium) will share information with Olivia and the co-chairs to forward to members.
- Tracy reported that the virtual advocacy visit with Congressional offices in March went well with participation from several members. She noted lawmakers supported a \$31million request for the LIS program, although a continuing resolution at \$21million is likely for FY21. A fall virtual visit is planned. Nancy complimented the quick adaptation to virtual meetings.
- Adrienne reported on the \$3 billion environmental bond act that was included in the NY Governor’s budget in the spring. It includes funding for land preservation, wastewater treatment, restoration and sea level rise. Due to the current \$16 billion state deficit, this may not go on the ballot. TNC NY plans to conduct polling to gauge voter support.

LISS Communication & Events

- CAC Listserv & Social Media: Robert Burg (NEIWPC) displayed a new squid sticker design for the upcoming summer social media plastics campaign. Anemone and osprey designs are also planned. He encouraged CAC members to contribute to and help circulate posts during the campaign, slated for the 1st through the 3rd weeks in August. Several CAC members noted the popularity of the stickers.
- Nancy described the roles and distinctions of the CAC list serve and other distribution lists for meeting information, noting that it is incumbent on CAC members to keep their contact information up to date by providing any changes to Olivia.
- The 35th Anniversary of the LISS is this year. Ideas included highlighting the anniversary in the CCMP report to Congress, creating a #35th anniversary hashtag, adding information to the CAC letterhead and plastics campaign, and interviewing original LISS members Mickey Weiss, Paul Stacey and Marty Garrell.
- Jimena Perez-Viscasillas (NYSG) announced the New York BioBlitz, June 15 – 26, 2020, that highlights Invasive Species Awareness week Jimena has conducted one of two evening webinars to advertise the event and teach citizen scientists how to use the [iNaturalist](#) app to record invasive plants and animals. She thanked Eric Swenson (Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee) for sharing this information.
- Denise Savageau (CT Association of Conservation Districts) reported that the CT Governor’s Council on Climate Change is updating and combining two plans: one on state preparedness and the other on the 2018 low carbon strategy for the state. There is a huge environmental equity component to this for people of color and the handicapped.
- Jim Ammerman (NEIWPC) announced that the STAC meeting on June 18th will focus on ocean acidification. All are welcome. The agenda and meeting info will be forwarded to CAC members.

Adjourn

- Eric Swenson noted, and the Zoom chat box recorded, that the meeting finished “right on time” (at 12:29:46).

Next CAC meeting: September 10, 2020

For meeting minutes and other information, visit:

<http://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/committees/citizens-advisory-committee/>