

Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds Work Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Meeting conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams



Attendees:

Kelly Streich, CT DEEP (Co-chair)	George Hoffman, Setauket Harbor
Tim Hunter, CT DEEP	Tim Visel, Sound School Retiree
Bill Cavers, LISP CAC/Darien	Casey Wilson, Subtidal
Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP	Sarah Deonaraine, Manhasset Bay
Denise Argue, USGS	Traci Lott, CT DEEP
Brittney Izbicki, USGS	Abdulai Fofanah, NY DEP
Emily Marquis CT DoAG	Samara Scantlebury, NYSDEC
Beau Ranheim, NY DEP	Evelyn Powers, IEC
Paul Stacey, Footprints In the Water LLC.	Holly Drinkuth, TNC CT
Michele Golden, NYSDEC	Elizabeth Tanzi, EPA
Alex DuMont, NEIWPCC	Kimarie Yap, NYSDEC
Matthew Lyman, CT DEP	Maggie Cozens, CTSG
Jim Ammerman, NEIWPCC/LISS	Harvey Pine, NH DES
Youngmi Shin, EPA LISS	Richard Friesner, NEIWPCC
Eric Swenson, Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District	Kate Knight, CT DEEP
Maria Tzortiou, CCNY - CUNY	Denise Savageau, CT Association of Conservation Districts
Jonathan Sherman, NOAA	Sara Cernadas-Martín, NEIWPCC/NYSDEC
Kamazima Lwiza, STAC/Stony Brook	DeAva Lambert, CT DEEP
Erica Casper, CTSG	Jim Hagy, EPA
Sarah Schechter, CTSG	Esther Nelson, EPA
Christine Suter, Friends of the Bay	Nicole Tachiki, EPA
Erik Bedan, CT DEEP	Nicole Hammond, EPA
Marybeth Hart, CTDEEP	
Peter Linderoth, Save the Sound	

Action Items & Meeting Recording:

- Identify SMEs for Toxic Contaminants and Marine Debris Objects – please reach out to Kelly with suggestions
 - Link to the Meeting Recording: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RymDfw1mimgoRMY-LkDsOSSakMISGtvl?usp=sharing>
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Introduction:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 am on Teams by Kelly Streich. Kelly noted that Casey Wilson from Subtidal is interested in learning more about monitoring and data around LIS and she may reach out to individual people. Kelly noted that Tim Hunter will be stepping in to assist with the workgroup. Liz Tanzi shared that she is leaving the LIS office, and that Nicole Hammond will be stepping in to support the workgroup.

Updates: 10:10 am to 10:40 am

April 17th MC Meeting – Nicole

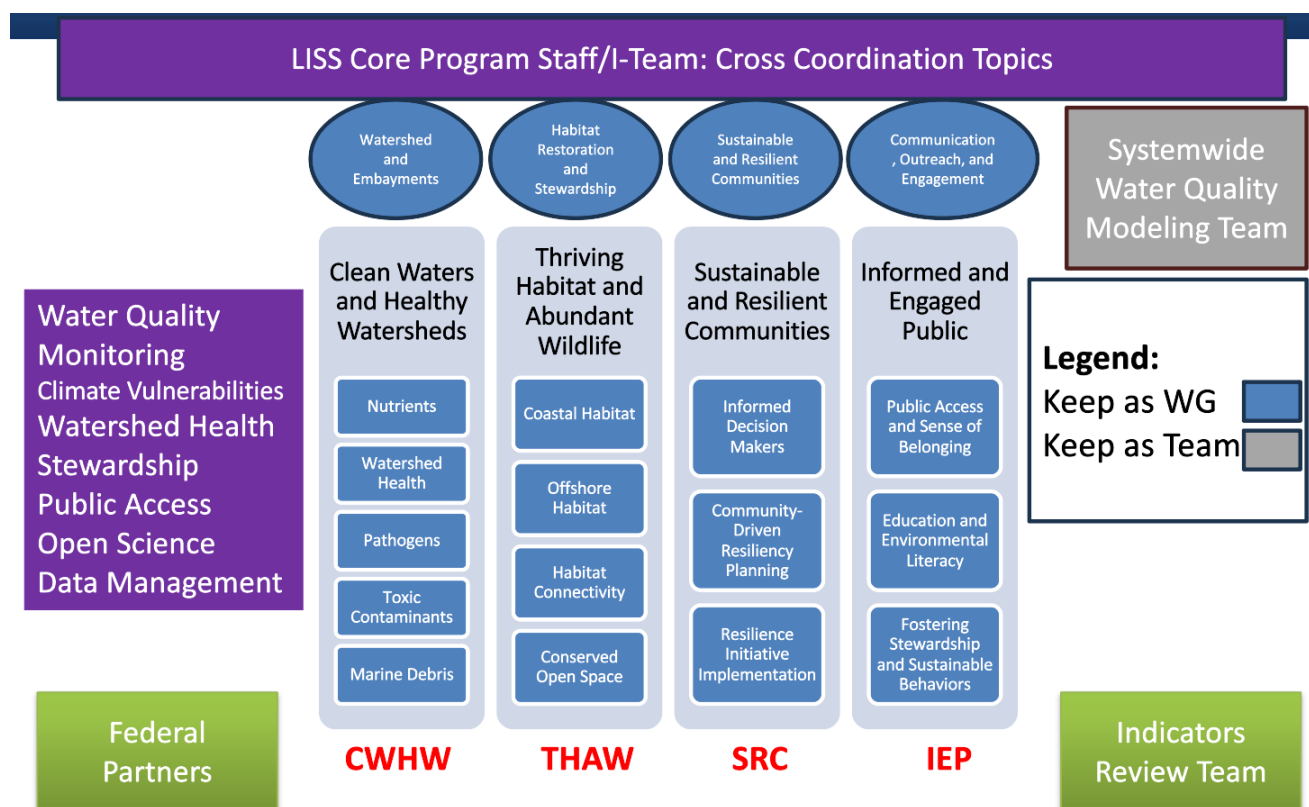
- Management committee met on April 17th to discuss supplemental proposals
- FY25 Planning target is around \$41 million with around \$6 million allocated to supplemental proposals
- Application packages are due early June

