



**CCSMWG Meeting Minutes**

**Teleconference, December 17, 2019**

**Attendees:** Mark Parker (CTDEEP), Casey Personius (NYSDEC), Robert Burg (NEIWPC), Ron Rozsa (CTDEEP – Retired), Jim O’Donnell (UCONN)

**Outcomes from the October Management Committee meeting:**

<b>Thriving Habitats &amp; Abundant Wildlife</b>		
<b>Topic for Proposal Development</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Sentinel monitoring workshop</b>	NYSDEC or CTDEEP	Coordinate under the CCSMWG
<b>Sound Science and Inclusive Management</b>		
<b>Topic for Further Discussion</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Address climate drivers and impacts on ecosystem targets	CCSMWG	
Intensified climate change monitoring and assessment of ecosystem and species impacts	CCSMWG	

**Proposal Development: Sentinel Monitoring Workshop (SMW)**

- The Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change Strategy document, volume 2 recommended holding a workshop to help identify additional data, centralize available data, and develop a monitoring network.
  - Asked NEIWPC if they would be vehicle for an award. Work group agreed that this an enhancement proposal we want to put forward to the management committee for the Jan 6<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  - Goals of Workshop:
    - Seek input from partners regarding the approach to developing a network (estimate 50 attendees)
    - Identify SM sites (representative of various habitats)
    - Identify effects of climate change on ecosystem targets
  - Attached [Art of Knowledge Exchange guidebook](#) to the meeting invite. Although, not completely applicable to this workshop, parts may be useful for reference. Specifically, pages 42 – 53 types of knowledge exchange activities and their associated outcomes.
  - The Gulf of Maine 2050 International Symposium was held last month and may provide some guidance in planning the SMW. See agenda [here](#).
- **Action Item:** C.Personius will follow up with NEIWPC to develop preproposal and send to group for review in advance of MC submittal.

**Further Discussion:**

- Address climate drivers and impacts on ecosystem targets
  - Should cross-reference identified sentinels with ecosystems targets.
  - It will be difficult to address climate change effects on ecosystem targets that aren’t being measured in a consistent way. We shouldn’t use references that don’t have clear metrics.

- Group decided that answering how climate change will affect LISS ecosystem targets should be added as a goal of the SMW. (inserted above)
- Intensified climate change monitoring and assessment of ecosystem and species impacts
- The pilot project, “Sentinels of climate change: coastal indicators of wildlife and ecosystem change in Long Island Sounds” by Chris Field and Chris Elphick was completed in 2014. One of the recommendations was to compile historic data sets describing tidal marsh vegetation. The comment was made that “others have been working to make this information more accessible”. It would be good follow up on this comment. [Barn Island Sentinel Website](#) is one site that has centralized data recovery.
  - Another recommendation was to “conduct regular surveys of tidal marsh vegetation at existing georeferenced sites”
  - We could coordinate with NYSDEC tidal wetland rapid assessments already taking place in NY and Bill Niering for similar assessment on Barn Island.
  - Agency’s could be analyzing tidal data using wrong approach. Generally, tidal marsh data is analyzed using the highest tides, but frequency and duration of flooding may be more important than intensity.
  - Need to install more permanent water tables in marshes.
- **Action Item:** C.Personius will create initial matrix cross-referencing identified sentinels with ecosystem targets and send to the group for review.

#### Review of Climate Change Indicators:

- Updates to current CC indicators?
  - Currently, there are 5 CC indicators on the LISS website: Length of Growing Season, Spring Freshet, Sea Level Trends for Kings Point, Water Temperature, and Warm Water/Cold Water Fish Index.
    - Length of growing season needs update.
  - Should we include Salt Marsh Sparrow monitoring? Is there enough current and consistent monitoring to include as CC indicator on website?
- Sea Level Trends – should additional tide gauges be included on website?
  - Yes, it’s an easy link, but all are available on NOAA website.
  - However, the location of those tide gauges is based on navigability needs and not necessarily good for identifying effects on marshes, which are more constricted. Thus, as part of habitat monitoring goal, we should consider taking water level measurements in important marsh transition sites.
- New Indicators – CCSM Strategy (vol. 2)
  - Extreme Storms and Precipitation?
- **Action Item:** R.Burg will send links to J.O’Donnell to get updates for specific CC indicators. J.O’Donnell will research and make recommendation on the best data record to report precipitation.

#### Sentinel Monitoring Network Progress:

- R.Rozsa made started a sentinel monitoring network spreadsheet that identifies existing monitoring that corresponds to LIS sentinels. They are sorted into 4 categories: water quantity – quality, pelagic – benthic systems, fish communities, and coastal habitats. The current spreadsheet is incomplete and participation from partners is essential to create a comprehensive list of current monitoring efforts.
- **Action Item:** All members will review SM spreadsheet and add or edit monitoring efforts as appropriate. Please send edited spreadsheets to C.Personius by COB Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, to consolidate.

#### 2020 CCSMWG Meeting Dates:

- April 21<sup>st</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup> are tentative meeting dates for 2020.