



**Watersheds and Embayments Work Group Notes  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016: 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Attendees:**

Kim Roth; Chet Arnold; Amy Mandelbaum; David Dickson; Judy Preston; Leah O'Neill; Mark Parker; Cassie Bauer; Paul DeOrsay; Sarah Deonarine; Tracy Brown; Jamie Vaudrey; Michael Dietz; Mary-beth Hart; Judy Preston; Sheri Jewhurst; Richard Friesner; Stuart Lowrie

**Review changes to WEWG technical workgroup summary**

- The group reviewed the WEWG technical workgroup summary. There were suggestions to include CT's second generation N Strategy and the \$6 million Long Island aquifer study into the summary. It was also suggested, as it was discussed at the last Management Committee meeting, to include target dates for each of the tasks in the summary.

**ACTION: Mark and Cassie will edit the workgroup summary as suggested.**

**Update on CT and NY meetings with EPA on Nitrogen Strategy**

- EPA and CT met in March to discuss the Nitrogen Strategy.
- CT released a TMDL vision which sets specific priority embayments. These will be used in the Nitrogen Strategy as the first set of embayments to create thresholds for.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting between the States and EPA – This meeting highlighted specific areas for collaboration.
- EPA has around \$400,000 to support a contractor effort to collect open water and embayment data and start working towards developing thresholds for the three watershed groupings (large river systems, local watersheds/embayments, and western LIS). The contractor should be hired by October. EPA will also have an action team with



representatives from each of the states to focus on thresholds for each of the watershed groupings.

**USGS Riverine Nutrient Trends Analysis- *John Mullaney***

- John Mullaney gave a presentation on nutrient trends in CT Rivers. USGS has 36 stations in CT that they routinely monitor nitrogen.
- See attached presentation for more information.

**LIS Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program update – *Judy Preston***

- Judy gave an update on the relatively new LIS Watershed RCPP program which started in 2014 and is administered by USDA NRCS. Seven NGO's applied for and received a \$10 million, 5 year grant with the goal to reduce nutrients to LIS.
- See attached presentation for more information.

**Embayment Nitrogen Loading tool – *Jamie Vaudrey***

- Jamie Vaudrey gave the group an overview of the Embayment Loading Tool excel file. This tool allows people to look at their nitrogen load estimates, but also provides more information if someone wanted to dig deeper into the data.
- Jamie wants feedback on these questions:
  - o Does this tool makes sense?
  - o Is this tool something that is usable by others?
  - o Are there things in the excel file that are missing?

Action: See attached excel file for review and send Jamie any comments/suggestions you may have.

**Next Steps**



- The next WEWG call will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm.
- Future agenda topic: Discuss NPS tracking tool.