



Minutes

Wednesday, March 4th, 2026 Annual Meeting Meeting was held remotely via ZOOM

Please note: All voting items are indicated by an *

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Commissioners present: John Scagnelli (NJ-Chair), Philip DeGaetano (NY-Vice-Chair), John Atkin (CT-Vice-Chair, Bob Schuster (NJDEP), Selvin Southwell (NYSDEC), Patricia Bisacky (CTDPH), Christopher Kelly (CT AGO), Loel Muetter (NJDOH), Jeffrey Myers (NY-Treasurer), Rose Trentman (NY), Judith Baron (NY), Alan Talarsky (NJDOH).

Others in attendance: Evelyn Powers (IEC), Michael Flood (EPA Region 2), Samuel Kovach-Orr (NJ GAU)

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order approximately 10:07 am.

2. Approval of Minutes from the December 3rd, 2025 Quarterly Meeting (Appendix A)*

Evelyn noted that the minutes from the December 3rd, 2025 meeting would be updated to include the list of attendees. A motion to approve them was made by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Trentman. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Evelyn presented the notes from the January 14th, 2026 and February 11th, 2026 monthly Executive Committee meetings, which were distributed with the meeting materials.

- a. January 14th, 2026 Executive Committee Summary (Appendix B)
- b. February 11th, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Summary (Appendix C)

3. Election of Officers*

- a. Chair (New York)
- b. Vice-Chairs (New Jersey and Connecticut, one from each state)
- c. Executive Committee (one additional member from each state)
- d. Treasurer

Evelyn outlined the process for election of officers. As per the bylaws, officers are elected for a two-year term, with the position of chair rotating between the three member states. Evelyn expressed gratitude to Chair Scagnelli (NJ) for his service as chair. Evelyn stated that that New York State is next in rotation for the chair position and asked for nominations. Chair Scagnelli nominated Commissioner DeGaetano, the vice chair from New York, which was seconded by Commissioner Atkin. There were no other nominations. Commissioner DeGaetano accepted the nomination, and

thanked Chair Scagnelli for his service and ongoing guidance. Commissioner DeGaetano was unanimously elected as Chair.

The elections continued with the election of vice-chairs from New Jersey and Connecticut, beginning with New Jersey. Chair DeGaetano nominated Commissioner Scagnelli to serve as vice-chair from New Jersey. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Scagnelli accepted the nomination, and expressed his hope that Bob Schuster would be willing to continue to serve New Jersey on the Executive Committee. With no one opposed, Commissioner Scagnelli was unanimously approved as vice-chair from New Jersey. Nominations were requested for vice-chair from Connecticut. Nominations were requested for vice-chair from Connecticut. Christopher Kelly nominated Commissioner Atkin, which was seconded by Commissioner Scagnelli. There were no other nominations. With no one opposed, Commissioner Atkin was unanimously elected to continue to serve as vice-chair from Connecticut.

Elections continued with the elections of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. As per the bylaws, the Executive Committee is comprised of six members, one agency Commissioner and one Citizen Commissioner. Robert Schuster (NJDEP) was nominated to serve on the Executive Committee for New Jersey by Jeffrey Myers, and seconded by Rose Trentman. With no one opposed and no other nominations, Robert Schuster was elected to continue to serve on the Executive Committee for New Jersey. A nomination, duly made and seconded, to nominate Selvin Southwell (NYSDEC) to serve on the Executive Committee from New York was made. With no other nominations and no one opposed, Selvin Southwell was unanimously elected to serve on the Executive Committee from New York. The election of an agency Executive Committee member from Connecticut was tabled pending discussion amongst the Connecticut contingency, which did not have the chance to confer prior to the elections. Elections continued with the election of Treasurer. Chair DeGaetano nominated Commissioner Myers (NY) to continue to serve as Treasurer, which was seconded by Commissioner Scagnelli. With no other nominations and no one opposed, Commissioner Myers was elected to continue to serve as Treasurer.

