

Long Island Sound Study
Watersheds and Embayments Work Group Agenda
May 17th, 2017: 10:00am-11:00am



Attendees: Cassie Bauer; Tracy Brown; Sarah Deonarine; Dave Dickson; Holly Drinkuth; Richard Friesner; Mary-beth Hart; Leah O’Neill; Mark Parker; Margie Purnell; Eric Swenson

Grant/Job opportunities

- New York Sea Grant is hiring a Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator. Review of applications will begin on June 14th, 2017. <http://seagrant.sunysb.edu/articles/t/job-announcement-long-island-sound-study-outreach-coordinator-long-island-sound-study-news>
- Soundkeeper and CFE/Save the Sound have joined forces to hire a full-time Soundkeeper. Applications are currently being reviewed, but are being accepted on a rolling basis until the new Soundkeeper is hired.
http://media.wix.com/ugd/842761_cd10bdc16bc04dfcaed4f54cb7dd3084.pdf
- Funding through the DEC Climate Smart Communities Grant Program for 2017 is now available. An informational webinar is being held on Thursday, May 25th from 10:30-12:00. Applications are due on July 28th, 2017. Webinar Info:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/calendar/ViewItem.html?integral=0&cal_item_id=4467&dtwhen=2457899. Grant Info: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html>
- DEC’s Water Quality Improvement Project Program Round 14 funding is now available. Applications are due by 4pm on July 28th, 2017. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>
- The 2017 LIS Future’s Fund RFP was released a few hours after our call ended. Two informational webinars will be held (5/23 and 5/31 from 1:30-3:00pm). Approximately \$2 million is available for projects this year. There is also an increase in the project cap and an increase in the geographic scope for water quality projects.
<http://www.nfwf.org/lisff/Pages/lisff2017rfp.aspx>

LISS Budget - The LISS FY17 budget is \$8.6 million (almost double what has been allocated in the past). At the LISS Management Committee meeting on May 11th, the members went over funding options, two of which were WEWG-related:

- NPS tracking tool – NEIWPC submitted a non-base proposal to LISS for Phase II to pilot the tool in a specific watershed, but there were questions about the long-term maintenance, so it is not

being funded this year. There could be an opportunity to build upon work of LINAP, as that will require some sort of tracking.

- NY Impervious Surface Update – the 2015 NY portion by UConn CLEAR will be funded in the FY17 budget. This update will help us track two ecosystem targets: impervious cover and riparian buffer extent. CTDEEP has contractual agreement with UCONN to save on over-head, so they will coordinate that grant for a cost-savings. The grant will be about \$55,000.
- Other projects that will be funded in FY17 include:
 - o All Submitted Base Proposals
 - o All submitted non-base proposals, except the NPS tracking tool. This includes: EPA nitrogen Contract for option period phase 2, Western LIS monitoring by IEC, funding for a Bioextraction coordinator, and funding towards a behavior change campaign.
 - o LIS Futures Fund will be increased, the project cap will be increased, and the geographic scope for water quality projects will expand
 - o Forward-funding of staff positions for one extra year. Traditionally, EPA only funded staff for the current year, but there was an agreement at MC to make sure all staff are forward funded for one additional year across all projects. This money will not be used until the next fiscal year, but many projects still go out to that same time frame, so this will ensure that we're fully staffed through the end of those projects.
 - o Funding to DEC for stewardship acquisition on Conscience Bay
 - o Support for the CT Blue plan. In addition to this support, CT has a two-year fellow through NOAA and the State that will be working on the Blue Plan.
 - o Support for a next generation eutrophication model. This will include embayments and large river inputs.

Nitrogen Strategies

Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan:

- Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program: This incentive program will provide grants (up to \$11,000 per household) and low-interest financing for homeowners to install new, nitrogen-removing individual/alternative onsite waterwater treatment systems. The program will become operational on July 1st.
- The Suffolk County Subwatershed Planning Group is meeting this week and their nitrogen loading model is expected to be completed in early summer.
- Subwatershed planning is underway in Nassau County, spearheaded by SoMAS, SBU.

- current LINAP work groups include: Fertilizer Management, Bioextraction, Nassau County Subwatershed planning, Suffolk County Subwatershed planning, and Data Collection and Analysis
- The LINAP webpage is in the process of being updated and monthly newsletters are being distributed to over 700 stakeholders.

CT's second generation nitrogen strategy:

- CTDEEP and UConn Clear are working on a nitrogen outreach program along the coast (three outreach projects likely in Stanford, Hamden, and Avery Point).

EPA LIS Nitrogen Strategy:

- The QAPP was just finalized. The contractor (tetra tech) also completed a literature review memo and is on track for the other deliverables. Updates on progress will be posted on the LISS website.

LISS Ecosystem Target webpage development

- The indicators work group is updating the LISS indicators webpage to include the 20 ecosystem targets that are identified in the CCMP. This should be completed by September 1.

Review the CCMP Implementation Action progress spreadsheet

- Cassie developed a spreadsheet to track progress on the CCMP implementation actions pertaining to this workgroup. If any work group members have 2017 updates to include in this spreadsheet, please send them to Cassie. Also, if you have any suggestions on improving the layout or adding to new implementation actions to the spreadsheet, please send them to Cassie.

Discuss future work group meeting format, goals, and agenda topics

- Currently, this workgroup meets quarterly via conference call and reports on updates related to the goals of the workgroup. Cassie brought up a discussion about changing the workgroup format (possibly meeting in person, having presentations on relevant topics, having field trips of recently completed projects, etc.) The group decided to keep the workgroup meetings on-line, but adding webinar presentations as it is important to stay up on what is happening in the field and locally. Some suggestions of future webinar presentations included: Jaime Vaudrey's Nitrogen Loading Model, David Berg on LINAP; NPS tracking tool (how to move forward); any new technologies in the NPS field; CT Blue Plan; DNA source-tracking technologies.

Next work group meeting: August 16th, 2017 at 10am