LISS HRSWG Meeting
Connecticut College
Gallows Hall Auditorium
New London, CT
September 12, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Shimon Anisfeld, Yale University
Judy Benson, CT Sea Grant
Scott Graves, SCSU
Emily Hall, NOAA Coastal Fellow/CTDEEP
David Kozak, CTDEEP
Jeff Main, Westchester Parks
Victoria O'Neill, NEIWPCC/LISS
Jennifer Pagach, Connecticut College
Mark Paine, City of West Haven
Suzanne Paton, USFWS
Ron Rozsa, Salt Marsh M.D. (retired)
Barry Udelson, Cornell University
Alison Verkade, NOAA
Tim Visel, The Sound School
Harry Yamalis, CTDEEP/LISS

Over the Phone

Jillian Liner, Audubon NY
Nicole Maher, TNC
Jamie Ong, NYC Parks
Rebecca Swadek, NYC Parks

Notes

Welcome, Introductions / Announcements, and Introduction to Connecticut College

- Apologies to those who called in regarding the technical difficulties with the telephone (we could not find a working telephone jack in the meeting room). This was circumvented by utilizing the webinar audio option and the laptop's speakers and microphone.
- https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/ and check out free downloads of Arboretum Bulletins on this page: https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/publications/ (follow the 'Digital Commons' link

Presentations

Reconstructing marsh migration at two LIS marshes
Dr. Shimon Anisfeld (Yale University)

- Reviewed studies on upland marsh migration
- It was observed that the lawn-marsh ecotone is more marsh-like than the wood-marsh ecotone
- Presence of foraminifera along upland border is an indicator of marsh migration
- Forams are more abundant in lawns that border a tidal marsh than in wooded areas that border a

marsh; forams and soil salinity may move into lawn more readily than into wooded areas, possibly due to slope.

Cove River, a tidal marsh in transition

Dr. Scott Graves, Southern CT State University; Mark Paine, City of West Haven, DPW

- history of the 50-acre Cove River Tidal Marsh including the effects of tide gates to control flooding and attempts to restore native saltmarsh vegetation
- site was dominated by invasive *Phragmites australis* (common reed); eradication program began in 2012 – herbicide spray in summer/fall, then mulching the standing dead material over the winter
- current research within the marsh was also discussed, along with future tidal flow restoration plans – including the proposed installation of self-regulating tide gates to replace the existing flap gates

Barn Island marsh update and overview of Mamacoke Island marsh

Ron Rozsa, CTDEEP – coastal management office (retired)

- Barn Island location: https://binged.it/2ylYQHM
- Barn Island has a 40-year history of tidal marsh restoration, and the "impoundments" (or formerly impounded marshes) are still responding to increased tidal flow. Also has a much longer research history. Summary of everything that is Barn Island at: www.tinyurl.com/barnisland
- CTDEEP stopped maintaining mosquito ditched in the 1980s. As a result, some ditched below the dike road are naturally filling in, beginning along the upland edge and progressing shoreward.
- In areas with 2 or more consecutive filling ditches, it appears that sections of marsh are reverting back to their pre-ditching condition
- Mamacoke Island & tidal marsh location: https://binged.it/2ylZOno
- Small, unditched tidal marsh, also with a very long research history

Tour of Mamacoke Marsh

Ron Rozsa, CTDEEP – coastal management office (retired)

- Purpose of marsh tour at high tide was to witness the marsh levy & basin topography, typical of the region's unditched marshes. With intact marsh levees, the interior marsh, or basin only floods a few times per month, when the tide is high enough to overtop the system of levees that surrounds the marsh edge, including along tidal creeks. Water that enters the basin remains, escaping only through evaporation, and leaving behind all of the sediment – which is how unditched marshes like Mamacoke can keep up with sea level rise.
- Turn on aerial or bird's eye photos at https://binged.it/2ylZOno
- The darker green along the north and south shores is the marsh levee (lighter tan in the bird's eye photo); and the darker interior is the lower elevation marsh basin (darker brown in the bird's eye photo, with small pools of standing water).
- Zoom in and take a close look at the ditched vs unditched portions of the Barnstable marshes: https://binged.it/2gh6ZGS. The lighter tan color in the bird's eye photo is the levee, which forms a continuous ring around the marsh edge and all of the tidal creeks. Interior portions are the marsh basins. In this area, the levee stands out much more clearly in the aerial photo, but still noticeable in the bird's eye. Also note the hundreds of small ponds (keep zooming – there's more ponds!) within the area that fits your screen in the unditched marsh only.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 29, 2017, at Hallock State Park Preserve Visitor Center, Riverhead, NY