



LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group Meeting Virtual Attendance (Zoom) June 2, 2026, 1-3 PM

Attendees:

Deb Abibou, CTS
Denise Argue, USGS
Maya Aviles, Sustainable
CT
Shahela Begum, LIS
Kathleen Bell, USEPA
Emile Bensedrine, NYC
DEP
Derek Betts, NCSWCD
Jess Brant, CTS
Kathy Bunting-Howarth,
NYS
Robert Burg, LIS
Partnership
Quinn Burkhart, LIS
Partnership
Della Campbell, NYSDEC

Sara Cernadas-Martin,
Save the Sound
Todd Chaudhry, USGS
Georgina Cullman, NYC
Parks
Sylvain De Guise, CTS
Debbie Einhorn, NYCDEP
Kathleen Fallon, NYS
Jason Finklestein, USGS
Katie Friedman, Save the
Sound
Megan Granato, CTDEEP
Ben Goldberg, NYS
Kristina Heinemann,
USEPA
Liv Herdman, USGS
Elizabeth Hornstein, NYS
Kate Knight, CTDEEP

David Kozak
Michelle Luebke, SWIM
Coalition
Kaia Madigan, NCSWCD
Kris Masterson, USGS
Ian McElwee, SCRCOG
Juliana Merluoccio,
NYSDEC
Owen Placido, CTS
Sara Powell, NYS
Samarra Scantlebury,
NYSDEC
Sarah Schaefer-Brown,
NYS
Sarah Schechter, CTS
Chris Schubert, USGS
Becky Shuford, NYS

Welcome & Introductions – Becky Shuford

- Introduction of new Work Group members:
 - Katie Frieman, Save the Sound
 - Juliana Merluoccio, NYSDEC
 - Ian McElwee, SCRCOG

SRC Updates

- LIS Resilience Planning Support Program
 - [Planning Support Program Awards – Resilience Hub](#): Awarded 15 projects in Round 1 and 16 projects in Round 2
 - In the midst of Round 3 of the Program, up to \$1.5 available
 - 29 applicants

- Selected 15 candidate projects (11 for NY and 4 for CT) that were put in an RFP to solicit contractors
- Contractor and awardee selections will be made later this summer.
- Awardee determinations are subject to availability of funds and procuring a qualified contractor.
- Have maintained a high interest in the Program for all rounds
- See [Assistance Programs – Resilience Hub](#) for more information
- **Spring Events Recap**
 - [3rd Annual SRC Funding Workshop – Long Island, NY – Resilience Hub](#)
 - Held on March 18 in Hauppauge, NY
 - 90 attendees from across Long Island
 - 36 federal, state, and local funding opportunities represented
 - Produced a funding factsheet
 - [3rd Annual SRC Funding Workshop – Connecticut – Resilience Hub](#)
 - Held on March 31 in New Haven
 - 62 attendees
 - 26 funding opportunities represented
 - Produced a funding factsheet, as well as a funding calendar
 - Coastal Resilience by Design Workshop
 - Feb 27 in Milford
 - Collaboration with Southern Connecticut State University
 - LISWIC (Westchester, NY)
 - Reestablished Long Island Watershed Intermunicipal Council (LISWIC), comprised of 14 LIS westchester municipalities
 - Press event and IMA signing on April 1
 - Sara is continuing to provide facilitation and technical support for this group
 - 7th National Adaptation Forum in Pittsburgh
 - [About the 2026 Forum – National Adaptation Forum](#)
 - New connections and information sharing with communities across the nation working to address similar resilience challenges
 - Presented on our Break Down Barriers Program
- **5th Annual Workshop Plans**
 - Planning for in-person event in Bridgeport, CT
 - Targeting one day over November 17-19
 - May also hold a virtual session or two on a separate day
 - More information to come!

- Please let us know if there are any conflicts with our targeted dates that we should be aware of or if you have any topic suggestions or ideas to share as we plan our workshop.

CFHM Update & Upcoming Webinar - USGS and Kathleen Fallon, NYSG

- **Spring Workshops & Upcoming Webinar from Kathleen, NYSG**
 - Hosted 6 workshops in February & March to provide information on new USGS Compound Flood Hazard Mapper and get feedback
 - 135 participants, 64% said they would use the new tool in decision-making
 - Also hosting a webinar on June 11 [Compound Flood Hazard Assessment Mapper Webinar – Resilience Hub](#) (160 registrants thus far!)
 - Kathleen is also attending the LIS Research Conference June 4-5 and will have a table where attendees can play around with the mapper and leave their feedback
 - Moving into assessment phase of project, will be inviting 9 work group participants to participate in a more detailed assessment of the tool
- **USGS Update, Kris and Jason**
 - Phase 1 is complete. Mapper is live!
 - Mapper visits and stats: 2,717 total views; Spikes on days that workshops were held, and also on days following the workshop.
 - Received good feedback from the workshops that were held and will be working on data updates and functional enhancements.
 - Planning to refine the landing page to make it more user friendly and also still considering the development of a story map to complement the mapper and communicate the science and application.
 - Will be using the feedback from all the workshops and the upcoming webinar to prioritize updates.
 - Have an ongoing O&M budget to keep model up-to-date and also to potentially fund some of the updates/enhancements
 - Phase 2 processed based models studies for Greenport, Port Jefferson, and New Haven have also been completed.
 - Papers in different stages of review/submitted to journals.
 - Greenport and Port Jefferson: Project outputs include new publicly available coupled flooding modeling codes
 - New Haven: Outputs includes a new tool that could be applied to study compound flooding dynamics at larger scales

- **Questions**

- Regarding NYC's interest in including Staten Island - it was noted that LIS Partnership would be reluctant to fund this.