CCMP Release & Events - Liz

- February 10 - Executive Steering Committee meeting
- March 20 - Policy Committee briefing & memo signed
- March 17 - First formatted draft
- April 7 – Second formatted draft
- May 6 – Third formatted draft
- May 27 – Final input from small review group
- June 9 – All final materials due for CCMP web product
- June 20 – Formal Release of CCMP and event
- (both 4-page CCMP spread & full length online)
- June 20 – Release of story map and video
- Summer – CCMP public summary & additional outreach events

CCMP Action Items Crosswalk - Esther

- Crosswalk will be used to map 2025 CCMP Actions to 2020 CCMP Actions
- This is very important as it will be used for tracking and reporting
- Since there are fewer number of actions in the new CCMP, some actions from 2020 were merged and others are omitted.



Subject Matter Experts (SME) - Kelly

- Subject matter expert needed for each CWHW CCMP objective.
- Shared tasks with co-chairs:
 - Be responsible for staying up to date on status, information, and projects related to objective.
 - Assess the status of objective and actions.
 - Coordinate development of proposals to implement objective and associated actions.
 - Report back to the broader Work Group.

Work Group Roles:

- CT Co-Chair - Kelly Streich
- NY Co-Chair - TBD

Objectives SMEs/Co-chair Support

- **Nutrients** - Richard Friesner; Kelly and Sue
- **Watershed Health** - Denise Savageau; Tim and NY Co-chair
- **Pathogens** – Evelyn Powers; Kelly and Sue
- **Toxic Contaminants** – No SME Identified; Kelly and NY co-chair
- **Marine Debris** – No SME Identified; Tim and NY co-chair

Need to identify SMEs for Toxic Contaminants and Marine Debris.

Toxic Contaminants & Marine Debris Objectives Overview -Kelly

- Toxic Contaminants Objective
 - Prioritize developing an action agenda framework to further research needs, data collection and mitigation.
 - Needs include data synthesis on existing and emerging toxins, identifying gaps and management actions
- Marine Debris Objective
 - Needs include identification of marine debris hotspots and development of a framework to track marine debris reduction
 - Several partners identified in NOAA LIS Marine Debris Action Plan

Kamazima's recommendation for marine debris expert:

Luis Medina: luis.medina@stonybrook.edu

Report Out of Subgroups: 10:40 am to 10:50 am

- **Embayment Hypoxia Indicator – Jamie Vaudrey**
 - Group has not met since last CWHW workgroup meeting
 - There is interest in focusing to publish data real time and have the UWS data be readily available.
 - **Nature Based Solutions - Denise Savageau**
 - Denise reported that the workgroup is making contacts and identifying partners that may be interested in WG. Other topics of interest include expanding understanding of how land is protected, including a watershed approach.
 - There is interest in the group to focus on land stewardship (riparian buffers, healthy forest, invasive species management) and indicators of watershed health (connectivity models, LWAT)
 - The subgroup is aiming to have priorities in place for funding opportunities by early fall.
 - The workgroup is now meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 10:30 to noon. If you want to be added to the meeting email dmsavageau@msn.com.
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Water Quality Monitoring Season Kick-Off: 10:50 am – 11:40 am

Jim Ammerman facilitated the conversation.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP): Matthew Lyman provided updates for CT DEEP.

