



Summary
Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group Meeting
February 26, 2025

10:00 AM - 2:45 PM
NYSG Conference Room (2nd floor)
Innovation & Discovery Center, Stony Brook University
[500 Development Drive, Stony Brook, NY 11790](https://www.stonybrook.edu/development/500-Development-Drive)

Attendees:

Kathy Bunting-Howarth	Sarah Schechter	Nancy Balcom
Becky Shuford	Sara Cernadas	Owen Placido
Kristen Laccetti	Jim Ammerman	Jimena Perez-Viscasillas
Mark Tedesco	Jennifer Street	Vicky O’Neill
Ben Goldberg	Joseph Woodrick	Tenzing Namdol, NYSG intern
Samarra Scantlebury	Elisia Langdon	Liv Herdman (Virtual)
Sarah Schaefer-Brown	Shahela Begum	Kris Masterson (Virtual)
Elizabeth Hornstein	Kellie Marty	
Sara Powell	Anthony Allen	
Deb Visco Abibou	Sylvain DeGuise	

Welcome and Introductions – Becky Shuford

Mark Tedesco: Welcomed everyone and thanked the SRC WG’s work on the SRC initiative, 5-Year Work Plan, and LISS CCMP writing team. We are fortunate we have a new EPA Regional Administrator (Michael Martucci), the LISS had an opportunity to brief him on the CCMP and received positive feedback initially and we are expecting formal comments/approval at the end of this week. The LISS CCMP language was changed to based on recent Executive Orders. There will be a March 20th Policy Committee meeting where the Committee will officially review and approve the LISS CCMP. LISS is moving forward with planning the June 20th CCMP Release event. Mark will share back any details on the plan for the LISS CCMP as soon as he has them. The EPA Regional Administrator visited Region 2 EPA Office last week. The heart of the SRC work, working with communities to obtain resiliency, is still in the CCMP and will continue to be a main focus.

Becky Shuford: Lee Zeldin has historically been supportive of Long Island Sound and Long Island environmental initiatives. There is strong support for coastal initiatives.

SRC Team Updates - Sara Powell

- Break Down Barriers
 - Provided an overview of the Break Down Barriers Program initiative.
 - The LIS Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program launched in Fall 2022 provides match-free support to our municipalities and community organizations seeking grant funding for resilience projects.



- As of now we have made a total of 30 awards and allocated \$263,720 through this program.
- In the 1st year of the Grant Writing Assistance Program we made 16 awards (FY ending Fall 2023), in the 2nd year we made 8 awards (FY ending Fall 2024), in the 3rd year we have made 6 awards so far (2 more in review).
- For FY22 & FY23 supported grant applications we have a 30% success rate of communities successfully obtaining the targeted grant funds. The program has yielded a \$28 return on each \$1 invested. A total of \$2,052,224 of grant funds have been obtained by communities utilizing the Grant Writing Assistance Program.
 - Questions/Comments:
 - Mark Tedesco: Asked about the competitiveness of targeted funding opportunities that applicants are applying to.
 - Sarah Schaefer-Brown: In the first year majority of the applications were for the LISFF, in the 2nd and 3rd year the applications have targeted a more diverse list of grants - NYSDEC, NOAA, EFC, EPA and other federal grants. etc.
- The LIS Resilience Planning Support Program was launched in Fall 2023 in response to findings from the LIS Grant Writing Assistance Program
 - In the first round (closed December 15, 2024) - 28 expressions of interest were received and 15 projects were supported, totalling \$1.1 million. The projects supported through this round are being completed with the support of contractors.
 - In the Second Round (closed February 7, 2025) - 43 expressions of interest were received, the SRC team is reviewing 41 applications and will put out a RFP through Cornell and UConn to competitively procure contractors to support the community projects we advance to the candidate phase.
- Review CCMP 2025 Goals & new Partnership structure
 - Updated CCMP Goals:
 1. Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds: Restore and maintain water quality in Long Island Sound and its watershed.
 2. Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife: Restore and protect the health and resilience of habitats and wildlife in Long Island Sound and its ecosystems.
 3. Sustainable and Resilient Communities: Empower Long Island Sound communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.
 4. Informed and Engaged Public: Inspire and empower the public to appreciate, value, and protect Long Island Sound and the waters that flow into the Sound.
 - The LISS Work Group structure has been modified to support the implementation of each of the 4 goals, Work Groups that existed previously (Nitrogen, Water Quality Monitoring, and Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring Work Groups) will be integrated into the new Work Group structure. There will be a new Modeling Work Group.

Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring (CCSM) Presentation - Samarra Scantlebury (NYSDEC)

- Samarra provided an overview of the CCSM WG and goals.
 - Assist the LISS MC in developing, maintaining, and enhancing a dynamic climate change monitoring program for the ecosystems of LIS and its coastal ecoregions.



