



Watersheds and Embayments Work Group Meeting Notes August 16th, 2017

Attendees: Cassie Bauer; Sarah Deonarine; Paul DeOrsay; Holly Drinkuth; Richard Friesner; Marybeth Hart; Judy Preston; Rachel Lowenthal; Leah O’Neill; Mark Parker; Nicole Perlot; Eric Swenson; Mark Tedesco; Jamie Vaudrey

Updates

- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan
 - o The Suffolk County Septic Incentive was signed into law and launched in July. Homeowners who decide to replace their cesspool or septic system with the new technologies will be eligible for a grant of up to \$11,000. Homeowners can finance the remaining cost over 15 years at a fixed 3% interest rate.
 - o A new [LINAP Technical Resources webpage](#) has been posted on DEC’s website. The page includes links to reports and other documents that may be useful to LINAP stakeholders and partners. More links and documents will be added as they become available.
 - o The Fertilizer work group, including four key industries (golf courses, landscapers, fertilizer manufactures, and agriculture), met in June to review the results of the fertilizer workgroup questionnaire and review initiatives by each industry to reduce fertilizer nitrogen use.
- CT’s Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy:
 - o As part of their “NitrogenOutreach” project with CT DEEP, UConn CLEAR hosted two webinars since the last work group call, one by Jamie Vaudrey on her [embayment research](#) and one by Kelly Streich on the [DEEP N Strategy](#). Three



workshops along the CT Coast are also being held on: 8/8 (Waterford), 8/15 (North Haven-SCRCOG), and 8/22 (Westport).

- CTDEEP hired Lombardo associates to do an analysis of nitrogen removal capabilities and inventory of OWTS in Connecticut's coastal watersheds – phase 2 is currently being proposed.
- EPA's Long Island Sound Nitrogen Strategy
 - The original contract with tetra tech was set to close in September, but since this project was given additional funds under the 2017 LISS budget the contract and the geographic focus is now extended to May 18th, 2018. The deliverables are available on the [LISS website](#). New deliverables will be posted soon. There will be a technical stakeholder meeting in September and a public webinar in beginning of November to share next steps.
- Niantic River behavior change campaign
 - A survey was completed and data is being collected to see what the barriers and benefits people perceive regarding lawn care benefits. The goal is to see what would be the most impactful behavior changes, what motivates people and what stands in their way. A focus group will be held in September and the campaign will launch in March.
- TNC update
 - Holly introduced Rachel Lowenthal, the new Long Island Sound Water Quality Campaign manager for TNC.
 - TNC completed polling in southeastern Connecticut and identified embayments that CTDEEP set as priorities.



- TNC is holding a workshop in Saugatuck focusing on N reducing options for on-site systems. The end goal is to develop a set of scenarios to meet the desired endpoints and get a better understanding of where this will work and how much it will cost.
- 2018 Enhancement pre-proposal request
 - LISS is starting to think about the fiscal year 2018 budget and has asked the LISS work groups and partners to submit pre-proposals for 2018 projects by August 25th. These pre-proposals will be discussed at the September I-team meeting and October Management Committee meeting.
- NEPORT
 - Each year, LISS is required to report out on any habitat restoration and leveraging data of projects that occurred in the LIS watershed. If you have any projects that your organization completed in between October 2016-September 2017, please send them to Mark or Cassie. The deadline to report these projects is Sept 6th.
- Nassau County completed a sewer feasibility study and is looking at alternatives at Crescent beach because sewers are so expensive.

Embayment nitrogen load modelling – (Vaudrey)

- Jamie Vaudrey gave a presentation on her embayment nitrogen load model which can be used to predict problem areas and identify sources of impairment. The 2015 version of the model is available as an excel file [online](#). See attached slides for more information.



Enhancement project proposals – brain storm

- CTDEEP will be submitting three pre-proposals relevant to this work group. Mark Parker reviewed each of the proposals with the workgroup and asked for any feedback by August 25th. The three pre-proposals are:
 1. Development of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling Methodology and Tools to assess Embayment Health in Long Island Sound
 2. Development of a Long Island Sound Phytoplankton Index of Biotic Integrity
 3. Phase II of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems - implementation of Phase 1 recommendations

See attachments for more information on these pre-proposals.

The next WEWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th.