

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 12, 2015
Morrison & Foerster Law Firm, New York, NY
Meeting Summary**

Welcome, Housekeeping & Logistics

Nancy Seligson, *Town of Mamaroneck* and the *NY Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Co-chair*, welcomed the group at approximately 9:45am. A quorum of approximately 24 CAC members was present.

Long Island Sound Study Updates

Long Island Sound Report Card

Mark Tedesco, *EPA Long Island Sound Office*, discussed the Long Island Sound Report Card that will be coming out in June 2015. He said that a presentation by the University of Maryland was made at the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting on February 20, 2015 to show how the look of the report card and the grade presentation. He said the STAC discussed thresholds of how to put a grade on water quality, and to identify the best indicators of health; he said that the STAC made a decision to focus on eutrophication and a water quality grade along with a few indicators of health. He said that the grades have not been set yet and that the thresholds will be Long Island Sound (LIS) specific. Also, Mark would like to be able to use the report cards to compare the embayments to each other.

Long Island Sound Research Program Awards

Jason Krumholz, *NOAA Liaison to the Long Island Sound Study*, briefly discussed the three 2-year research grants that were selected to be funded as part of the LIS Research Grant Program:

- Nitrogen loading and oxygen dynamics in LIS studied using stable isotopes by Mark Altabet, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Biogeochemical nitrogen loss vs. recycling in LIS by Craig Tobias, University of Connecticut
- Quantifying benthic-pelagic coupling in LIS by Robinson Fulweiler, Boston University

Jason said that the research grants will help the scientific community better understand nitrogen dynamics in Long Island Sound and help better refine the nitrogen model in Long Island Sound.

Municipal LIS Initiatives – A Report from the Front Lines

Town of Mamaroneck, NY

Nancy Seligson discussed the sustainability initiatives that her Town is undertaking. The Town developed a Sustainability Collaborative, a volunteer committee created to advise the Town on environmental issues. Some examples of the projects that they have been working on include the energy efficiency of the Ice Rink, Town Center, Fire Headquarters, and Town streetlights. The collaborative has also assisted in running workshops and doing outreach to the community. The Town has a Facebook page that also highlights their sustainability initiatives: <https://www.facebook.com/townofmamaroneckenvironment>

Town of North Hempstead, NY

Joel Ziev, *Town of North Hempstead*, gave a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the Town's environmental initiatives regarding Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor. He showcased the Town's open space initiatives and the new blueway trail that is under development that will connect Little Neck Bay to Manhasset Bay and then Hempstead Harbor. Also, he discussed the re-seeding and reopening of clam beds in Hempstead Harbor. He also discussed the feasibility studies that will be conducted by Nassau County to see if it would be possible to

connect houses with onsite wastewater treatment systems to a sewer district. Marine debris removal efforts were also highlighted.

Town of Darien, CT

Flip Huffard, *Darien Advisory Committee*, discussed the environmental initiatives that his Town is undertaking. He discussed how his Town is focusing on bacterial contamination of their local waters and how they are now requiring homeowners to upgrade their septic systems. He also said how Darien is focusing on open space and requiring native plants along the coastal buffer zone when reconstruction occurs. He also highlighted the Town's boat pump out station.

Suffolk County Sewer Infrastructure Program (Sarah Lansdale, *Suffolk County*)

Sarah Lansdale, *Suffolk County*, gave a PowerPoint presentation via webinar on "Suffolk County Water Quality Update." The presentation covered how the county is addressing nitrogen. The county is learning more about advanced wastewater treatment and monitoring various systems to determine the best onsite wastewater treatment system for nitrogen removal. In the near future, there will be a Water Resources Management Plan released from the IBM Smart Cities project.

Economic Study of Long Island Sound (Maya Kocian, *Earth Economics*)

Maya Kocian, *Earth Economics*, discussed via conference call *The Economic Value of the Long Island Sound Basin*. She discussed the frequently asked questions about the report and provided some talking points. The report can be accessed on the Earth Economics website:

<http://www.earthconomics.org/FileLibrary/file/Reports/Earth%20Economics%20Long%20Island%20Sound%20Basin%202015%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Microbeads Scientific Research (Sherri Mason, *SUNY Fredonia*)

Sherri "Sam" Mason, *SUNY Fredonia*, gave a PowerPoint presentation via webinar on microbeads in the Great Lakes. The presentation provided information on the results of her analyzing water samples from the Great Lakes and the composition of plastics found in the water. She discovered that microbeads from personal care products that she found were compared to microbeads in personal care products and were proven to be the same.

Microbeads Advocacy (Adrienne Esposito, *Citizens Campaign for the Environment*)

Adrienne Esposito, *Citizens Campaign for the Environment*, discussed microbeads advocacy efforts in NY and CT. She said that both states have the same goal of banning microbeads. The states are mirroring legislation similar to Illinois, but Illinois's law has an exemption for biodegradable microbeads. Even though these microbeads are labeled 'biodegradable,' they have been shown to not break down in the marine environment. CCE is working to exempt "biodegradable microbeads" in the NY and CT legislation.

Petition to EPA to Slash Nitrogen Pollution in LIS (Curt Johnson, *CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound*, and the *CT CAC Co-chair*)

Curt Johnson, *CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound*, and the *CT CAC Co-chair*, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the efforts being conducted to petition EPA to slash nitrogen pollution in LIS. Curt said this will be a major discussion at the Long Island Sound Citizens Summit to be held on April 10 in Bridgeport, CT. A meeting is scheduled for March 25th with EPA Regional Administrators to discuss moving forward with nitrogen in LIS.

Policy Committee Updates

Sandy Breslin, *Audubon Connecticut*, and Adrienne Esposito gave updates on the efforts of the LISS CAC Policy Committee. They discussed the meeting on February 19th in Port Jefferson, NY where they went over plans for 2015. The objective for this year is to get federal appropriations to \$10 million. The Policy Committee is planning a trip to Washington, DC on April 29th to discuss clean water funding, MS4s, green infrastructure, microbeads, a LIS Blue Plan, and the LIS Economic Study. Plum Island is also a priority for this year. Adrienne also discussed how they are working with Audubon New York to attend lobby days in Albany, NY to get funding for wastewater. June 25th has been set to conduct a bi-state summit at the Port Jefferson, NY Village Center, where NY Assemblyman Englebright will be in attendance.

CCMP Signing Event Planning

Mark Tedesco gave an update on the planning of a CCMP signing event with EPA Regional Administrators and NYSDEC and CTDEEP Commissioners. He would like the event to be held at the SUNY Maritime College, where the 1994 CCMP was signed around June 2015. If possible, it would be nice to have the NY and CT Governors and the EPA Administrator present to dedicate the plan.

Announcements

There is an Ocean Action Plan that is open for review. Long Island Sound is included in this plan.

The LIS Citizens Summit will be held on April 10 in Bridgeport, CT. The topic of the summit will be nitrogen.

The dredge material comment period from the Army Corps of Engineers ends on April 30, 2015.

There is a possibility to hold the September LISS CAC meeting with the Peconic Estuary Program in September at a location on the North Fork of Long Island.

For the next meeting, CAC members suggested having Jason Krumholz discuss LIS research in further detail. There will also be an update from the policy committee and a report of the shorebird stewardship programs being conducted in NY and CT. There is also interest in hearing from another CAC member on how they engage their municipal officials in LIS initiatives. Eric Swenson, *Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee*, and Carol DiPaolo, *Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor*, were interested in showcasing Hempstead Harbor in NY.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30pm. The next CAC meeting will be held on June 11th in CT.

For additional information on the CAC, visit: <http://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/committees/citizens-advisory-committee/>