- Oversee implementation of a broader dynamic monitoring program to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the potential climate change impacts to LIS and develop adaptive management strategies to address the impacts.
- Guided by the Sentinel Monitoring Strategy
- Identify opportunities for collaboration to address gaps in the Strategy
- CCSM WG co-chairs (Kate Knight & Samarra Scantlebury) will now integrate into the LISP WGs to ensure climate related experts are integrated in WG meetings, make sure climate change is addressed in WG Work Plans, and bring awareness of changes to monitoring and the LIS base program that may impact SRC goals.
- Climate Risk Assessment Proposal- Expand the evaluation of the risks identified in the 2025 CCMP with respect to the impact on activities that may impede the Partnership's ability to achieve CCMP objectives.
 - Requirement under the National Estuary Program Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act (PRAE Act) for NEPs to have climate vulnerability assessment.
 - Address the effects of recurring extreme weather events including identification and assessment of vulnerabilities.
 - Guided by the FY25-FY28 CWA Section 320 NEP Guidance and the EPA Being Prepared for Climate Change Workbook.
- 2025 CCMP - The Climate Vulnerability Assessment will evaluate when a climate change stressor will impact the outcome of a CCMP Objective/Goal. Seven climate change stressors are already identified within the LISP CCMP and how those stressors will impact the achievement of the CCMP actions (Appendix D). However, there may be additional stressors we will want to look into.
- The LISS Climate Vulnerability Assessment will advance the SRC Objective 1, specifically 1-2, and Objective 2, specifically 2-1.
- Supplemental Proposal was submitted for FY25 (if funding is received funding would be available in October 2025)
 - Phase 1 scoping - could be done with a subgroup of existing staff.
 - Phase 2 may need consultant support.
 - Ensure the LISP CVA is integrated into the SRC WG 5-Year Work Plan. Some of the diagram could be useful to review as the SRC WG develops ideas for the next SRC WG 5-Year Work Plan.
 - Questions/comments:
 - Jennifer Street: NYSDOS Risk Assessment Tool has been developed already and this might be a useful tool to review as this effort rolls out. She can put Samarra in touch with the new Climate Director.
 - Jim Ammerman: suggests the LISP CVA be in touch with the new Modeling WG to review the most up to date data and information to ensure this is incorporated. Samarra and Melissa Duvall should get in touch.

USGS Compound Flood Risk Model Update - Kris Masterson & Liv Herdman (USGS)

- Presented virtually due to USGS travel restrictions - if the SRC WG members have questions, contact information will be shared out with WG meeting summary/materials.
- USGS Compound Flood Hazard Model - new guidance at USGS informed the change from hazard to risk.
- Outcomes:



- Phase 1: Spatial Data Analysis -
 - Statistical spatial data analysis
 - Gridded and high-resolution maps of potential for flooding hazard, and factors contributing to hazard for rainfall (pluvial), coastal, and shallow groundwater (groundwater emergence) flood drivers
 - Analysis of how often flood drivers co-occurred in the past and likelihood of future compound, or co-occurring, events
 - Web Application Timeline: Document/data file review (March-May 2025)> Publicly accessible files (March-May 2025)>Web application update (April -May 2025)> Web application live (May-June 2025). Will have a better idea at the end of march on the accuracy of this timeline.
 - Question for the WG: Is there an interest in a phased release of the data in advance of the full data package being released/launch of web application in June 2025?
 - Phase 2: Process -based models (3 selected focus areas)
 - Analysis of compound events to simulate dynamics and coupling of linked groundwater, coastal and subterranean infrastructure systems (Greenport, Port Jefferson, New Haven).
 - Pilot model framework (Greenport, NY) development, testing and documentation in progress. Coupled groundwater/sewer models. Coupled coastal/groundwater models.
 - Port Jefferson, NY - Individual coastal, groundwater, storm sewer models being developed. Sewer model ready for test coupling with groundwater model.
 - New Haven, CT - SFINCS model (Super-Fast Inundation of CoastS). Modeling will include rainfall, river discharge, coastal inundation, and infiltration.
- Port Jefferson Phase 2 Update
 - Meeting with the Village was held virtually on February 25th.
 - 3 Models in Progress - groundwater, stormwater, and coastal surface water model.
 - Within the next few weeks will be testing the coupling of the 3 models.
 - Hope to identify scenarios with the Village in May/June 2025. The number of scenarios will depend on model processing times (6-10 scenarios could be identified).
 - One scenario could be to look into redirecting the volume of stormwater on steep streets away from storm sewers.
 - Extreme rainfall event (Sept 2018 or Aug 2024)
 - Study documentation and reports are planned for Aug-Oct 2025.
- New Haven Phase 2 Update
 - Will likely follow the same timeline as PJ project.
 - Currently identifying stakeholder group and data.
- Future Studies/Applications Building on Phase 1
 - Update Phase 1 rainfall hazard with new NOAA Atlas 15 - climate informed, expected release 2026 (~1 year project).
 - Rainfall scenarios - explore impacts of land use change on rainfall hazard (~1-2 years). Might be more of an area specific study, not region-wide.
 - Refined spatial scale of Phase 1 analysis for focus areas (~1-3 years depending on # of areas).
 - More in-depth exploration of possible impacts to infrastructure.



