



Long Island Sound Study

Watersheds and Embayments Work Group Meeting Notes Teleconference: May 16th, 2018

Attendees: Chet Arnold; Cassie Bauer; Tracy Brown; Nicholas Calderon; Sarah Deonarine; David Dickson; Holly Drinkuth; Richard Friesner; Marybeth Hart; George Hoffman; Heather Johnston; Rachel Lowenthal; Leah O’Neill; Mark Parker; Judy Preston; Amanda Ryan; Eric Swenson; Jamie Vaudrey; Anna Weshner-Dunning

Updates

- FY18 Budget Update from April Management Committee (Mark P.)
 - There were a number of proposals approved that will be of interest to this work group.
 - CTDEEP was awarded \$250 K for conducting technical integration into nitrogen reduction management actions. Specifically, CTDEEP will be running a Hydrological Simulation Program – Fortran (HSPF) model on Connecticut watersheds and waterbodies to determine nonpoint source nutrient loading and assisting continued prioritization of coastal embayments in the Integrated Water Resources Management Program and Second Generation Management Strategy.
 - CTDEEP was awarded \$100K to develop a ‘Macro-invertebrate Sampling Methodology for Embayments’. This project will identify indicators of biological integrity (IBI) that are surrogate indicators of nonpoint source pollution contaminants.
 - CTDEEP will coordinate a \$250 sub-award with USGS to develop a model for Ground Water Budgets and Transport Estimates for watersheds in CT and Westchester County, NY.
 - CTDEEP will contract with Lombardo Associates Inc. to conduct a Phase 2 Analysis of Onsite Waste Treatment Systems (OWTS) in Connecticut watersheds. \$100K.
 - The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) was awarded \$150 K to develop a Nonpoint Source Pollution Tracking Tool for LIS watersheds. Conducting an initial pilot in two Connecticut coastal watersheds. CTDEEP will be working very closely with NEIWPCC and the selected municipalities.

- Nitrogen Strategies
 - Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (Cassie B.)
 - The subwatersheds wastewater draft plan is now expected to be completed in July of 2018 with the final document by September.
 - Officials held a public informational meeting on May 8th at the Suffolk County Offices.

- Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy (Mark P.)
 - Connecticut DEEP has hired Lombardo Associates Inc., to conduct an inventory analysis of 'Onsite Waste Treatment Systems' (OWTS) in Connecticut's coastal watersheds. LAI is on track to complete their contracted work by September 30, 2018. One subset of their analysis is doing a lot by lot assessment in three municipalities. In 2019 they will continue a Phase 2 inventory/analysis of upper LIS watersheds funded under the FY18 LISS grant award
- EPA Long Island Sound Nitrogen Reduction Strategy (Leah O'Neill)
 - EPA continues to post completed deliverables on the [LISS website](#).
 - EPA is finalizing the report for lower Connecticut River nutrient monitoring. EPA and the contractor will be performing a second round of sampling this summer (2018) at eight (8) sampling locations.
 - The LISS Management Committee approved FY18 funding for EPA's request to fund phase 2 of the Tetra Tech contract – part of this funding would be to respond to the technical review.

Center for Landuse Education and Research (CLEAR) projects – (Arnold/Dickson)

- David Dickson presented project work they are conducting for MS4 Outreach.
- Dave Dickson also presented on the LIS Futures Fund project with Rutgers University to develop impervious cover reduction plans in the South Central Regional watersheds of Connecticut.
- Chet Arnold presented on work CLEAR is doing on mapping impervious cover in the lower Long Island Sound watershed, New York portion up to 2015 satellite data. The mapping deliverables should be completed by this fall, 2018.
- UConn NEMO program is also doing some additional mapping of coastal marshes using the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM). They are also including aerial imagery from drone surveys of three selected marshes.
- CLEAR has also completed two more 'Green Roof' projects on the UConn campus.
- CLEAR continues to work with the University of Rhode Island and EPA ORD to update the [N-Sink: Tracking Nitrogen in the Environment web tool](#).

Tutorial of TNC's Long Island Sound Clean Coastal Waters website - (Lowenthal)

- Rachel Lowenthal gave a presentation on the work The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Connecticut Chapter has been doing in the Saugatuck River watershed.
 - Convening meetings with community leaders
 - Developing a watershed-based plan for Nitrogen Reductions
 - Held two Stakeholder Meetings
 - Modified tools and resources
 - Creating a [LIS Nitrogen Reduction web site](#)
 - Problem & Sources
 - Impacts & Threats

- Fixing the Problem
- Comparing Solutions
- Planning & Guidance
- Citizen Actions

NPS Tracking Tool: Next steps for the NPS Tracking Tool project: (Friesner)

- Richard Friesner presented an overview/history of the LIS NPS Tracking Tool project. NEIWPCCC has been awarded \$150K for the FY18 project year to implement a pilot NPS Tracking Tool in two coastal watersheds in Connecticut.
- In 'Phase 1' of the project (completed April 2014), the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) was the recommendation of Water Vision LLC., the contractor conducting an analysis. Rich is scheduling a meeting with Water Vision to get more information.
- This project is 'Phase 2' implementing a Pilot Watershed. Will work with CTDEEP Watershed Coordinator to select a municipality or watershed group.

Next Steps

- NEIWPCCC has been awarded \$43,000 in LISS FY18 funds to coordinate/oversee the Long Island Sound Nitrogen Reduction Coordination Work Group.
- The next WEWG meeting is scheduled for August 15th at 10:00am