



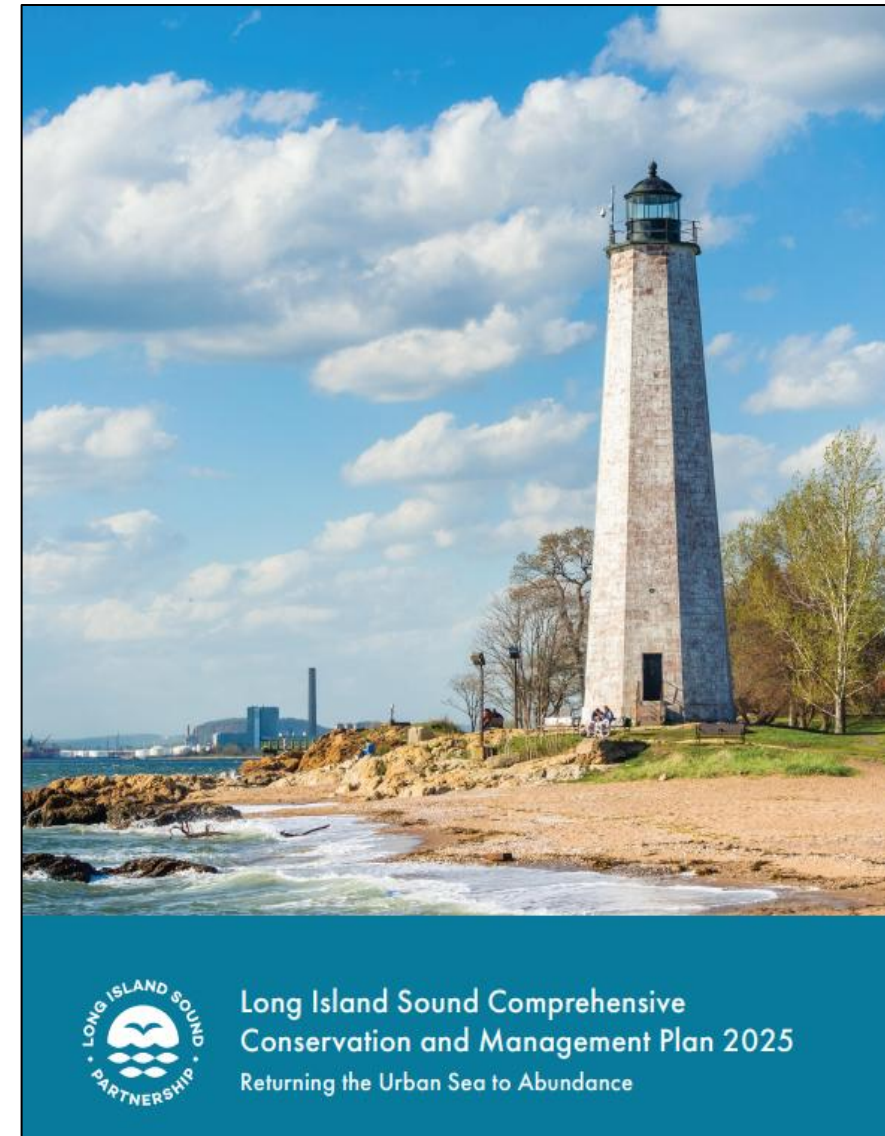
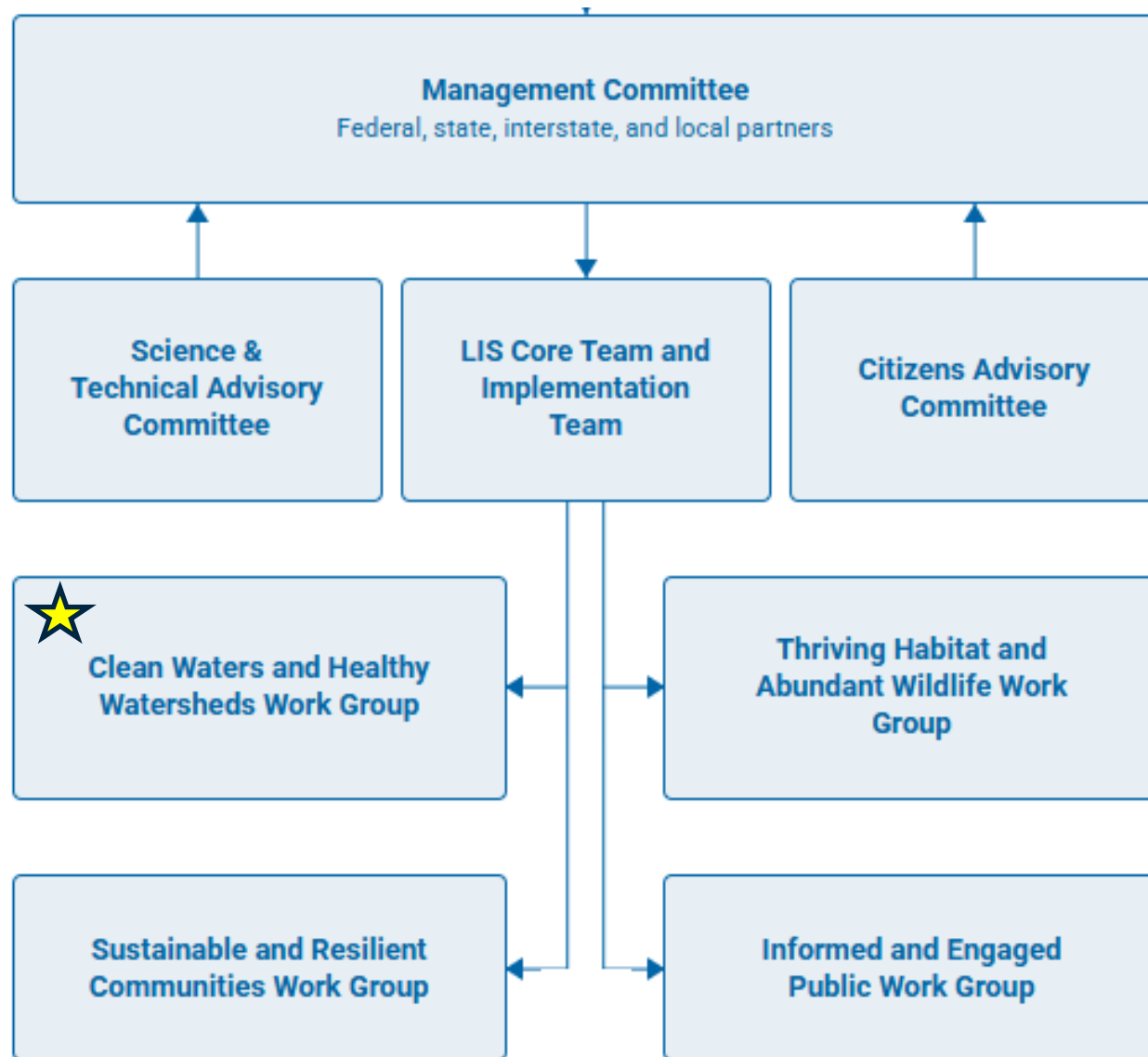
Clean Waters Healthy Watersheds