- Future Studies/Applications building on Phase 2
 - Additional focus-area studies for different communities (~1-2 yrs).
 - Incorporate WQ (salinity, temp) into coupled coastal/groundwater simulations (~2-3 yrs).
 - Explore CSO discharge fate & transport in coastal waters (~2-3 yrs).
 - Application of model for study of shoreline change/impact of shallow groundwater conditions.
 - Explore educational and public engagement opportunities using VR & study results.

Review current SRC WG 5 Year Work Plan goals and tasks - Sarah Schechter/Ben Goldberg/Elizabeth Hornstein

- Current 5-Year Work Plan goes through Sept 2026 - new 5-Year Work Plan would go through Oct 2026 - Sept 2031.
- Reviewed the SRC WG 5-Year Work Plan Tasks and Outcomes Diagram, and Work Plan Timeline (reference Work Plan).
- The SRC team is currently in year 4 of the SRC WG 5-Year Work Plan (Completed/Currently moving forward - Needs Assessment, LIS Resilience Resource Hub, Annual Workshops, Trainings, Break Down Barriers, Project Pipeline).
- Reviewed the 2025 LISS CCMP Goal, Objectives and Actions.
- The SRC team developed the CCMP-SRC Crosswalk document to identify the relationships, connections, gaps between the documents.

Review Final 2025 LISS CCMP SRC Goal, Objectives, Actions, & Metrics, [connections to current SRC work plan tasks and gaps](#). Discuss revising Work Plan outcomes - Sarah

Schechter/Ben/Elizabeth

- Recommend aligning the new Work Plan with the 2025 CCMP and making outcomes the 3 SRC Objectives.
- Big Picture Ideas:
 - Update work plan outcomes to match CCMP objectives and streamline/simplify the structure.
 - Ensure new work plan incorporates NYC perspectives - conducting a NYC Needs Assessment over 2025 (make sure the results/findings are incorporated into the Workplan).
 - Provide for more regular updates, adjustments, and addition of new components.
 - Reevaluations of needs and programs
 - Feedback loops to needs assessment(s)
 - More adaptable, less static - provide opportunity for updates regularly in the diagram or structure of the SRC 5-Year Work Plan.
- Decisions:
 - Do we agree with aligning the new Work Plan with the 2025 LISP CCMP?
 - General agreement by WG.
- Questions/Comments:
 - Note the EJ Needs Assessment findings could inform the SRC 5 Year Workplan Update.
 - Sylvain DeGuisse: Suggests going back to the conclusions of the Needs Assessment, are the programs we developed responsive to the needs identified? Are there gaps?



- Samarra Scantlebury: LISS Public Perception Survey/EJ Needs Assessment could also be a source of data.
 - Nancy Balcom: The Public Perception Survey final report will be reviewed in the next couple of weeks and final report will be released soon after.
 - Anthony Allen: Resilience is not a static concept - informed by challenges/new challenges. Allowing the Needs Assessment to be revisited and constantly inform the SRC WG work.
 - Vicky O'Neill: Interest in Needs Assessment that is more focused on specific communities?
 - Elizabeth Hornstein: There are detailed findings that are available that informed the Needs Assessment findings.
 - Becky Shuford: Suggest identifying communities that need a deeper dive into capacity for instance.
 - Shahela Begum: Look into needs of communities that were impacted by Ida.
 - Anthony Allen: Integration between LISP WGs and LISP CCMP Goals.
 - Mark Tedesco: Look at the findings from the LIS Resilience Grant Writing Assistance/Planning Support Programs to inform priorities for the SRC WG Workplan. This might provide a little more detail/insight than an informal Needs Assessment.
 - Becky Shuford: Also suggest identifying groups that did not reach out, or take advantage of the BDB programs. This may be due to a capacity issue.
- The SRC WG formed Breakouts - 1 for each CCMP Objective to discuss ideas for new Work Plan tasks [*Fill in columns G & H in CCMP-SRC Work Plan Crosswalk*](#)
 - Objective 1 Breakout (Facilitator: Sarah SB, Notetaker: Sara Powell)
 - Objective 2 Breakout (Facilitator: Deb, Notetaker: Ben)
 - Objective 3 Breakout (Facilitator: Elizabeth, Notetaker: Sarah Schechter)

Report out from breakouts/Discussion - see summary in a separate document.

Wrap Up & Next Steps – Sylvain DeGuise

- Sylvain thanked the Work Group for their time today. Expressed gratitude for all the support and enthusiasm shared at the meeting.
- Upcoming virtual SRC WG meetings: 6/3/2025, 8/12/2025, 11/12/2025 (shifted a day for Veterans day)