



**Notes
Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, September 6th, 2023

10:00am-12:00pm

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom:

Please note: All voting items are indicated by an *

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance: John Atkin (CT – Chair), Nisha Patel (CTDEEP), Michael Lynch (CT AGO), Patricia Bisacky (CTDPH), Philip DeGaetano (NY – Vice-Chair), Judith Baron (NY), Jeffrey Myers (NY), Robert Schuster (NJDEP), Loel Muetter (NJDOH), Virginia Wheatley (NJDOH).

A quorum was not in attendance.

Also in attendance: Evelyn Powers (IEC), Michael Flood (USEPA Region 2), Laura Wilton (NJ GAU), Elena Soterakis (BioBAT Art Space).

2. Approval of Minutes from the June 7th, 2023 quarterly meeting (Appendix A)*

Approval of the minutes from the June 7th 2023 quarterly meeting (Appendix A).was rolled over to the December 2023 quarterly meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

- a. July 12th, 2023 Executive Meeting Summary (Appendix B)
- b. August 16th, 2023 Executive Meeting Summary (Appendix C)

3. IEC Finances and Current Grant Funds Update

- a. Statement of Financial Activity and Balance Sheet (Appendices D and E)
- b. Funding and Grants Update

Ongoing or Pending Awards:

- CWA §106 FFY23 Grant status (\$764,000 pending)
IEC's FY23 award is pending. IEC and EPA will meet in early October to address the allocation of rent to direct and indirect, which was a question raised by the EPA grants team during budget review, as well as a few other budget details. Michael Flood (EPA Region 2) explained that EPA Region 2 intends to award the grant with an administrative condition that the funds are not drawn down until a revised budget is submitted and approved by EPA, pending the outcome of that discussion.
- CWA §106 FFY 22 Status (\$751,000 remaining)
Funds from IEC's FY22 §106 award have not yet been drawn down (will support 106 activities in FY24)
- CWA §106 FFY 21 Status (\$47,161 remaining, closes 9/30/2023)

The project and budget period for IEC's CWA §106 FFY 21 award ends on 9/30/2023. The workplan tasks and budget are set to be complete and budget expended by that date. Subsequently, Evelyn will submit the closeout documents for the grant and work with Michael Flood to close out the grant.

- LISS FFY23 Base Program Budget Request (\$598,361 MC approved, pending award). This includes support for IEC's ongoing western LIS monitoring (October 2023-September 2024).
- LISS FFY23 Enhancement/Supplemental Budget Request (\$1,101,695 MC approved, pending award 10/1/2023). This includes support for Years 2 *and* 3 of the LIS pathogen monitoring network.
- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project (Year 3 \$506,921 MOA and Spending Plan approved)
- LISS Remaining Funding (\$506,348 remaining). This supports current activities funded through FY21 and FY22 awards (western Long Island Sound monitoring, pathogen track-downs, pathogen monitoring network).
- Save the Sound Funding (\$42,474)
- Brooklyn College (CUNY) and NYCDEP Alley Creek/Bergen Basin Project FY24 Contract in progress

New Sources of Funding:

- NYSDEC 604b Funding (5 year renewable award, FY24 award \$131,171)
- NYSDEC BIL-funded LIS watershed Septic System Replacement Program Administration (contract in draft)

4. Laboratory/Office Update

a. Update on Staffing and Current Laboratory Operations

Evelyn reported office, field and laboratory operations are going well. IEC's seasonal interns have performed well; 4 seasonal interns were hired to assist with the busy monitoring season. IEC will also be hiring additional staff to support compliance monitoring, continuous monitoring, and administrative/financial/HR support. As 604b funding and the Septic System Replacement Program contracts are put into place, additional positions may be posted.