LISCIF Annual Learning Exchange

Co-Chairs: Hope Savercool (NY), Kelly Streich (CT), Timothy Hunter (CT)



CWHW Intro and Overview



Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

Nutrients

CT Co-Chair – Kelly Streich, Tim Hunter
NY Co-Chairs – Hope Savercool
LISO Support – Nicole Hammond, Jim Ammerman

Nutrients – SME Richard Friesner, Support from Kelly & Hope

Watershed Health

Watershed Health – SME Denise Savageau, Support from Tim & Hope

Pathogens

Pathogens – SME Evelyn Powers, Support from Kelly & TBD

Toxic Contaminants

**Toxic Contaminants – SME TBD following action plan development,
Support from Kelly & TBD**

Marine Debris

**Marine Debris – SME TBD following framework development
Support from Tim & Hope**

Nutrients

- Reduce nutrients across the watershed to restore and protect water quality and mitigate impacts on ecosystem health in Long Island Sound and its embayments.

Watershed Health

- Improve the ecosystem health of Long Island Sound and its watershed through protection and positive land use practices.

Toxic Contaminants

- Research, monitor, assess, and support mitigation efforts on emerging and legacy toxic contaminants to reduce impacts on water and habitat quality in Long Island Sound.

Pathogens

- Reduce pathogens and increase monitoring to protect water quality and human health, ensuring safe recreational and commercial use.

Marine Debris

- Achieve trash free waters by increasing clean-up efforts and preventing marine debris from entering Long Island Sound.

