

Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring Workgroup Meeting Summary

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Zoom Meeting (Link in Meeting Invite)



Attendees

Samarra Scantlebury, NYSDEC (Co-Chair), Kathleen Knight, CTDEEP (Co-Chair), Jim Ammerman, NEIWPC, Greg Dietl (Cornell), Matthew Pruden (Cornell), Ron Rozsa, CTDEEP (Ret.), Casey Abel, UConn, Sarah Crosby, PhD, Maritime Aquarium, Cayla Sullivan, EPA, Alicia Tyson, CT Seagrant, Sarah Schaefer-Brown, NY Seagrant, Sara Powell, NY Seagrant, Robert Burg, NEIWPC, Harry Yamalis, CTDEEP, Victoria O’Neill NYDEC, Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, NY Seagrant, Elizabeth Hornstien, NY Seagrant, Bessie Wright, EPA,

Introduction

Samarra Scantlebury called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM. Samarra provided a synopsis of the [August 2022 Meeting](#): Jordan Bishop, NEIWPC provided workshop overview, The draft FY23 Work plan was discussed and comments were accepted, Sentinel Monitoring Strategy Revisions were discussed and comments taken on items that need to be considered, Sentinel Monitoring Matrix was discussed separately. Any revisions to the summary should be emailed to Kathleen.Knight@ct.gov.

F23 Work Plan Update

Kate Knight walked through the compilation report of the FY23 workplans which summarize the tasks in each workplan by actionable items. With the following color coding:

Highlight in **yellow** priorities that may require supplemental funding

Highlight in **blue** priorities that can be addressed by existing funding (both base program and prior supplemental awards)

Highlight in **purple** priorities that can be addressed by Long Island Sound Research Grant Program

Highlight in **green** priorities that can be addressed by Long Island Sound Future Funds

Highlight in **dark green** priorities that can be addressed by Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund

Unlighted priorities are to be progressed by work groups and core program staff

Within the CCSM workgroup’s summary one yellow LISS action item was identified:

“CCSM supports the additional staff for additional language support recommended in the COE.”

The remaining action items were left unhighlighted as they are interpreted to be unfunded items for workgroup to address. If the workgroup has any feedback on this summary, please email Kathleen.Knight@ct.gov to compile to send to EPA.

Sustainable and Resilient Communities Need Assessment

Alicia Tyson and Sarah Schaefer-Brown, of the CT and NY Seagrant’s provided the workgroup with a summary of the SRC Needs Assessment and the team’s next steps. The summary of that presentation included:

Needs Assessment:

- Outreach extent spanned across Long Island and throughout Connecticut’s Southern portion and across many perspectives (ex. COGs, Faith based orgs, Native American Representation, municipalities, NGOs and more).
- Key Findings:
 - for Locally Identified Threats (starred are those that may have monitoring needs that could overlap with CCSM objectives):
 - Flooding*
 - Stormwater management

- Coastal Erosion*
- Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge*
- Water Quality*
- Impacts from Development
- Tree Loss*
- Extreme weather*
- Habitat Loss/Degradation*
- Invasive Species*
- Drought*
- Environmental Justice Communities were unique in that:
 - there was a direct connection to socio-economic impacts as result of the above concerns. Such as public health, soil health, affordable housing, economic development and food security.
 - Noted institutional inequities: lack of inclusion, governance lacks representation and limited or no collaboration with indigenous communities.
- Identified Needs:
 - Leadership
 - Increased Capacity
 - Coordinated approaches
 - Funding and Tools
 - Technical Guidance
 - Step by Step “How to”
 - General Outreach

Next Steps:

- Education
- Grant Assistance Program
- Annual Workshop December 1st

Environmental Justice Breakout Rooms

Jimena Perez-Viscasillas (EJ Workgroup Co-Chair) introduced the environmental justice workgroup overview and the task to coordinate with the other LISS workgroups. Three questions were posed to the group and team was divided into three breakout rooms.

Room 1: How do we co-create and maintain the sentinel monitoring network with the EJ communities of the Long Island Sound?

Room 2: How do we communicate monitoring activities/results to the communities where monitoring is occurring?

Room 3: How do we integrate and support the Community, Outreach and Engagement plan into the network to assure our data is accessible?

Discussion items were captured on canva board image below provides snapshot from the meeting and see this link for the live (editable) full graphic and text. Workgroup is invited to continue to add thoughts throughout the year: https://www.canva.com/design/DAFQ58Wq1vk/y2DwxdXfymtz5hcZce2-Qw/edit?utm_content=DAFQ58Wq1vk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Q1: How do we co-create and maintain the sentinel monitoring network with the EJ communities of the Long Island Sound?



