



Watersheds and Embayments Work Group Meeting Notes November 14th, 2017

Attendees: Cassie Bauer; Tracy Brown; Sarah Deonarine; Michael Dietz; Holly Drinkuth; Richard Friesner; Emily Hall; Marybeth Hart; Rachel Lowenthal; John Mullaney; Leah O’Neill; Mark Parker; Nancy Seligson; Mark Tedesco; Jamie Vaudrey

Updates

- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan
 - o Suffolk County Progress
 - Priority area maps for the subwatershed wastewater plan will be completed by January and a final plan will be completed in late spring.
 - Phase 2 of the Septic Demo Program is underway and so far 19 systems have been installed using 8 different technologies. Two pressurized shallow drain fields were also installed in coordination with the Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University.
 - Septic Grant and Loan Program – 686 homeowners have registered and 175 have satisfied all the documentation requirements. So far, 114 grant certificates have been issued and 4 systems have been installed. Funding is in place for 186-200 grants.
 - There have been several proposed changes to the sanitary code. These changes are on the legislative docket for processing and the goal is to have these changes adopted by late November/early December.
 - o The Bioextraction coordinator position, funded by EPA LISS, has been advertised and applications were due by November 10th. This NEIWPPC position will be housed at the Region 1 NYSDEC office in Stony Brook.
 - o There will be an end of the year newsletter highlighting progress over the past year.
- Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy
 - o Point source N reductions – STPs are submitting point source discharge reports
 - o The Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy efforts were highlighted in the latest issue of Sound Outlook.
 - o UCONN CLEAR completed their education and outreach project.
- Long Island Sound Nitrogen Strategy



- EPA held a public webinar on November 8th on the LIS Nitrogen Strategy progress. The presentation slides are available on the LISS website. All the completed deliverables are also posted on the website. EPA and Tetrattech are wrapping up the nitrogen thresholds and they will be shared in January. They will begin working on proposed allocations for embayments to be presented in the Spring. EPA had a recent call with LINAP and Niantic River staff to stay connected with other nitrogen efforts happening around the Sound.
- 2018 LISS Enhancement pre-proposals
 - CTDEEP submitted 6 water quality related pre-proposals to the Management Committee for Consideration of 2018 funding:
 - Development of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling Methodology and Tools to assess Embayment Health in Long Island Sound
 - Development of a Long Island Sound Phytoplankton Index of Biotic Integrity
 - Phase II of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems- implementation of Phase I recommendations
 - Groundwater Budgets and Estimated travel times of Groundwater to the Connecticut Coast of LIS
 - Development of LIS Hypoxic Volume Calculation Methodology and Increased GIS Analyses
 - Lower Connecticut River Salinity Monitoring Equipment replacement (USGS and CTDEEP)
 - NEIWPC also submitted a pre-proposal to Phase 2 of the development of a nonpoint Source and stormwater tracking tool for the LIS watershed. NEIWPC will be looking for a community in each state to pilot the tool.
 - EPA is currently working on guidance for full proposal submissions for 2018 enhancement grants. The 2018 budget is still uncertain and likely will not be known until the April Management Committee meeting.

Town of Mamaroneck Green Infrastructure Project

- Nancy Seligson (along with Steve Altieri, Town Administrator) gave a presentation on the recently completed Green Infrastructure project in the Town of Mamaroneck. In 2015, the Town of Mamaroneck received a \$150,000 Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant to install 8,400 square feet of green infrastructure at Mamaroneck Town Center's 2.3 acre property. The property is located on a hill which overlooks and surface water



drains to Mamaroneck Harbor. Major activities included installing permeable pavers, porous pavement in the parking lot, permeable pedestrian sidewalks, two rain gardens, three rain barrels, and eight catch basin filter baskets. An estimated 700,000 gallons of runoff is being treated as a result of these green infrastructure improvements. The Town of Mamaroneck plans to install signage explaining the green infrastructure benefits at the site in the near future.

CT Blue Plan

- Emily Hall, a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow at CTDEEP, gave an update on the CT Blue Plan to the group. The overall goal of the Blue Plan is to encourage compatible uses in the Sound. In order to complete the Blue Plan, CTDEEP established work teams and subcommittees that meet monthly and an Advisory Committee which meets quarterly. Recently, five ecological webinars (Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles, Birds, Fish, Benthic Biological Habitat, and Benthic Physical Habitat) to get input on current data and gaps. More information on the CT Blue Plan is available on the [CTDEEP Blue Plan webpage](#).

Updates from work group members

- Save the Sound finished its first Unified Water Study season with tier 1 parameters and piloted tier 2 parameters in a few embayments. The data will be made available soon.
- The Niantic River Watershed group is implementing a watershed plan and installed modified tree box filters in East Lyme. This project will be highlighted in the Feb issue of Sound Outlook.
- USGS began monitoring at new CT River monitoring stations set up near the MA, VT& NH borders for nitrogen loading and they are working with CTDEEP on monitoring at Middle Haddam, CT. USGS will also be releasing a 2009-2014 report on Nitrogen Loading.
- TNC held a stakeholder meeting in Saugatuck. TNC was able to collect local data to update some parameters in the Nitrogen Loading Model and look at what scenarios would work to reduce nitrogen.
- The 2017 Long Island Sound Futures Fund awards will be announced on November 16th (CT) and December 4th (NY).
- The CCMP ecosystem target webpages should be developed and on the LISS website by the end of the year.



Next Steps

- Proposed 2018 WEWG meeting dates: February 21st, May 16th, August 15th, November 28th. Please note the change in the November meeting date.
- Potential meeting topics
 - o Convergence of local embayment efforts (LINAP, Niantic, LIS Nitrogen Strategy)
 - o Further discussion on the NPS tracking tool and what communities can serve as a pilot if phase 2 is funded.