



Meeting Minutes:

Attendees:

Mark Parker, CTDEEP; Casey Personius, NYS DEC; Mark Tedesco, EPA; Bessie Wright, EPA; Chet Arnold, UCONN; Eric Swenson, HHP; Evelyn Powers, IEC; George Hoffman, SHTF; Judy Preston, CTSG; Kelly Streich, CTDEEP; Leah O'Neill, EPA; Susan Van Patten, NYSDEC; Vicky O'Neill, NYS DEC/NEIWPC; Audra Martin, NEIWPC; Nikki Tachiki, EPA; Richard Friesner, NEIWPC

NPS Tracking Tool Progress Update

Richard Friesner, NEIWPC, gave an overview of the progress that has been made to date on the development of a NPS tracking tool for Long Island Sound. The tracking tool has two main goals: 1) provide and keep a basin-wide tally of N-reducing strategies as they are implemented and 2) account for the cumulative effort and effect of these strategies on N-loading to the Sound. The Center for Watershed Protection has four tasks to this project: 1) Establish a baseline (baseline year for tracking BMPS is 2016 National Land Cover Database in order to be managerially useful with new CT MS4 permit) – complete; 2) Selecting BMP's and N-removal calculation methods for each BMP's – In progress. This tool is relying heavily on data from UNH Stormwater Center, CAST tool methods, and the Chesapeake Bay Program Expert Panel Reports. This tool is focusing on urban stormwater BMP's. 3) Get data from pilot communities – In progress. Process hindered slightly as Towns are busy responding to COVID crisis (New Haven is CT pilot and NY pilot is TBD). 4) Create tracking and accounting spreadsheet – Upcoming.

Presentation: Progress Tracking and 2020 Implementation Action Update

Nikki Tachiki, EPA/LISS, gave overview of the 2015 CCMP progress tracking and 2020 Implementation Action (IA) update. The LISS is reporting on progress made toward completing the 2015 implementation actions in a biannual report to congress due this year. The LISS plans to build on progress made to inform the 2020 IA update which will include strategic IA's for the next 5 years (2020-2024). LISS staff evaluated 2015 actions to assess progress made and Nikki presented the findings (for example, the Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds theme had 9, 71, and 20 percent of actions marked as “not implemented/no progress”, “partially implemented/partial progress”, and “complete/significant progress”, respectively). She then presented information on the IA update. Many LISS staff members and stakeholders have reviewed and proposed suggestions for the 2020-2024 IA's. Actions were categorized as “no change”, “revised”, or “remove action” and a few new IA's were proposed. Comments on IA revision are still welcome.

Review and Revision: 2020 WW IA Update

Casey Personius and Mark Parker excised IA's from the proposed IA update that are most relevant to WEWG members. C. Personius led the group in a review of the suggested revisions to those select Implementation Actions. The group commented and gave feedback on the suggestions as noted in the attached spreadsheet. Please send additional comments to C. Personius by **COB on 5/20/2020**.

General Check-In

- Chet Arnold, UConn CLEAR: Working on project in collaboration with TNC to make recommendation and trial a certification program for green stormwater infrastructure for municipal and private sectors, which was funded by The Funders Collaborative. Their NSink Tool is being rejuvenated. This project, in works for that past 13 years with URI and EPA ORD lab, is now focusing on what areas of the watershed are most likely to transmit N to watershed if applied to that area. Continue to work with Stormwater Corps at UCONN which allows students to get experience and potentially participate in impervious surface reduction plan development for towns which helps towns meet the 2% reduction required under MS4 permit.
- Dave Dickson, UConn CLEAR: Starting this summer towns are responsible to meet a 1% per year disconnection goal under the MS4 permit. Education will thus focus on disconnects and retrofits in the upcoming year.
- George Hoffman, Setauket Harbor Task Force – UWS pushed off until June. Their general meeting on hold but will likely move forward virtually. SHTF is planning to focus on changing boating behavior in Setauket Harbor.
- Kelly Streich, CTDEEP: CT DEEP has OSWT study, CS2, that is moving forward and due at end of the summer. It will provide a better understanding of 10. Will have better understanding of N-loading from septic systems in 10 select CT watersheds. CT DEEP is moving forward with groundwater flow study with USGS which includes a demonstration of N estimates in the Niantic River estuary. There are plans to have that finalized by the fall. They have initiated enhanced monitoring with USGS to support the State-wide model and better understand NPS movement in CT. Has also initiated a contract with RESPECT, a modeler also working on the State-wide HSPF model, for the Pawcatauk River Watershed and should be complete in 2021. Just put out RFP for embayments which involves categorizing embayments based on hydrogeologic structure and it will also include design plans at two sites, Mystic River and Norwalk Harbor.

Adjourn

Thanks for a productive meeting. Have a great day and stay safe!