



Minutes Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

10:00am-12:00pm

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Commissioners present: John Scagnelli (Chair, New Jersey), Philip DeGaetano (Vice-Chair, New York), Selvin Southwell (NYSDEC), Robert Schuster (NJDEP), Nisha Patel (CTDEEP), Jeffrey Myers (NY), Patricia Bisacky (CTDPH), Alan Talarsky (NJDOH), Virginia Wheatley (NJDOH), Christopher Kelly (CT AGO), Judith Baron (NY), Rose Trentman (NY).

Others in attendance: Michael Flood (EPA Region 2), Michael Eleneski (NJ GAU), Evelyn Powers (IEC)

2. Approval of minutes from the June 4th, 2025 Meeting (Appendix A)

A motion was duly made by Commissioner Trentman and seconded by Nisha Patel, to approve the minutes of the June 4th, 2025 quarterly meeting. With no one opposed, the minutes were unanimously approved.

- a. July 2nd, 2025 Executive Meeting Summary (Appendix B)
- b. August 5th, 2025 Executive Meeting Summary (Appendix C)

Evelyn reviewed the notes from the July 2nd, 2025 and August 5th, 2025 Executive Committee meeting which were distributed with the meeting materials.

3. IEC Finances and Current Grant Funds Update

- a. Statement of Financial Activity and Balance Sheet (Appendices D and E)

Evelyn reviewed the FY25 YTD Statement of Financial Activity (through June 30, 2025) and Balance Sheet which were distributed with the meeting materials. Evelyn noted that she received a communication from the accountant that implementation of a new lease accounting standard fundamentally changes how lessees and lessors recognize, measure and present leases on their financial statements. The new standard requires lessees to recognize a right-of-use asset and lease liability for all leases longer than 12 months. This is recorded on the balance sheet as 1910 ROU Asset, 1911 ROU asset (Accumulated Depreciation) and 2430 Lease agreement. The retroactive recording of the value of the accumulated lease depreciation (\$144,881) since its initiation in 2022, appears as an overage in the Office and Storage Rent line

item (8210). Actual rent payments in FY2025 were \$127,500, in line with the budget. Evelyn will work with the accountant to discuss how this can be appropriately recorded in a way that does not appear as a budget overage and report to the Executive Committee. All other budget categories were within budget limits.

On the balance sheet, Evelyn noted that IEC did receive New Jersey Dues in the amount of \$15,000 and CT dues in the amount of \$3,333 that were received in July. IEC has also invoiced NYS for SFY25-26 dues in the amount of \$41,600. IEC received communication from NY Senate Environmental Committee Chair Senator Pete Harckham, that the IEC SFY25-26 dues will be brought up to the \$96,323 requests through Senate discretionary funds. Evelyn and Commissioner DeGaetano will continue to follow up.

b. Funding and Grants Update

Federal Funding Updates -CWA Section 106 Assistance Agreements:

- CWA §106 FFY25 status (\$726,000)
- CWA §106 FFY24 Status (\$727,000 remaining)
- CWA §106 FFY 23 Closeout

Evelyn reviewed open federal grants. The FFY23 CWA §106 award (I962347723) project and budget period closes 9/30/2025 and it will be closed out shortly thereafter. The final expense pending is an equipment purchase to advance IEC's PFAS capability. The FFY24 CWA §106 award (\$727,000) will begin to be drawn upon in September. Michael Flood reported that FFY25 CWA §106 FFY25 award is undergoing final review and should be awarded shortly (awarded subsequent to meeting on 9/10/2025).

Long Island Sound Partnership (LISP) Assistance Agreements

- LISP FFY25 Assistance Agreement (LI-00A01868-0 \$1,532,590 awarded 8/11/2025). Available October 1, 2025
- LISP FFY24 and prior year agreement remaining funding (\$1,406,000)

Evelyn reviewed Long Island Sound Partnership assistance agreement funding. IEC's LISP FFY25 assistance agreement LI-00A01868 in the amount of \$1,532,590 was awarded on 8/11/2025. This award funds IEC's long-term western Long Island Sound year-round monitoring program (\$767,574), a Pathogen Monitoring Network in the Long Island Sound watershed in New York and Connecticut (\$647,136), as well as a subaward to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor (\$117,880). Remaining funding in open LISP FFY24 and amendments is \$1,406,000 for ongoing monitoring and pathogen trackdowns in the Long island Sound watershed.

