

Watershed and Embayments Work Group Meeting Notes
Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Meeting conducted remotely due to COVID-19



Attendees:

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| Jim Ammerman, LISS/NEIWPCC | Leah O'Neill, EPA |
| Mary Arnold, NYSDEC/NEIWPCC | Vicky O'Neill, NYSDEC/NEIWPCC |
| Chet Arnold, UConn, CLEAR | Mark Parker, CT DEEP (Co-Chair) |
| Jordan Bishop, NEIWPCC | Judy Preston, CT SG |
| Nicholas Calderon, | Evelyn Powers, IEC |
| Anthony Caniano, Suffolk County Department of Health | Amanda Rollizo, EPA |
| Sarah Crosby, Earth Place/Harbor Watch | Kelly Streich CTDEEP |
| Holly Drinkuth, TNC | Cayla Sullivan, EPA |
| Richard Friesner, NEIWPCC | Stephen Terracciano, USGS |
| Heather Johnson, Friends of the Bay | Shawn Fisher, USGS |
| Chris Kephart, USGS | Kathleen Knight, CT DEEP |
| Peter Linderoth, STS, UWS | Timothy Visel, The Sound School |

Introduction:

Mark Parker called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am in the Zoom Meeting.

Recap of USGS Presentations: Microbial Source Tracking (MST) in Impaired Embayments in Long Island – Shawn Fisher:

- Shawn Fisher: Provided a summary of the recently published, Assessment of fecal contaminations sources using MST (see attached presentation for details). USGS conducted a study to investigate the issues associated with fecal contamination of surface waters. This discussion focused on the results from Hempstead Harbor, in which shows an abundance of human and canine fecal contamination throughout the Harbor which is most likely sourced from municipal separate storm sewer system conveyances. See the recently published report for more information: [Using Microbial Source Tracking to Identify Fecal Contamination Sources in an Embayment in Hempstead Harbor on Long Island, New York](#).
 - Peter Linderoth: Asked how receptive were the actual MS4s to the MST data.
 - Shawn Fisher: Responded that USGS has not met with any of the permittees, just NYS DEC, but USGS is open to discuss if permittee would find it useful.

FY2021 awarded project: Pathogen monitoring program to mitigate shellfish harvesting water closures adjacent to Wading River and Baiting Hollow Creek, Suffolk County, New York' – Evelyn Powers:

- Evelyn Powers: Presented on the recently funded FY21 LISS Enhancement Project, Tracking Water Quality Contaminants to Inform Mitigation Pilot, in which the ultimate purpose is to investigate closures in shellfish harvesting beds that have doubled in size over the last 5 years (Wading River and Baiting Hollow Creeks) (see attached presentation for details).
 - Peter Linderoth: Asked how this project will this inform DEC's effort to reopen those shellfish beds.
 - Evelyn Powers: NYS DEC will have to do their own sampling to reopen the shellfish beds for harvesting as there is a need to obtain certifications, but those certifications are not necessary for this project. The project will give NYS DEC an idea as to how to move forward with their own sampling and recertification process.
 - Kelly Streich: Asked if there is any discussion using dye studies as CT DEEP has used this technique in the past and was deemed successful in tidal systems.
 - Evelyn Powers: Responded that they are exploring these techniques and others for sampling.

Science Need: Pathogen monitoring in the LIS watershed – Sarah Crosby:

- Sarah Crosby: Presented on the science need, specifically in Connecticut, for additional pathogen monitoring as the current efforts are led by non-profits in which the network is not large enough for full data coverage and impedes the ability to make progress in the watershed (see presentation for more details).

Discussion of WEWG Work Plan Development and Priority recommendations for the FY22:

- Begin draft Work Plan to submit to the LISS Management Committee in October 2021.

Next Meeting & Adjournment – Mark Parker

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.
- Next meeting: November 10, 2021