NYC Needs Assessment Update - Ben Goldberg

- **Findings from 2025 Bronx/Queens Needs Assessment**

- See presentation slides
- Followed similar process to the Needs Assessment conducted by other SRCs
 - [A Regional Needs Assessment to Help Build a Sustainable & Resilient Long Island Sound – Resilience Hub](#)
- Reached 52 stakeholders – range of mostly city agencies, nonprofit organizations, Community Boards, community groups, civic associations
- Top Environmental Concerns: Stormwater/flash flooding, Extreme heat, Coastal storms/flooding, Industrial land uses/infrastructure, Air quality (“asthma alley”), Impacts from development, Water quality and CSOs, Pollution and waste
- Some notable differences between NYC and other SRC regions, notably:
 - Roughly 49% of population within LIS coastal boundary lives in NYC (the Bronx/Queens)
 - Decades-long resilience planning efforts already underway, such as PlaNYC, New York City Panel on Climate Change, and coastal and cloudburst resilience planning
 - Many other programs and initiatives that also align with SRC goals/objectives (e.g., Climate Strong Communities Program)
- Several of the same challenges and barriers from the original needs assessment came up for NYC, also some new challenges:
 - Historical and systemic challenges, lack of adequate resources/investments, legacy public health/resilience impacts of harmful land use decisions
 - Political will, shifting and competition priorities, lack of follow through
 - NYC bureaucracy and coordination, complex interagency coordination, difficult bureaucratic processes (e.g., permitting, environmental review)
 - Funding and capacity constraints, loss of funding
 - Community trust and engagement
 - Land use competition and development pressure, cited as an area of major concern particularly at the community/residential level (in light of NYC housing demands)
- Stakeholder Needs

- Resources & Technical Assistance
 - Already a lot of SRC programming to address these needs
- Community engagement and education
 - Community education around resilience issues and new infrastructure/resilience projects
- Community-agency coordination
 - Support aligning community initiatives with NYC agency priorities
 - Two-way coordination between communities and agencies
 - Especially important to consider in context of Planning Support Program
- Land use & development support
 - Communities expressed an interest in support for grappling with development pressure and potential environmental impacts
- Programming Considerations
 - Expanding current SRC programming to NYC (e.g., funding workshops and other convenings/workshops)
 - Potential new programming: Resources and tools for residents and homeowners; Resources on NYC planning and regulatory processes; Community Board toolkit to support resilient land use decisions, Working Group on development issues and resilience
 - Explore pathways for closer coordination with NYC agencies to support both stakeholder initiatives and Planning Support Program projects
 - Work Group discussed possible structures such as an interagency advisory committee and/or NYC subgroup of SRCWG
- Discussion
 - Georgina Cullman: How about resilience trainings for Council members and State senators and assemblypeople? I think that convenings seem like an important role that SRC can play.
 - ICAT - recommends having clear expectations around agency roles
 - Kristina Heinemann: Is there something unique that NYSG/LIS Partnership can bring to the NYC landscape? Also what can the city bring to help enhance Long Island Sound/add to the Partnership's work?
 - Sylvain: Are we going to build on the differences or the similarities with Programming? Where should we focus efforts given our capacity? How can we have the most impact?
 - Ben: Both? Would like to hear from the WG on this

- Becky: An important role could be to bring everyone working on NYC resilience plans/initiatives together and cross-walk them with Long Island Sound goals. Lots to do, need to parse into bite-size chunks to start.
- Kathy: How do resilience issues compare to other social issues, like food insecurity? Can be a challenge to address/balance various priorities.
- Kristina Heinemann: Are there models across the US in terms of other Sea Grants and interactions with large cities/high density areas and finding a unique niche?
 - Kathy/Becky/Sylvain: New Sea Grant community of practice focused on urban issues that we could look to. Also look at other Estuary Programs. Can look for models that can be adapted locally.

Work Group Updates

- New workgroup member Della Campbell from NYSDEC joined and introduced herself
- New [NY public access map](#) released by DEC!
- USGS will staff a pair of tables at this week's LIS Research Conference. We'll be next to Sea Grant and include a demo of the LIS Clearinghouse. As well as info on our LIS Seafloor Mapping/Sampling efforts and work on Coastal Change Likelihood.

Wrap-Up - Sylvain De Guise

- Upcoming SRC Work Group meetings:
 - September 15, 2026
 - December 8, 2026

Adjourned at 2:50pm