



## Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group Meeting Summary May 9th, 2023 1:00 PM

### Attendees

- Sylvain De Guise, CTSG
- Becky Shuford, NYSG
- Kathy Bunting-Howarth, NYSG
- Kathleen Fallon, NYSG
- Sarah Schaefer-Brown, NYSG/LISS
- Elizabeth Hornstein, NYSG/LISS
- Sara Powell, NYSG/LISS
- Deb Abibou, CTSG/LISS
- Samarra Scantlebury, NYSDEC/LISS
- Jennifer Street, NYSDOS
- David Kozak
- Sarah Watson, CT DEEP
- Sue Van Patten, NYSDEC
- Nicole Govert, CIRCA
- Lynn Dwyer, NFWF
- Alexa Fournier, NYSDEC
- Katie Lund
- Liv Herdman, USGS
- Marcy Balint
- Shauna Kamath, NYSDEC
- Anthony Allen, Save the Sound
- Harry Yamalis, CT DEEP
- Salme Cook, USGS

### Welcome and Introductions - *Sylvain De Guise*

### LIS Resilience Resource Hub Updates - *Deb Abibiou*

- Continuing to evaluate tools and resources and edit/organize the list
- Put out an RFB to bring on a consultant, had 3 bids that we reviewed
- Selected Spruce Technology! Hoping to begin work with them soon and complete the Resource Hub this fall
- In process of forming Resource Hub Development Team that will meet monthly with the contractor
- Will form a team of testers representing wider-ranging stakeholders
- Comment from Katie Lund in the chat: *Wondering if you've heard feedback on the term, "Resilience Resource Hub"? Since Resilience Hubs are a common term with different meaning. I was just on a webinar on this topic last week and they defined as, "Resilience hubs are physical, community-serving facilities that support residents with climate service needs." I think the hubs are known more broadly as actual places with a community service focus - not sure if there might be confusion with the Resilience Resource Hubs.*
  - The SRC Team will look into this.

### **Updated on LIS Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program - Sarah Schaefer-Brown**

Sarah reviewed the purpose of the LIS Grant Writing Assistance Program and our efforts to promote the Program.

- Created communication plan and RFP to roll out program last fall
- Have established a BDB Implementation Team
- Selected metrics that we are using to measure our progress
- 20 applications, approved 18 applications, 4 of the projects that were awarded weren't able to proceed for various reasons
- Many of the applicants are applying to Long Island Sound Futures Fund
- Question from Sue: Summary of lessons learned?
- Sarah noted the grant writing program seems to be a needed service and many have been excited about it, but some communities/municipalities are not even to the point when they are ready to apply for a project so some may need some additional support/services.
- Some applicants have also applied to our grant writing program very close to the deadline of the grant they are going for which has caused some administrative stress
- David K (grant writing consultant): One barrier is the short-time between when RFP for grants is released and the grant deadlines
- BDB I-Team will be meeting on May 17 to begin evaluating this year's program and starting to formulate recommendations for next year's program
- BDB I-Team Members:
  - EPA (1): Nikki Tachiki/Kristen Laccetti
  - LISCIF/EJ team (1): Ashley Desrosiers
  - NY State Rep. (1): Sue Van Patten (NYSDEC)
  - CT State Rep. (1): Brian Thompson (CTDEEP)
  - NY Org. (1): Alison Branco (TNC)
  - CT Org. (1): Anthony Allen (Save the Sound)
  - NFWF (1): Lynn Dwyer
  - LIS Funders Collaborative (1): Tripp Killin
- FY23 proposal
  - Continue program and grant writing assistance
  - Potential to expand offered services based on feedback but same general structure.
  - Asking for \$200K per region, for a total of \$1M so we can support more communities and help them capitalize on available federal and state funding opportunities.

