

Long Island Sound Inventory and Blue Plan Advisory Committee

September 7, 2016

10:00AM – 12:00 PM

Westport Public Library

20 Jesup Road, Westport CT

MINUTES

Advisory Committee Attendance:

Robert Klee, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Chair

Sylvain De Guise, Connecticut Sea Grant

[Gas and electric distribution industry representative appointed by Governor Malloy]

Nathan Frohling, The Nature Conservancy

David Carey, [ABSENT] Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture

Christine Nelson, Town of Old Saybrook Town Planner

James Redeker [ABSENT] Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

Jason Bowsza, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Reviczky's Designee

Garrett Eucalitto, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Secretary Barnes' Designee

Melanie Bachman [ABSENT], Connecticut Siting Council

Leah Schmalz, Save the Sound/CFE, Conservation organization representative appointed by State Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney

William Gardella, [ABSENT], General Manager and Dockmaster, Rex Marine Center, Norwalk

Bruce Beebe, Beebe Dock and Mooring Systems, Madison

Mike Theiler, [ABSENT] Commercial finfish industry representative appointed by Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey]

Alicia Mozian, Town of Westport Conservation Director

Sid Holbrook, Westbrook, recreational fishing/hunting community representative appointed by House Minority Leader Themis Klarides

Riobart Breen, New York Department of State

Karen Chytalo, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

Other attendees:

Chantal Collier, The Nature Conservancy

Tom Robben, CT Ornithological Assn.

David Sutherland, The Nature Conservancy

Nathaniel Trumbull, UConn Avery Point

Ariana Spawn, UConn Avery Point

Mary-beth Hart, DEEP

Kevin O'Brien, DEEP

Brian Thompson, DEEP

David Blatt, DEEP

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Klee, Commissioner, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Commissioner Klee welcomed the Advisory Committee members and others present. He discussed the progress of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Plans, including an upcoming webinar. He introduced the Advisory Committee participants from New York State agencies: Rob Breen of NY Department of State (DOS) and Karen Chytalo, Assistant Director of Marine Resources for the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), who arrived later. Both Breen and Chytalo expressed their interest in synchronizing the Blue Plan with New York's current and upcoming efforts such as their Ocean Action Plan.

Kevin O'Brien of DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs provided a demonstration and introduction to the NY DOS Geographic Information Gateway, which can serve as the point of entry to themes, real-time information, and interactive tools. <http://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/#/home> Long Island Sound would be a focus area within the Gateway, and would host Blue Plan information. Existing LIS datasets are already in the process of being uploaded, and any relevant data would be welcomed, as would participation in the Data and Mapping Work Team.

Vision and Goals / Stakeholder Approach

Nathan Frohling, The Nature Conservancy

Frohling discussed the Draft Vision and Goals Statement that had been drafted by the ad hoc Subcommittee, and inquired if the Advisory Committee members were comfortable with the document as an interim statement for early public input at a fall event to be determined. Considerable discussion followed, touching on issues such as the need for a vision statement, a tag line or logo, and many proposed wording changes. It was pointed out that the three broad goals corresponded with the goals set by the Northeast Regional Ocean Plan, and that the specific objectives under each goal were taken from the Blue Plan statute and thus are already established as Advisory Committee responsibilities. The Guiding Principles at the end of the document should help explain how the Goals and Objectives are carried out, and will apply to coordination with other plans, including those of New York. [N.B.: The final draft Vision and Goals Statement, as presented at the fall event, can be found at http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/long_island_sound/lis_blue_plan/Blue_Plan_Draft_Vision_and_Goals_f_or_Public_Comment.pdf]

Subcommittees and Work Teams

Brian Thompson, Director, DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs

Sylvain De Guise, Director, Connecticut Sea Grant

The Subcommittees and Work Teams discussed at the last Advisory Committee meeting have been set up and initial conference calls scheduled (Plan Development Team, Inventory and Science Subcommittee, Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee, Policy Subcommittee, Ecological Characterization Work Team, Data and Mapping Work Team, and Human Use Characterization Work Team). Leadership for each Team

was discussed, ideally two co-leads for each. De Guise pointed out the need for clarifying the role of Subcommittees, particularly the Inventory and Science Subcommittee, with regard to the Work Teams. It was agreed that the Subcommittees would provide oversight and coordination, with responsibility for the final LIS Inventory, while the Work Teams would have smaller scopes of responsibility but also serve as vehicles for bringing in outside expertise, either as members of the Work Teams or consultants, as appropriate. The focus should be on keeping the Subcommittee/Work Team structure functional.

Public Comment Period and Administrative Follow-Up

There were no comments from the general public, but Advisory Committee members continued their discussions about how best to present the Blue Plan to the public and to coordinate with other planning efforts, particularly the State Plan of Conservation and Development update. There was also discussion of the format of future Committee meetings, which would include regular reports from Subcommittees and Work Teams, and possibly guest speakers. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.