- The hypoxia survey will start in June along with the NCCA.
 - Briggs Marine is completing the construction of the research vessel which is a 44' Catamaran to get into shallow areas of embayments. The goal is to have the vessel in place in June 2026.
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U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): Denise Argue is taking over Jon Morrison's role. Contact Denise Argue dmargue@usgs.gov if needed. Denise provided an overview of the work being completed this summer from the headwaters of LIS to CT River water.

- In upper watershed and middle haddam there is continuous top and bottom water sampling. LISS supports 4 stream monitoring stations in CT that provide load deriving flow gages.
- There is groundwater sampling that occurs in Pine Grove
- There are 2 reports underway to summarize Middle Haddam data and nutrient updates at 24 sites across CT.
- There was a proposal submitted for LIS Nitrogen dashboard and LIS Clearing House.
- LIS clearing house (data mapper) is now available and Peter asked to get in touch with developers to sync up with quick drops.
- USGS nutrient dashboard: <https://rconnect.usgs.gov/LIS-dashboard/>

Brittney Izbicki provided updates on **USGS monitoring in coastal LIS:**

- Continuous coastal monitoring at 4 sites; 2 at CT River (Essex and Old Lyme), and 2 on the north shore of Long Island (Oyster Bay and Flax Pond).
- Fourth year of monitoring at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk Harbor.
- Algal community study at Lower Norwalk River to start this year.
- Coastal acidification monitoring at 9 sites (7 in Coastal CT and 2 on North Shore of Long Island). CO2 monitoring at Housatonic and Thames Rivers.
- Continued major tributary sampling (CT, Housatonic, and Thames Rivers).
- LIS clearing house (map-based web tool) is available.
- Embayment data collection for modeling on the fifth embaymnet, Farm river estuary has ended. Prepping for the Poquonnock River estuary. Writing summary report on first 4 embayments (Norwalk, Mystic, Southport, Saugatuck).

Save the Sound: Peter Linderroth provided updates for Save the Sound.

- 29 WQM groups covering 49 embayments. Some new additions (Milton, Mamaroneck, Branford). Fisher's Is West harbor doing Tier2 monitoring this summer.
- Looking at additional sites for next year already and new QA officer coming in.
- Beach grades from health department data will be released prior to Memorial Day weekend.
- Sound Health Explorer: <https://soundhealthexplorer.org/about/unified-water-study/>
- Unified Water Study: <https://www.savethesound.org/water-monitoring-ecological-health>
- Contact Peter Linderroth plinderroth@savethesound.org.

Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC): Evelyn Powers provided updates for IEC.

- IEC monitors 22 stations the western sound for the LIS Monitoring Program.
- Expansion to include coastal ocean acidification including alkalinity and UCONN is running samples
- Third year in the pathogen monitoring network – coordination with Harbor Watch. Includes 16 locations and network continues to expand

11:30 – 12:15 pm: Long Island Sound Satellite Data and CoastWatch Tool

Jonathan Sherman, NOAA Affiliate, CoastWatch Applications and Research
Maria Tzortiou, CCNY - CUNY

Maria presented on the outcomes of a LISS/SeaGrant funded project designed to capture key water quality indicators from satellite observations. Maria's presentation included information on the availability of these products and the CoastWatch tool which can be used to process and visualize the data. She is accepting feedback from the LIS community to improve/add satellite data products to support management decisions. Please reach out to Maria at mtzortziou@ccny.cuny.edu.

- LIS Ocean Color Data Portal: <https://www.lisocolor.org/>
 - NOAA CoastWatch: <https://coastwatch.noaa.gov/cwn/>
 - NOAA CoastWatch east coast node: <https://eastcoast.coastwatch.noaa.gov/>
 - Maria's Website: <https://www.mariatzortziou.com/>
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Next Meeting & Adjournment - Tim:

- Next meeting is scheduled for August 13th and topics will include:
 - Discussion on the work group workplan