

Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring Workgroup Meeting Summary

November 12, 2024, 10-12PM

Teams Meeting (Link in Meeting Invite)



Attendees

Samarra Scantlebury, NYSDEC (Co-Chair), Kathleen Knight, CTDEEP (Co-Chair), Juliana Barrett (CT Seagrant), Sarah Crosby (Norwalk Maritime Aquarium), Melissa DeFrancesco, Christopher Eagler (NYSDEC), Alison R Kocek (USFW), Madeline Kollegger (UCONN), Jiayu Liu (NYCDEP), Jackie Motyka (NERACOOOS), Esther Nelson (EPA), Matthew Pruden (Cornell), Ron Rozsa (retired DEEP), Evelyn Spencer (EPA), Paul Stacey (Footprints In The Water)

Introduction

Samarra Scantlebury called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM. Samarra provided an overview of the Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring Work Group's (CCSM) purpose and, the agenda and goals for the meeting.

Samarra shared a brief recap of the last meeting, which was focused on climate related gaps and impacts to the newly drafted 2025 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. The team had since consolidated this information into letter that was submitted to management committee.

Management Committee Updates

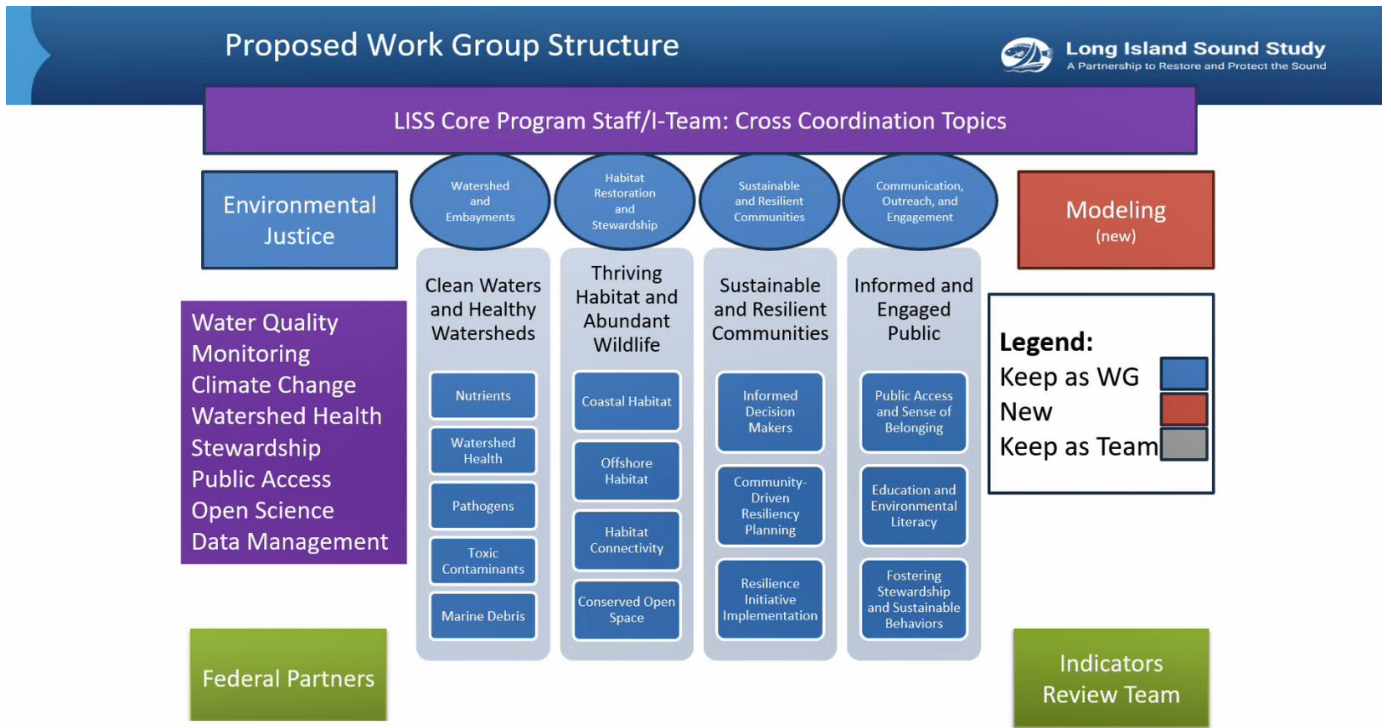
Kate shared that the two day meeting was structured around the 2025 Draft CCMP. In general:

1. Day one was focused on sharing the comments received to date and potential amendments to address those comments.
2. Day two focused on partnership structure revisions to address new CCMP direction.

Kate also noted that this was early planning discussions as the comment period was still open and members were provided with the CCMP revision page to provide comments if they had interest, Public Comment Closes 11/22/24. The CCSM letter was a part of the conversations and gratitude for the teams time in putting that together. Final CCMP release, as of this meeting, was tentatively scheduled for Long Island Sound Day (Friday before Memorial Day).

With regards to funding planning, which is normal part of the Management Committee meeting, it was noted that as of this date we were operating with an estimate from previous year due to the fact that there was a extended resolution through early December. Therefore, current efforts were focused on base funding needs and then next steps would be to review needs identified in CCMP writing process and supplemental projects.

Workgroup structure was secondary focus and primary focus for discussion as this impacts the workgroup the most. The diagram below was shown as the proposed structure. Specifically, CCSM would no longer be a separate workgroup but be integrated into the others noted in blue below.



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Discussion Highlights:

Some concern about sentinel sites not having a home was raised and we shared that we raised this concern especially in light of the CCSM recommendation of the needed Risk Assessment update. And we are waiting to hear for direction on how this can be integrated.

Ron noted that in the last plan has an outline on how to move forward with sentinel monitoring network, even though it wasn't implemented it doesn't change the methods and the priorities who will take the lead to make sure this happens.

Sarah Crosby had a similar concern about the CCSMs recent progress for Marsh Health Monitoring and where would this fall in the new structure?

Ron noted that this new Marsh Monitoring program is best way to move forward beyond the base monitoring that we do not have acknowledged as part of the network and this needs to be element moving forward. The database the sentinel monitoring group had built was intended to be the spring board for that work and Ron's personal summary of long term data is in progress and to be shared soon. Ron also noted that NERACOOS plan included champions and that document isn't complete for all sentinels.

Paul Stacey noted a direction of a monitoring group in general rather than a climate only is better.

Jackie Motyka In response to Paul and Ron I have also been thinking how to think about this in cross cutting theme. Does the indicators take this role on?

Kate shared that yes and no. There is data tracking for the ecosystem targets which will be the objectives and there are supporting indicators that point to success/status and there is flexibility with supporting indicators to track additional metrics. But there is not the flexibility to set up and facilitate an intentional monitoring program to track climate stressors.

Juliana noted that the last sentinel update was a survey that went out to hear about what people were thinking about in priorities. I also believe that things are changing rapidly enough that priorities are also changing and we should take a look at this relevant to today.

Esther encouraged team to feel welcome to submit comments. Acknowledging that the workgroup structure was new to a lot of the team and asked those comment to ask be sent to EPA.

Meeting Adjourned 10:32 AM