State and other Funding

- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project (Year 5, Proposed Budget \$559,151)
- NYSDEC 604(b) Year 3 funding (August 1, 2025-July 31st, 2026) \$149,343.85
- NYSDEC 604(b) Prior Year Carryover funding

- NYSDEC Long Island Sound Septic Replacement Project (Federal EPA LISO Bipartisan Infrastructure Law pass-through funds) \$2,062,500 annual budget. Additional 1-2 years of funding available
- Save the Sound Unified Water Study Funding (\$45,940)
- State Appropriations

Evelyn reviewed other state and local sources of funding. The NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project (Year 5) proposed budget is \$559,151, which includes a subaward to USGS NJ Water Science Center to support a dissolved oxygen study in the Arthur Kill and some added funding to support analyses on Hackensack River samples to be collected by USGS. The third year of 604b-funded Harbor Monitoring (funding is passed through NYSDEC DOW to IEC) is proposed to have a budget of \$149,343.85. The 604b contract is four-year duration (through July 31, 2027), with annual funding levels fluctuating depending on the availability of federal funds. IEC also has approximately \$100,000 of carryover funds available from Year 1, when monitoring was delayed due to contract execution delays.

The Long Island Sound Septic Replacement Project, supported by LISP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding awarded to NYSDEC and passed through to IEC through a contract is underway in Nassau County, with replacements in progress. The subcontract with Suffolk County has been executed as of August 26th, 2025. Susan Van Patten, IEC's NYSDEC contact for the Septic Program, communicated to Evelyn that there is 1-2 years of additional funding available, which would involve an amendment to the IEC-NYSDEC contract. Chair Scagnelli inquired about staffing for the additional work. Evelyn reported that the hiring process for the Septic Program project manager and Office Administrator position will resume, and we may look at current interns as possible candidates. Michael Flood pointed out that BIL funding is finite, so IEC should consider whether any staff hired for the position could be rolled over to other funded projects when the BIL funding terminates.

4. Laboratory/Office Update

a. Update on Staffing and Current Laboratory Operations

IEC currently has ten (10) full time employees and four (4) seasonal interns. Laboratory operations have been smooth. No issues to report with BioBAT. There are many "campus" improvements underway on the Brooklyn Army Terminal (BAT) complex, including re-paving and improved signage and wayfinding. These are related to BAT Climate Innovation initiative.

5. Director's Report

a. Project Highlights and Updates:

- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project
- Coordinated Volunteer Pathogen Monitoring
- Long Island Sound Monitoring
- +Pool Monitoring
- Eelgrass monitoring/Living Breakwaters
- Unified Water Study
- National Park Service Beach sample analyses
- Compliance Monitoring Inspections

- Laboratory Proficiency studies

Evelyn reported on the status of ongoing monitoring and laboratory studies. The NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project is ongoing with a weekly schedule. The NY-NJ Harbor boat portion of the survey is completed along with the 604b Harbor monitoring to increase efficiency and leverage funds. The Coordinated Volunteer water Quality Monitoring Program is ongoing with 8 groups participating. Evelyn reported that the Billion Oyster Project, which coordinates a larger volunteer water quality monitoring program throughout NYC (the Citizen Water Quality Testing Program, or CWQTP), has decided to shift their mission away from water quality monitoring and coordination and is looking for partners to take on the program. There may be a role for IEC, it is certainly within our capabilities, but capacity and funding would have to be carefully considered. IEC will be part of the ongoing discussions and meetings as the future of the CWQT program is determined.

IEC started a new project in collaboration with NY-NJ HEP monitoring an eelgrass restoration site on the leeward side of the Living Breakwaters installation in Raritan Bay, adjacent to Conference House Park at the southern tip of Staten Island. IEC installed light/temperature and dissolved oxygen sensors at three locations along the restoration site and will be monitoring these parameters through November (resuming in the spring) with bi-weekly visits to the site to download data, maintain the sensors and perform calibration checks on the dissolved oxygen sensor. This project is funded by CWA §106 FFY23 and FFY24 funding. EPA approved a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) covering the activity in August.

IEC continues to perform weekly sampling to inform the future design and operation of a water-filtering floating pool proposed by +Pool. Sampling is conducted at the proposed future site along the East River just north of the Manhattan Bridge. IEC performs analyses for enterococcus, virus (somatic coliphage) and turbidity, and collected samples for PFAS and other organics, which is subcontracted. Friends of Plus Pool supports this monitoring and analyses.

Western Long Island Sound monitoring is ongoing, with a weekly schedule through September. Analyses to support recreational bathing beach access at National Park Service beaches within the Gateway National Recreation Area wrapped up just before Labor Day. Compliance inspections are anticipated to resume in the fall. Unified Water Study monitoring in Little Neck and Manhasset Bays continues through October.

IEC's inaugural issue of its quarterly newsletter should be released via email this week!

6. Old Business

No old business was discussed

7. New Business

No new business.

8. Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025 (in-person and Open House)

Wednesday, March 4th, 2026

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026 (in-person)

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026

9. Adjourn

APPENDICES:

A- June 4th, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

B- July 2nd, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

C-August 5th, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

D- Statement of Financial Activity

E-Statement of Financial Position