5. Director's Report

a. Project Highlights and Updates:

- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project
IEC's collaboration with NJDEP on a NJDEP-funded Harbor Monitoring Network is in its third year, with sites modified slightly and parameters set to expand in some sites to metals, dissolved organic carbon, and continuous monitoring
- Coordinated Volunteer Pathogen Monitoring
IEC's Coordinated Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program is wrapping up its 7th year, with weekly monitoring set to continue through at least

October. 2023 participants include: Billion Oyster Project, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Hudson River Park Trust, Friends of +Pool, Hackensack Riverkeeper, Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, Rahway River Watershed Alliance.

- NYCDEP/Brooklyn College Alley Creek and Bergen Basin Project
IEC has begun analytical support for a project funded by NYCDEP and the Research Foundation of CUNY, coordinated by Brooklyn College and the Science and Resiliency Institute of Jamaica Bay. The project aims to assess the effectiveness of a constructed wetland and a ribbed mussel installation, in Alley Creek and Bergen Basin, respectively, on reducing pathogen levels. IEC is analyzing water and sediment from the Alley Creek watershed for pathogens, nutrients and total suspended solids, and analyzing water samples from the Bergen Basin site for pathogen indicators.
- Long Island Sound Monitoring
IEC weekly monitoring in western Long Island Sound continues through mid-September, and will continue monthly year-round (October through May). In addition to IEC's long-term monitoring program in western LIS, IEC is piloting a pathogen monitoring network in Long Island Sound. The network, funded by the Long Island Sound Office of EPA and coordinated in conjunction with CTDEEP, Harbor Watch and the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, aims to increase the scope and capacity for pathogen monitoring in Long Island Sound.
- Unified Water Study
IEC's biweekly monitoring of Manhasset Bay and Little Neck Bay in support of the Unified water Study continues through October.
- Harlem River Urban Waters Federal Partnership
IEC has continued its partnership with USGS and the Federal Urban Waters Partnership, assisting with the validation of a rapid microbial analysis unit in the Harlem River. IEC is performing laboratory analysis on split samples collected alongside the unit for pathogen indicators. IEC is also analyzing samples collected alongside the unit for total suspended solids, as one of the objectives of the project is to assess the impact of turbidity on pathogen indicator levels.
- National Park Service Beach sample analyses
With the NPS recreational bathing beaches closed, IEC's analysis in support of National Parks Service beaches at Gateway National Recreational Area is not
- Compliance Monitoring Inspections
IEC has completed the compliance monitoring inspections planned for this fiscal year, including eight inspections at Connecticut industrial facilities (NPDES and pre-treatment facilities), in coordination with CTDEEP.
- Laboratory Proficiency studies
The laboratory participates in routine proficiency studies, including semi-annual samples provided by the NYSDOH ELAP program and samples procured from a vendor for those parameters for which IEC holds NJDEP primary certification.
- Education and Outreach Projects: City of Water Day, Shell Day

IEC participated in City of Water Day on July 15th, hosting water quality monitoring demonstrations on the waterfront in front of Building A. IEC also participated in Shell Day, which was coordinated by UCONN and consisted of measuring alkalinity over a tidal cycle in Manhasset Bay.

- IEC's FY23 CWA§106 workplan includes support for a Strategic Planning effort. This effort will be supported by a contractor, who will be selected through an RFP process. Chair Atkin and Vice-Chair DeGaetano will coordinate a committee to steer the process.
- BioBAT Art Space Exhibit Update (Elena Soterakis, BioBAT Art Space Curator) Elena provided an update and presentation on the progress of the collaborative exhibit between IEC and the BioBAT Art Space. Elena and Yoko Shimizu, the artist, spent three weeks in May immersed in IEC's laboratory and field work to support and develop exhibit content. Elena's presentation was distributed to Commissioners.

6. Old Business

- a. Commissioner vacancies

7. New Business

8. Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, December 6th, 2023

Wednesday, March 6th, 2024

Wednesday, June 5th, 2024

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

9. Adjourn

APPENDICES:

A- June 7th, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

B- July 12th, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

C- August 16th, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

D- Statement of Financial Activity

E-Statement of Financial Position