Q2: How do we communicate monitoring activities/results to the communities where monitoring is occurring?

How do you communicate with a group that is not as interested? SRCs talked to some civic groups and homeowner associations, faith based organizations, etc. Libraries are also a good way to reach the community. It's about finding those groups and going to their meetings.

Come prepared to hear issues you cannot do anything about

Connect with local groups already doing work connecting people to the environment

Partner with local environmental groups and the 'trusted groups' so we're able to connect communities with a person as opposed to an online tool or resource. (As so you know the person you are sending the public to is reliable).

Elected officials can be good allies, depending on the communities

Snowball: who else should we talk to about this? Also reaching out to groups we already know. Having your contacts reach out on your behalf

Workshops has been effective. Going to existing meetings to share info has also been helpful

<- Good for those already interested, but how do we reach those who aren't or have no particular attachment or other priorities?

Need to find the right way to communicate this info and make it relevant to your audience - what do they care about?

The bottom line: discuss **How does this impact my family and my community?** Health and safety for their family and community. Relate the topic to their day-to-day and tie it back.

Challenge: how to connect this topics to non-coastal communities who don't have access to the coast?

Subsistence fishing: Part of the communication piece could be finding out who is fishing, why, and connecting it to where they are from.

The right skillset is needed to communicate this effectively to the public. Some of the monitoring we do is very complex. **These conversation needs to happen when thinking about new communication and engagement hires**** (background in engagement, science, and perhaps fully bilingual).

How much should scientists be training ourselves vs bringing in trained communicators? This would allow a better flow of info/translation from scientists to the public

Maybe we can utilize existing trainings to help learn how to communicate this work to EJ communities and non-science savvy people

Social media platforms and finding alternates routes of communication

Do your homework before going to these communities to **get a sense of what they do care about before you talk to them.**

If we can't find a connection, could that mean a gap in what we are monitoring?

There's usually ways to connect what we do to what matters to them. A lot of what we do does have a real impact in health and safety.

Q3: How do we integrate and support the Community, Outreach and Engagement plan into the network to assure our data is accessible?

Dashboard:
What are we monitoring? Why?
How does it apply to me?

Color-coding:
Tamps Bay: system (red = bad, yellow = close, green = good) for each monitored metric. Color-coded trend analysis of past data

Weather app design: this is the current state. How's my waterway but for a phone app and for LIS

Link to datasets that already provide climate data. Develop a more focused effort on monitoring for dashboard

Questions to consider when creating linkages to outreach:
What is the Network?
What do we monitor?
What does it mean to me?

Tool that provides accessibility to data:
How do I use the tool?
How do I read the data?
How will this tool benefit me (an interested non-expert)?

Environmental Justice Discussion

Each breakout room discussed two biggest/most important topics and identified the action items the following is the summary of that discussion:

Room 1:

- Take an inventory and compare to where we know there are environmental justices areas and review where, what and how we might fully review and move forward in the network.
- Consider what is being done already in LISS and really partnering with the other workgroups where missions align.
- Deepening out knowledge of processes and cocreation methods.

Room 2:

- Going to communities and meeting them where they are at both literally and with regards to framing LISS information to relevant needs of the communities.
- Considerations given to how much investment goes to training and communications.
- Should outreach be limited to outreach expertise?

Room 3:

- Accessible tools such as interactive mapping or app for phones could be useful. Something akin to how's my waterway or weather application.
- Consideration given for what a nonexpert might want/ask of the network. Tampa Bay's color-coding system seemed as a good simplified approach to communicate.

Updates from Workgroup members

- Vicky O'Neill is preparing to present at December 4-9 America's Restoring Estuaries Conference. LISS dedicated session will be 2PM, Vicky is to discuss the Marsh Migration Viewer for NY.
- Ron provided group with an update regarding tracking the progress of the ditch marsh on barn island. In summary he has concluded it in the final stage of natural restoration.
- Co-Chairs will circulate the final report provided by NEIWPC on the workshop with the Workgroup members
- Workgroup members should provide feedback regarding summary of action items for FY23 to Kathleen.Knight@ct.gov
- Workgroup members should send meeting minute edits to Kathleen.Knight@ct.gov
- A special meeting is to be held in winter to review the latest status of the SHARP program (builds on the latest since the pilot study and intended to help us launch this monitoring and evaluate priorities under 2018 sentinel monitoring strategy). Announcement to come from chairs.
- Kate Knight indicated there are some early results coming out of the enhanced monitoring network the USGS built to support Connecticut's modeling effort. Its possible this may help assist our effort to assess the inventory of monitoring and asked for interest from workgroup about requesting a presentation.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:02 PM