

**LISS Habitat Restoration & Stewardship Workgroup**  
**Edith G. Read Natural Park & Wildlife Sanctuary**  
**Nature Center**  
**100 Playland Pkwy**  
**Rye, NY 10580**

**June 20, 2018**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance-29**

Rob Doscher, Westchester County  
David Kozak, CTDEEP  
Victoria O'Neill, NEIWPC/LISS  
Amanda Pachomski, Audubon NY  
Chantal Collier, TNC  
Jim Ammerman, NEIWPC/LISS  
Jake LaBelle, WCS  
Bill Lucey, Save the Sound  
Paul Stacey, Footprints in the Water  
Rob Doscher, Westchester County  
Nancy Seligson, LISS CAC  
Sven Hoeger, Creative Habitat Corp.  
Chris Haight, NYC Parks  
Liana Simpson, NYSDEC  
Michael Gambino, Westchester County

Mark Paine, City of West Haven  
Suzanne Paton, USFWS  
Becca Swadek, NYC DPR  
Harry Yamalis, CTDEEP/LISS  
Alexa Fournier, NYSDEC  
Cassie Bauer, NYSDEC/LISS  
Genevieve Nuttall, Audubon CT  
Mark Tedesco, EPA/LISO  
Suzanne Paton, USFWS  
Peter McCartt, Westchester County  
Zoe Kaldor, Town of Mamaroneck  
Robert Burg, NEIWPC/EPA LISO  
Tara Seeley, Westchester Community Found.  
David Gumbart, TNC

**Notes**

Welcome, Introductions / Announcements  
*V. O'Neill / H. Yamalis / D. Kozak*

Welcome to Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary

*Michael Gambino, Westchester County Naturalist Edith Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary*

- The park is 179 acres and the lake is 85 acres. The sanctuary has been recognized by Audubon NY as an Important Bird Area due to its location in the Atlantic Flyway. There are 3 miles of trails and .5 miles of publically accessible shoreline.

**Presentations**

Building interest and community-based capacity to support a collaborative approach to seagrass conservation and management

*Chantal Collier, The Nature Conservancy*

- Regionally, 90% of eelgrass has been lost. Goal is to preserve the remaining 10%
- 2012- NY passes the Seagrass Protection Act (nothing quite this specific in CT)
- 2017- NYS Ocean Action Plan, includes development of a seagrass management program that will implement seagrass management plans for designated seagrass management areas.
- 2017- FISM, Fishers Island Seagrass Management Coalition, formed to preserve eelgrass around Fishers Island
- Collaborative approach to meeting program goals for Fishers Island promotes more significant role for local stakeholders, rather than more traditional 'top-down' management approach.
- TNC has been monitoring water temperatures around FI eelgrass beds from 2015-2017.

## NYC Parks Salt Marsh Monitoring and Design Guidelines

*Rebecca Swadek and Chris Haight, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation*

- Two documents provide detailed guidance on marsh restoration and monitoring intended for broad application throughout region. This effort was intended to provide new and up to date guidance on restoration monitoring. The *2000 New York State Salt Marsh Restoration and Monitoring Guidelines* was used as a platform to build the new documents.
- Summary of tidal wetland restoration techniques that worked well in NYC tidal marshes.
- Guidelines for design/engineering, and guidelines for post-construction monitoring.
- Documents should be finalized and released to public soon. LISS HRSWG will send out a link to the finalized documents once it is published.

## 2018 Volunteer Alewife Survey-Westchester

*V. O'Neill, NYSDEC*

- Alewife and Blueback herring (River Herring) visit our area in the spring to enter freshwater tributaries around Long Island Sound to spawn.
- River herring population numbers are in decline, largely due to past overfishing, water quality, and dams preventing migration to freshwater spawning grounds.
- A Long Island Volunteer Alewife Survey has existed since 2006. A Long Island Diadromous Fish Working Group began in 2008. The survey and the group have found dozens of new, remnant spawning runs on Long Island. They have also helped to install 9 fish passages around LI.
- Seatuck Environmental Association released their 2018 Long Island Diadromous Fish Restoration Strategy: [https://www.seatuck.org/images/PDF/Seatuck\\_RestorationStrategy\\_v12.pdf](https://www.seatuck.org/images/PDF/Seatuck_RestorationStrategy_v12.pdf)
- On March 12, 2018 a training session was held in Westchester for the first time at the Save the Sound office in Mamaroneck. Little is known about the creeks, streams, and rivers around Westchester. 17 volunteers attended the training session.
  - 12 individuals participated in the 2018 survey.
  - 69 individual observations were recorded.
  - Six different locations were monitored: Beechmont Lake, Huguenot Lake, Mamaroneck Reservoir, Port Chester Middle School, Wilson Woods Park, Mill Pond-Byram River
  - No alewives were found but there was a lot of enthusiasm and some great observations.
- Next Steps:
  - create a 2018 Volunteer Alewife Survey-Westchester summary report
  - a barrier location and stream assessment is needed for all of the streams around Westchester to get a better idea of where the obstructions are located on the rivers.
  - It would be great to create a map of all of the accessible and inaccessible portions of the rivers and streams. Similar to the Seatuck Environmental Association map: <https://www.seatuck.org/index.php/tributary-project/river-revival-project-map>
  - Conduct the 2019 Volunteer Alewife Survey-Westchester

## Tidal Wetland Restoration at Manursing Lake

*Sven Hoeger, Creative Habitat Corp*

- Project was constructed in 2010 and monitored from 2011-2014.
- Focused on regrading portion of upland marsh edge and native saltmarsh planting adjacent to Play Land area to replace upland and non-native invasive plant community with saltmarsh community plants.
- Uncertainty as to long term success of restoration project without modification of tide gate that controls water levels and salinity in the marsh. Tide gate is not functioning properly.
- Common Reed, Mugwort, and Japanese knotweed have entered portions of the restoration site. The water edge of the marsh has lost some acreage but it seems to have stabilized.
- Overall the project is a success and attracts native wildlife and fish to the area.

*For those of you who missed the meeting, or for those that would like to revisit the presentations, you can find the presentations, TNC monitoring report, and TNC eelgrass video here:*

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Im\\_uJDXhDdpAORKUB4LeGnxR-LKb-jZ](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Im_uJDXhDdpAORKUB4LeGnxR-LKb-jZ)

Field Trip to view Manursing Lake tidal wetland restoration and Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary

*Sven Hoeger, Creative Habitat Corp*

*Rob Doscher, Westchester County Planning & Soil & Conservation District*

**2018 Meeting Dates:**

Wednesday, September 12 (CT)

Wednesday, November 28 (NY)



Michael Gambino speaks to the group about the tidal marsh restoration at Manursing Lake (*photo NYSDEC*).



Tidal marsh restoration site on Manursing Lake (*photo NYSDEC*).



View of the tidal gates at Manursing Lake (*photo NYSDEC*).



Invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, common reed, and mugwort are a few of the invasive plant species that can be found within the tidal marsh restoration site (*photo NYSDEC*).