



**Watersheds and Embayments Work Group Meeting Notes
November 29th, 2016: 9:00am-10:00pm**

Attendees: Cassie Bauer; Tracy Brown; Chantal Collier; Holly Drinkuth; Paul DeOrsay; Michael Dietz; Marybeth Hart; John Mullaney; Leah O’Neill; Mark Parker; Margie Purnell; Eric Swenson; Mark Tedesco; Jamie Vaudrey

Updates

- EPA Nitrogen Reduction Strategy
 - o The LIS task order to support the EPA Nitrogen Reduction Strategy has been awarded to Tetra Tech. The final performance work statement was distributed to the LISS Management Committee at the October 20th meeting and electronically to the States. The timeline in the performance work statement is dependent upon the approval of the QAPP. The contractor submitted the QAPP and it is currently being reviewed by EPA. The base period described in the work statement was funded by the LISS, but the option period was not. Regular updates on progress will be given at every Management Committee meeting and materials, documents, and deliverables will be posted on the LISS website (<http://longislandsoundstudy.net/issues-actions/water-quality/nitrogen-strategy/>). An information webinar is scheduled for December 19th from 12:00-1:00pm. Here is the webinar information:

Update on Long Island Sound Nitrogen Reduction Strategy

Informational Webinar

Date: Monday December 19, 2016

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Webinar Link: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/lis/>

Conference line: 866-299-3188, Code 2039771541#

- o EPA also put together a FAQ sheet for permitting in the LIS watershed in relation to the Nitrogen Reduction Strategy. <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/faq-lis-permitting.html>
- CT’s Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy



- The final draft for the Integrated Water Resources Management plan has been completed. CTDEEP is currently working on a response to Public Comments which will be posted on their website in the next few weeks. You can visit the DEEP web site at http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&Q=580936&deepNav_GID=1654 to view the first draft report, other technical documents and story map for additional information.
- Reorganization at CTDEEP
 - In order to reduce staff and budget costs, the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse has been restructured. The Office of Long Island Sound Programs Division has been combined with the Inland Water Resources Division and it is now called the Land and Water Resources Division. Mark Parker is now in the Coastal Resources section and his supervisor is Peter Francis. The former Planning and Standards Division is now the Planning and Management Division and will contain the LISS water quality monitoring staff. Kelly Streich is still working on TMDL and nutrient management work and she will be in the Planning and Management Division under Chuck Lee. Marybeth Hart is in the Planning section under David Blatt. The program webpages are going to be reorganized as well.

Review of the CCMP Implementation Actions

- **WW-9:** Develop a nonpoint source and stormwater tracking system tool for the LIS watershed.
 - Cassie and Mark P met with their managers to discuss how to move forward with funding a NPS tracking tool. Both states were interested, but don't have the staff time or resources to take it on themselves. Both CT and NY were in favor of having NEIWPCC request LISS funds to hire a contractor to pilot a NPS tracking tool in two subwatersheds (HUC 8 size or larger), one in CT and one in NY. Currently, EPA has only asked for base funding request proposals for the 2017 budget. NEIWPCC is prepared to submit a proposal this year if the chance is given. Otherwise, this project may be on hold until future budget cycles.



- **WW-10:** Develop improved policies for use and performance of decentralized and on-site wastewater treatment systems and **WW-11:** Improve understanding, management, and design of denitrifying decentralized and residential, on-site wastewater treatment systems.
 - o Current initiatives:
 - Two LISFF projects were funded in 2016 to demonstrate Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems in Shoreham, NY and Cold Spring Harbor, NY.
 - As part of LINAP, Suffolk County has been working on a Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan, amending Sanitary Code, and piloting a program for alternative septic systems.
 - The CESSPOOL project has launched a public education campaign with brochures, postcards, fact sheets, and a homeowner file folder laid out to record and maintain information about onsite systems and their maintenance. All this material is available on the website: <http://www.getpumpedli.org/>
 - CT has issued an RFP to hire a contractor to conduct an inventory and assessment of the condition of on-site wastewater systems in coastal areas, quantify effluent nitrogen loading from on-site wastewater treatment systems and evaluate and identify alternative structural and nonstructural management options to achieve nitrogen reduction and high water quality goals. The next step will be to make a decision based on their recommendations.
 - CT has also contracted with UCONN CLEAR to do an embayment outreach project.

- **WW-13:** Develop watershed management plans for sub-watersheds, including urban areas, within the Connecticut and New York portions of the LIS watershed, and track their implementation and effectiveness.
 - o CTDEEP has three watershed coordinators and they have been working with different municipalities and independent watershed groups to develop watershed plans. All the completed and proposed plans are listed on the CTDEEP website. http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=379296&deepNav_GID=165



- A list of completed watershed plans for NY can be found on the NYSDEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/99985.html>
- **WW-31:** Assess sources of nutrient and pathogen contamination to LIS embayments.
 - Jamie Vaudrey Nitrogen Loading Model- CTDEEP is moving forward with ground truthing and following up on Jamie's report.
 - CT has a statewide pathogen TMDL to address pathogen contamination to embayments.

Next Steps

- Work on revising NPS tracking tool proposal and wait to hear back if there will be a request for any additional proposals for the 2017 budget cycle.
- Develop an excel spreadsheet to track progress on CCMP Implementation actions pertaining to this workgroup. Also, use the spreadsheet keep track of where progress hasn't been made.

Proposed meeting schedule for 2017: February 15th, May 17th, August 16th, and November 15th at 10:00am.