



LISS Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group
Quarterly Meeting - November 9, 2021
Zoom Conference Call

Attendees

Chris Schubert, USGS	Elizabeth Hornstein, NYSG	Alexa Fournier, NYSDEC
Alicia Tyson, CTSG	Rebecca Shuford, NYSG	Anthony Allen, Save the Sound
Sylvain De Guise, CTSG	Kathy Bunting-Howarth, NYSG	Lynn Dwyer, NFWF
Lillit Genovesi, NYSG	Chester Arnold, UCONN	Jessica LeClair, Sustainable CT
Sarah Schaefer-Brown, NYSG	Katie Lund, CIRCA	Kathleen Fallon, NYSG
Sara Powell, NYSG	Liv Herdman, USGS	Holly Drinkuth, TNC/LISS CAC
Nancy Balcom, UCONN	Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, NYSG	Deb Abibou, CTSG
Juliana Barrett, UCONN	Vicky O'Neill, NYSDEC	Sue Van Patten, NYSDEC
Brian Thompson, CTDEEP	Corey Humphrey, Suffolk SWCD	Nikki Tachiki, EPA

1) Welcome (Becky Shuford)

Refer to the linked [PowerPoint Presentation](#) for detail.

First quarterly meeting as we begin implementing the LISS Sustainable and Resilient Communities workplan.

We are retiring the term 'circuit riders' and now using the term Extension Professionals. Three Extension Professionals were hired in NY and two were hired in CT. Becky thanked the two search committees for all their time & effort.

2) Introduce SRC Extension Professionals

NY - Sara Powell in Westchester County based in the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Westchester County, Sarah Schaefer-Brown in Nassau County based in the CCE of Nassau County, and Elizabeth Hornstein in Suffolk County, based at SUNY Stony Brook, introduced themselves to the work group.

CT - Alicia Tyson and Deb Abibou joined the meeting in advance of their start date on 11/19/21 and introduced themselves to the work group.

Lillit Genovesi, the new Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator for NYC and Western Basin, also introduced herself.

3) Oversight/ Steering/ Implementation committees (Sylvain De Guise)

- Oversight Committee – for Extension Professionals

- Steering Committee – for Compound Flood Risk modeling- to be discussed in the meeting
- Implementation Team – Break Down Barriers work that will roll out in later years

In the first year the Oversight Committee will be composed of members of the search committee (Sylvain De Guise, Becky Shuford, Kathy Bunting-Howarth, Nancy Balcom, Kathleen Fallon, Julianna Barrett, Anthony Allen, Diane Ifkovic, Nikki Tachiki, Vicky O’Neill, Chet Arnold).

Discussion:

Holly asked if membership in the Oversight Committee will be opened up at any point.

Sylvain responded yes, after the first year, we will reassess and revise the membership following the needs assessment and development of LISS theme teams. Please reach out to Sylvain or Becky if you are interested in being involved. It is not intended for this to be a closed process.

4) Compound Flood Risk Modeling (Liv Herdman, Chris Schubert, Jennifer Graham – USGS NY Water Science Center in Troy)

Refer to the linked [PowerPoint Presentation](#) for detail.

Goal: Understand risks from coastal flooding, groundwater emergence, and rainfall/stormwater and how they interact with each other.

Phase 1: The USGS will assess the compound flood risk in the entire LISS study area. The project will create 1km grid maps of each risk factor (groundwater, coastal, rainfall) as well as an overall rating of the compound risk. For each risk, the project will look at current hazard and future risk scenarios.

Phase 2: The Phase 1 results will inform development of some process-based modeling tools for a few (2-3) chosen locations. The model will be used to explore inundation under plausible scenarios.

Proposed steering committee members:

- CT municipal climate/coastal resilience expert
- NY municipal climate/coastal resilience expert
- CT regional floodplain/stormwater manager
- NY regional floodplain/stormwater manager
- NOAA National Weather Center compound flooding modeler
- Regional expert on climate change/flooding

Questions from USGS to Work Group:

1. Is this the right mix to capture a range of urban, hydrologic, & management environments?
2. Shall we consider whether representation includes regions that are runoff dominated, groundwater dominated, or highly urban?

3. Are we ready to discuss suggested names?

Work Group Member Questions/Comments:

Lynn asked how this analysis overlaps with the NOAA CREST tool which focuses on siting of coastal restoration and resilience projects?

Liv responded that the tool was not currently planned to be integrated, but she will take note to explore that.

Anthony asked how this analysis will include/account for areas with varying levels of green stormwater infrastructure installations. Do varying levels of Green Infrastructure show up in the modeling? Will that be accounted for perhaps in the stormwater variable? Or is this a correlation we'll have to look at after the fact?

Liv responded that it won't necessarily be explicitly included in the initial phase, but in Phase 2, changes to infiltration will be explicitly modeled. The limitation is that this will only be done in a small area of the watershed, but hopefully we can expand in the future.

Kathy asked to what extent would community-based science (geotagged photos, etc.) improve the modeling exercise?

Liv responded that it would be very helpful. Knowing community perception of hazard points is really helpful for model validation. One of the things we've been talking about is setting up a system where people can mark hazard areas.