Objective	Activities to Advance Objective	Activity Impacts and Successes
Nutrients	• Septic System Replacement Program • Nonpoint source fertilizer initiatives • Nutrient bioextraction	- 89 septic systems replaced/installed in 2025, preventing 3,560 lbs of N - Bioextraction ribbed mussel report: one acre of farm could remove 121 lbs of N at harvest
Watershed Health	• Green Infrastructure • Land Acquisition • Analyzing geospatial data	- More than 2,200 feet of stormwater filtration installed in 2025 - More than 3,400 feet of riparian buffers planted in 2025
Pathogens	• Pathogen Monitoring Network • Microbial Source Tracking • Beach grades • Additional staff to support this goal	- In 2025, the network reached 9 partner groups monitoring 17 waterbodies across New York and Connecticut
Toxic Contaminants	• Developing a Monitoring Program ○ 60 sites, WQ, SQ, Macroinvertebrates • Additional staff to support this goal	- NYSDEC is hiring a new staff person to focus on toxic contaminants - CWHW WG to draft a TC Action Agenda by 2030
Marine Debris	• LIS Beach Cleanups • Derelict Fishing Gear Removal • Education and Outreach • Additional staff to support this goal	- CT 2025: 2,414 volunteers removed 11,541 pounds of trash - NY 2024: 1,469 volunteers removed 12,366 pounds of trash - Action Agenda by 2030

Challenges

- Staffing Challenges:
 - Second NY Co-Chair to focus on Pathogens, Toxic Contaminants, and Marine Debris has been vacant. Position is officially posted now.
 - NYs LIS Watershed Coordinator position is soon to be filled
- Data Gap Analysis: Developing a work-flow moving forward, utilizing the Partnership's current tools and collaborating to increase efficiency

Gaps

- Data gap analysis identified Toxic Contaminants pre-implementation and implementation initiatives to have a critical gap
 - This gap will be addressed as the second NY co-chair position is filled and as planning for additional toxic contaminant monitoring is underway
 - The goal is to have a Toxic Contaminants Action Agenda prepared by 2030. This will roadmap with actions and measurable deliverables for partners to implement between 2030-2035
- Gap analysis identified Pathogens pre-implementation (monitoring) as strong while implementation initiatives are lacking development
 - Suffolk County Pathogens Action Plan recommended for funding by the Management Committee

CWHW: FY26 Initiatives and Priorities



Projects:

Obj/Action	Project Title	Organization	Project Cost
Marine Debris: 5-3, IEP 3-1	Long Island Sound Marine Debris Removal and Prevention	The American Littoral Society	\$87,530
Nutrients: 1-2, 1-3	Suffolk County Decentralized Sewage Plant and Clustered I/A Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Feasibility Study	NYSDEC, Suffolk County	\$500,000
Pathogens: 3-1, 3-2	Suffolk County Pathogens Action Plan Pilot Study	NYSDEC, Suffolk County	\$250,000
Nutrients: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3	Optimizing the cultivation of <i>Ulva</i> spp. To maximize yields for bioextraction	SUNY SoMAS, NY SDEC, NEIWPCC	\$350,000

Additional Priorities:

- Fully staff the CWHW co-chair positions
- Pursue development of a *Toxic Contaminants Action Agenda* and a *Marine Debris Monitoring and Tracking Framework*, both to be completed by 2030 and implemented by 2035

