

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 10, 2016
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 9:30am. A quorum of approximately 34 CAC members was present.

Nancy Seligson called to action the voting in of three new member organizations to the CAC: **The Whaling Museum and Education Center at Cold Spring Harbor**, with Patricia Aitken as the representative; **Rivers Alliance Connecticut**, with Sandy Breslin as the representative; and **Greenwich Conservation Commission**, with Denise Savageau as the representative. All three organizations were nominated by Nancy Seligson, and were seconded by Eric Swenson, *Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee*, Joel Rinebold, *Joel Rinebold LLC*, and Carol DiPaolo, *Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor*, respectively. The representatives from the three organizations provided the CAC with a brief overview of their work associated with Long Island Sound. Then, the CAC member organizations (24 present) voted in these organizations, with none in opposition.

Carol DiPaolo, who was selected to lead the Nominating Committee, then called to action the voting in of the CAC officers: New York Co-Chair, Nancy Seligson; Connecticut Co-Chair, Sandy Breslin; and Secretary, Martin Garrell, *Adelphi University*. The CAC member organizations (25 present) voted in these officers, with none in opposition.

Nancy Seligson then discussed matters relating to inactive CAC members. She explained how some CAC member organizations have not attended CAC meetings recently. As such, letters will be sent to the inactive CAC member organizations. She also encouraged the CAC membership in attendance to help recruit new CAC members. She indicated that she is particularly interested in groups that have an economic interest in Long Island Sound, such as marine trades, marinas, etc.

Amy Mandelbaum, *New York Sea Grant/Long Island Sound Study (LISS)*, then reminded the group of the new CAC listserv. To send an email message to the group, send an email to liss-cac@googlegroups.com. If there are any questions, please contact Amy.

Nancy Seligson mentioned that the CAC is due to prepare an annual letter to the LISS Management Committee to help with priorities.

Long Island Sound Study Updates

- ***Budget***

Mark Tedesco, *EPA Long Island Sound Office*, discussed the Long Island Sound budget. He said that the funding remains the same as last year: \$4.54 million, with funding coming from the EPA and the National Estuary Program (NEP). He also mentioned that the funding will be used to continue core funding for LISS base staff, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF), water quality monitoring by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC), and the University of Connecticut (UConn). The approximately \$300,000 of unallocated funds will be used to advance the EPA Long Island Sound Nitrogen Strategy. He encouraged the group to listen to the EPA Long Island Sound Nitrogen Strategy webinar and to attend the public meetings in Stamford, CT and Huntington, NY.

- **STAC**

Jim Ammerman, *Long Island Sound Study Science Coordinator*, briefly discussed an update of the LISS Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). He said that Jim O'Donnell, *UConn*, and Larry Swanson, *Stony Brook University*, remain the CT and NY co-chairs, respectively. He also said the LISS research request for proposals (RFP) will be released in late March. There will be \$800,000 available over a 2 year period. The research priorities include, but are not limited to, nutrients associated with eutrophication, ecosystem services and habitats, research synthesis on existing research, and understanding the sources and loads to sediment. Jim also gave updates on the research projects conducted by Nikitas Georgas, *Stevens Institute of Technology*, and Jennifer and Jim O'Donnell, *Coastal Ocean Analytics*. He also announced that the LIS Research Conference will be held on May 13th in Bridgeport, CT. The NOAA CHRP application was submitted for LIS, but it will take approximately 4 months to know if it was funded. Also, UConn submitted a preproposal to the NSF Monitoring Sites grant program in early February 2016. Nancy Seligson asked if there is a CAC representative that would like to attend the STAC meetings to provide a CAC perspective. Sarah Crosby, *Harbor Watch/Earthplace*, said that she would like to serve. Nathan Frohling, *The Nature Conservancy*, also expressed interest.

- **NEP Workshop**

Amy Mandelbaum presented the communications products and programs that were shared at the NEP workshop in Washington, DC on February 23-25, 2016. She gave an overview the Galveston Bay NEP's "Back the Bay" awareness campaign, Tampa Bay NEP's "Be Floridian" behavior change campaign, and Puget Sound Partnership NEP and Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership NEP social indicators.