Kathy noted that NYSG is looking into doing a year-long pilot with [MyCoast](#). This app can be used to report and track flooding. Kathy shared a link to a similar effort- NYC Community Flood Watch Project: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eba8c90c53c44a6badfa7a99578182d8>

Alicia asked is there an opportunity for integration with social vulnerability & risk? Similarly to ground the modeling in localized validation with community groups/risk perception?

Liv responded yes there is.

Juliana added another suggestion for the Steering Committee: David Vallee, Hydrologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service's Northeast River Forecast Center.

Anthony commented that he would encourage the group to consider budgeting to pay community-based researchers in selected communities to do outreach & put together a map of known flooding/ponding areas. It could be incredibly helpful, well beyond this modeling.

Becky responded that could be worked into SRC Extension Professionals outreach to local communities.

Alicia commented that utilizing social risk perception mapping and modelling and mapped crowd sourced data such as the hazard mapping done with URISA GISCorps could be useful and there is room for integration.

Katie commented that MyCoast is now piloted in Greenwich CT through their “Floodwatchers” program, and she believes it is the only CT community using the app.

Alicia asked if there are community-based organizations, stewardship or conservation groups that would help represent community perspectives and knowledge on the steering committee.

Chris commented that the strong calls for community engagement can occur on the front and back end of the compound flood risk assessment and during the assessment via the work group, steering committee and through the extension professionals.

For further questions, comments and steering committee suggestions, contact Liv at lherdman@usgs.gov or Chris at schubert@usgs.gov.

5) FY22 Work Plan (Becky Shuford)

Refer to the linked [PowerPoint Presentation](#) for detail.

Mission of workgroup – advance sustainability and resilience of communities along the LIS coast and watershed via a 5 year workplan. Address CCMP Theme 3.

Five targeted outcomes:

1. Better coordinated regional response
2. Better trained community decision makers
3. Infrastructure improvement planning
4. Viable govt services
5. Facilitated implementation of LIS Sustainability and Resilience Projects

Overarching themes: socio-ecological integration, environmental justice

Resulting in the following benefits: more resilient communities, enhanced natural systems (form & function)

Year 1 (October 1 2021- September 30 2022) : Needs assessment & relationship-building, clearinghouse development.

Year 2 October 1 2022-Sept 30-2023: maintain capacity, continue implementation of annual workshops to facilitate implementation of practices, policies, and tools related to land use, climate adaptation planning/implementation, water quality management & habitat protection; maintain clearing house; create & deliver training programs to improve the use of existing tools (not just making them accessible,

but helping people learn how to access & actually use them); initiate break down barriers to implementation task

Year 2 priority is to strategically develop programs based on the findings of the year 1 needs assessment.

Anthony asked what do we imagine the clearinghouse will look like & who will have access?

Sylvain responded one of the major hurdles we've identified before is that there are too many resources & it's hard to locate the right one/most relevant. The SRC professionals are planning to evaluate existing resources, narrow down to the most useful resources, and either build off an existing clearinghouse platform or build our own clearinghouse. The clearinghouse will be broadly available.

NY Sustainable and Resilient Community Extension Professionals noted that they have already started compiling a list of tools and resources and requested that work group members send them any tools/resources that they think are particularly useful. Sara Powell's email: slp285@cornell.edu Sarah Schaefer-Brown's email: scs292@cornell.edu Elizabeth Hornstein's email: elizabeth.hornstein@cornell.edu

6) Environmental Justice WG request to MC and "charge" to SRC WG (20mins) (Nikki Tachiki, EPA)

Refer to the linked [PowerPoint Presentation](#) for detail.

Environmental Justice goals are outlined in the LISS CCMP.

The Environmental Justice Workgroup was formed to incorporate EJ goals into all LISS decision making and implementation of CCMP goals. Nikki reviewed the strategies to achieve the Environmental Justice Work Group mission and the FY22 Priority CCMP Implementation Actions and outcomes.

On 10/21/2021 the LISS Management Committee approved an EJWG request to pursue full integration of EJ in all active LISS workgroups. The EJWG will work with all LISS work groups to explore what environmental justice considerations and efforts can be made within each specific work group area. The EJWG is in the process of developing a strategy to implement this request and drafting discussion questions and materials that will be shared with each of the work groups in advance of a more focused discussion. Nikki will send out materials and we will have a more formal discussion at the next SRC Work Group meeting in February.

Jimena shared the EJWG webpage in the chat:

<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/committees/environmental-justice-work-group/>

7) LISS Communications, Outreach, and Engagement Plan (Sylvain)

A five-year strategic communications, outreach, and engagement plan is in development. The hope is that this will provide extra capacity to working groups. Becky and Sylvain are participating on the steering committee to inform strategy for SRC.

Marstel-Day Environmental Consulting, through NEIWPC, is leading the project team. Have met with them to convey anticipated needs & gaps.

Work group has a lot of extension & outreach built in, but doesn't include communications capacity. E.g., social media, press releases, product support/printing, etc.

Marstel-Day sent out a survey to seek input for the plan development.

8) Wrap up and adjourn

Next WG meetings, all 1-3 PM:

- Tuesday, February 8, 2022 (EJ discussion)
- Tuesday, May 10, 2022
- Tuesday, August 16, 2022