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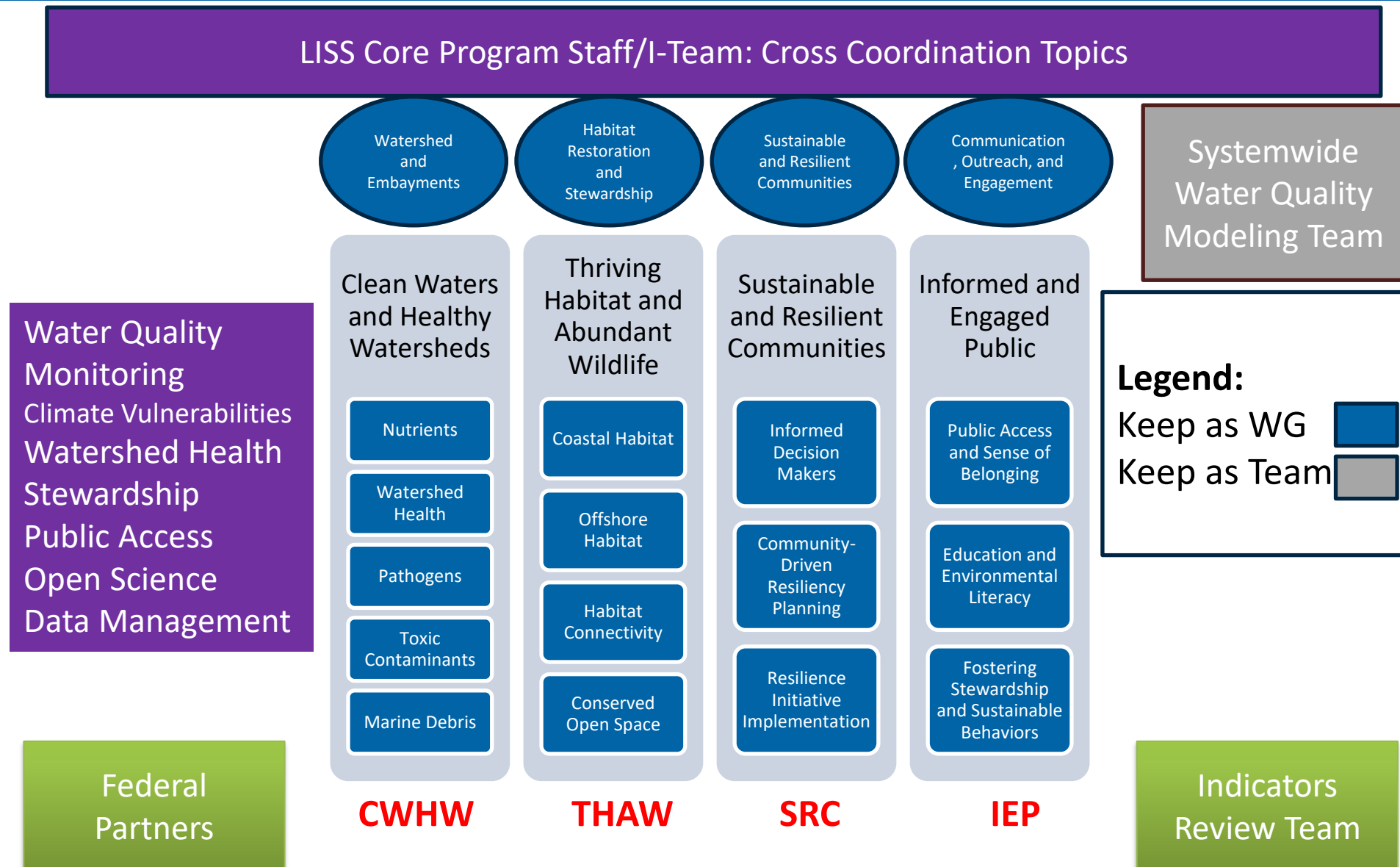
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Jim Ammerman, NEWIPCC/LIS Partnership - james.ammerman@lispartnership.org

Please email Nicole Hammond to be added to the CWHW mailing list and workgroup meeting attendee list.

The following slides are held in this presentation in case they are needed

Proposed Work Group Structure



Suffolk County Decentralized Sewage Plant and Clustered I/A Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Feasibility Study

- The SWP recommends feasibility studies to determine the viability of decentralized/clustered systems within the LIS watershed. Decentralized/clustered systems could include both small scale sewage treatment plants (required to treat total nitrogen below 10 mg/L) or clustered I/A OWTS (required to treat total nitrogen to below 19 mg/L). In coordination with NYSDEC, Suffolk County proposes to conduct a feasibility analysis of up to four new decentralized/clustered system(s) within the LIS watershed.
- Project Cost and Match: \$500,000, Overmatch provided by NYS

Suffolk County Pathogens Action Plan Pilot Study

- Suffolk County proposes to expand the scope of the Pathogen Action Plan to include up to an additional two pilot studies in the LISW. Pilot studies will include stormwater surveys to identify stormwater outfalls within the selected watersheds, a land use survey combined with aerial imagery and physical inspection to identify possible failing cesspools, and a detailed pathogen monitoring program, including microbial source tracking at identified pathogen “hot spots,” and a feasibility analysis with cost estimates for recommended actions to address the identified source of pathogens.
- Project Cost and Match: \$250,000, Overmatch provided by NYS

Long Island Sound Marine Debris Removal and Prevention

- The American Littoral Society proposes to organize and coordinate volunteer beach cleanups as the LIS Component of the NYS Beach Cleanup along shorelines at 30 sites each year for two years. The shoreline locations fall within the coastal boundary of the Long Island Sound watershed of New York. The project will educate volunteers about how they can prevent marine pollution through outreach materials and through direct online engagement.
- Project Cost and Match: Year 1 = \$47,000, Year 2 = \$50,000, Overmatch TBD