### **Training Program Updates - Sara Powell**

Sara recapped our efforts so far this year

- One-pager on Needs Assessment results is now [available!](#)
- LIS Futures Fund workshops in March & April in NY & CT

- NOAA NART workshops in CT - some have already happened and more are upcoming, aim is to test different incentives for participation by underserved communities
- NYSACC Coastal Resiliency Network webinars - Next webinar June 12
- Marsh Mapper webinars and Marsh Conservation Plans
  - These webinars are available online
  - February 7, Nassau County focused: <https://youtu.be/CzTO-at33Zg>
  - February 14, New York City and Westchester focused: [https://youtu.be/g838Tv\\_eNQ0](https://youtu.be/g838Tv_eNQ0)
  - February 15, 10-12 am, Suffolk County focused: <https://youtu.be/bQIPzEZqi0Q>
  - Will be developing 3 marsh conservation plan that the SRC Team will be assisting with: Glen Island Park in Westchester County, Oyster Bay-Cold Spring Harbor in Nassau & Suffolk Counties, and Stony Brook Harbor in Suffolk County
- Nassau County (May 4th) & Suffolk County (May 10th) Coastal Erosion Forums

Sara recapped what is coming up next

- Working with Anthony Allen from Save the Sound on Benefit-Cost Analysis Workshop, June 15, by invitation only
- Resilience 101 Series - Regional Field Trips - Annual Workshop - Funding Working early 2024
- Forming a Workshop Steering Committee - looking for WG members who would like to help with the planning with this year's event

### **Project Pipeline Updates - Elizabeth Hornstein**

- Got a handle on priorities and projects via Needs Assessment
- Drafted decision support criteria to assist communities with identifying and prioritizing high-impact projects that advance sustainability and resilience and various considerations they need to be aware of as they move projects from idea to implementation
  - Will be putting the criteria on the Resource Hub and incorporating them into training programs
  - Will promote and use to help communities understand which projects to move forward with and which will be the most impactful
- Realized that CIRCA had already developed criteria that were very similar to what we were looking to develop; so we decided to look into adopting it and making adaptations to fit with our needs and goals. We spoke with CIRCA to confirm that this would work.
- Proposed Decision Support Criteria:
  - **Permittable** – Can get all necessary permits and/or permissions
  - **Equitable** – Considers input from and impacts to vulnerable populations
  - **Realistic** – Has community support and can be realistically achieved
  - **Safe** – Enhances or maintains the safety of communities
  - **Innovative** – Process has considered innovative options including nature-based solutions
  - **Scientific** – Incorporates the best available science

- **Transferrable** – Can serve as model for other communities
- **Sustainable** – Socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable
- Each element has questions to assist communities with thinking through and planning
- The SRCs led 4 breakout rooms to gather feedback on the PERSISTS criteria. Each group was given a different project scenario and went through the decision support criteria guiding questions to solicit feedback on:
  - Is there anything that doesn't make sense?
  - Is there anything we are missing?
- The SRC team will be accepting additional feedback on the PERSISTS criteria through 5/19 and then will incorporate all the feedback and circulate a revised version

#### **USGS Compound Flood Risk Model Updates – Kris Masterson**

- Will give a more technical presentation to the Steering Committee next week to get feedback on preliminary mapping resources
- Have compiled a lot of available data and resources to assess groundwater, rainfall and coastal risks and the compound risk
- Real-time data stations important for assessing the compound risk
- Ranking of 1-5 for each risk
- Have designed compound flood vulnerability index and conducted a spatial analysis; working on evaluating vulnerability for future conditions (primarily sea level rise)
- Will be using letter code to reflect which risks are linked and will be able to click on each square to dive into what is driving the flooding risk
- Could potentially do a live demonstration of how it will work at the next WG meeting

#### **Updates from SRC WG Members**

- Diana and Tim wanted to let the WG know they have launched a CT Reef Ball Collaborative, primarily in SE CT; have financial support available and can also do trainings if there are sites that could be a good candidate for reef balls, please reach out to Tim Clark, Resilient Southeastern CT Project Manager, at [timothy.clark@tnc.org](mailto:timothy.clark@tnc.org)

#### **Wrap-Up & Adjourn**

- Upcoming SRC Work Group meetings:
  - 1 - 3 pm 8/08/2023
  - 1 - 3 pm 11/14/2023