- **Work Group Participation**

Nancy Seligson led a discussion on how the CAC can be more involved with the LISS work groups as we embark on implementing the new CCMP. A LISS work group sign-up sheet went around the room and member organizations signed up for a work group that was of interest.

Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan

James Tierney, *Assistant Commissioner, Office of Water Resources, NYSDEC*, and Ken Kosinski, *NYSDEC Office of Water Resources*, provided an overview of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP). They both said that the LINAP scoping document is available online: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/103654.html>. They explained how the LINAP came to be and how it is a ground-up effort by Nassau and Suffolk counties and the Long Island Regional Planning Association. They are currently working with partners to develop the scope for LINAP, which may take up to 4 years to complete. In the meantime, they will embark on the following initiatives, among others:

1. Nassau County Bay Park wastewater treatment plant upgrades.
2. Suffolk County South Shore sewerage projects.
3. Long Island groundwater model. This model will be used to help create a technically valid scope of work.
4. Stony Brook University Clean Water Technology Center to investigate how to improve onsite wastewater treatment and improve pollutant removal efficiencies.
5. Development of a Suffolk County-wide wastewater management district.

They would also like to do a rapid water quality assessment for each embayment and create a list of "No Regrets" actions. Throughout the process, they are keeping in mind that the LINAP needs to be locally owned and implemented to be successful.

The Assistant Commissioner also mentioned that he would like to see a similar program in Westchester County and he suggested that the CAC follow-up with him to discuss how to move forward.

EPA Nitrogen Reduction Strategy

Mark Tedesco gave a presentation on the EPA Nitrogen Reduction Strategy. He discussed how EPA is focused on Long Island Sound's water quality to further improve upon the TMDL for nitrogen. He also explained how this strategy builds on the CCMP and how we can learn from other NEPs on how to do this work successfully. He encouraged the group to listen to the EPA Long Island Sound Nitrogen Strategy webinar and to attend the public meetings in Stamford, CT and Huntington, NY.

Policy Committee Updates

Curt Johnson, *CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound*, and Adrienne Esposito, *Citizens Campaign for the Environment*, gave updates on the efforts of the LISS CAC Policy Committee. They said that the annual trip to Washington, DC is planned for this spring. The trip will consist of an all-day marathon of meetings to discuss Long Island Sound. If you're interested in attending, please contact Curt and Adrienne. They also discussed other topics of concern, such as the Long Island Sound Stewardship Reauthorization Act; Representative Rosa DeLauro letter for \$10 million for Long Island Sound; Representative Lee Zeldin's letter asking Gina McCarthy of EPA for funds to conduct the EPA Long Island Sound Nitrogen Strategy; Save Plum Island Bill; CAC letter to NY and CT governors to invest in infrastructure in Long Island Sound; CAC letter on the importance of the EPA LIS Nitrogen Reduction Strategy; meeting with CTDEEP head of water; Governor Cuomo's NY state budget; safe disposal of pharmaceuticals; Suffolk County plastic bag ban; letter to NY and CT governors on coordinated action of the LIS Blue Plan.

Announcements

There was not enough time for Judy Preston to present on the NRCS Long Island Sound Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program. This presentation will be postponed to the next CAC meeting on June 23rd in CT.

Dianne Selditch, *SoundWaters*, recently retired. They will notify us with a new CAC representative soon.

The Latitude 41 regional conference will be held on May 3, 2016 in Stony Brook, NY.

The LIS Citizens Summit will be held on June 3, 2016 in Stony Brook, NY. The topic of the summit will be citizen science.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30pm. The next CAC meeting will be held on June 23rd in CT. One topic proposed for the next meeting is a presentation regarding sewage treatment plants upgrades, specifically in NYC.

The presentations from the meeting are available at: http://longislandsoundstudy.net/event/citizens-advisory-committee-6/?instance_id=290

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