4. IEC Finances and Current Funds Update

a. FY26 YTD Statement of Financial Activity and Balance Sheet (Appendices D and E)
Evelyn presented the FY26 YTD financials (Quarter 1: October 1, 2025 through December 31st, 2026). Evelyn noted that the overall expenses are slightly over budget, primarily due to timing issues, with the insurance premiums and building amortization expense recorded at the beginning of the fiscal year. Expenses should balance out over the rest of the fiscal year. YTD income was reported to be approximately \$280,000 below YTD budget due to pending invoices and appropriations. The need for increased appropriations was noted in order to ensure cash reserves and to meet non-federal match requirements for federal funding sources such as CWA Section 106 funding and Long Island Sound Partnership funding. There was some discussion on the best way to present financial information, including specific line items such as match. The

level of line-item detail included in financial statements presented was also discussed. The financials could be simplified to only present broader budget categories rather than each line item, with a $\pm 10\%$ budget threshold for each category.

b. Funding and Grants Update

Federal Funding Updates -CWA Section 106 Assistance Agreements:

- CWA §106 FFY25 status (\$726,000). Awarded.
- CWA §106 FFY24 Status (\$350,156 remaining)
- CWA §106 FFY 23 Closed out.
- CWA §106 FFY 26 – Due March 31st, 2026

Long Island Sound Partnership (LISP) Assistance Agreements

- LISP FFY25 Assistance Agreement (LI-00A01868-0 \$1,532,590 awarded 8/11/2025).
- LISP FFY24 and prior year agreement remaining funding (\$1,029,688 remaining). No-Cost Time Extension
- LISP FY26 Base Program Budget proposal and Supplemental Proposal
- NYSDEC Long Island Sound Septic Replacement Project (Federal EPA LISO Bipartisan Infrastructure Law pass-through funds) \$2,062,500 annual budget.

Evelyn reviewed the status of various open federal sources of funding. IEC is currently utilizing FY24 funding for ongoing CWA Section 106 activities, with approximately \$350,000 remaining. FFY25 CWA Section 106 funding in the amount of \$726,000 has not been drawn upon (project and budget period end date September 30, 2028). Evelyn noted that the CWA Section 106 FFY26 application submission is due March 31st, 2026 via grants.gov. Evelyn will circulate a draft workplan for the FFY26 CWA Section 106 assistance agreement by March 12th. Specific additional/new workplan tasks include improvements to the website and the development of analytical capability for eDNA analysis utilizing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods for microbial source tracking. Michael Flood (EPA Regions 2) reported that the federal FY26 budget is likely to be level-funded.

Evelyn reported on discussion with the EPA's Long Island Sound Office to re-allocate previously awarded funds. Due to efficiencies across several line items and workplan tasks, there is funding available in IEC's FY24 LIS grant to fund the procurement of PFAS analytical equipment. Evelyn submitted a proposal to the Long Island Sound office in February. The proposal, which does not require additional funding, will be reviewed by the LISP Implementation Team and ultimately the Long Island Sound Program Management Committee for approval. Upon Management Committee approval, Evelyn will work with IEC's Long Island Sound Program Project Officer to revise the applicable workplan and re-budget the funds. Timing would likely be fall 2026 to begin procurement. Space requirements and facility preparation will also have to be considered, as PFAS analyses are recommended to be performed in separate space due to contamination concerns. IEC also received a no-cost time extension for the grant funds in question, extending the project and budget period through 12/31/2027. There was some concerns about how ownership/title to equipment procured with federal funding is handled. Evelyn explained that IEC would retain ownership of the equipment. Michael Flood confirmed that EPA awards include

disposition instructions allowing awardees to retain equipment for both federally and non-federally funded projects after the initial project period ends.

Evelyn reported on the Long Island Sound septic system replacement program, which is funded through NYSDEC and administered by IEC. The program is progressing well in Nassau County, but there are delays in Suffolk County due to legislative approval required to accept the funding and contract finalization. Evelyn discussed potential funding increases up to 75% for Suffolk County, which is causing some property owners to delay applying to the program. She also mentioned the possibility of using Long Island Sound funding for experimental systems not eligible for other reimbursements, though this would require further discussion.

State and other Funding

- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project (Year 5, Budget \$559,151)
- NYSDEC 604(b) Year 3 funding (August 1, 2025-July 31st, 2026) \$149,343.85. Awarded 11/12/2025
- NYSDEC 604(b) Prior Year Carryover funding (Total available funding \$158,800 as of 12/31/2026)
- Bronx River CSO LTCP analyses (HDR Inc./NYCDEP)
- State Appropriations

Evelyn and Bob Schuster discussed the status of the outstanding invoices for the Harbor Monitoring Network, with Bob Schuster agreeing to follow up with the Budget and Finance Office. They also discussed the need to address accounts receivable and accounts payable, with Evelyn noting that cash flow could become a problem quickly.

Evelyn discussed ongoing efforts to increase funding for IEC in Connecticut and New York, with Evelyn planning on meeting with Nisha Patel and Chris Bellucci to focus on the Long Island Sound area. Phil reported on his efforts to secure increased state appropriations in New York, including meetings with legislators and NGOs.

5. Director's Report

a. Project Highlights and Updates:

- Strategic Planning RFP Timeline
- NYSDEC Long Island Sound Septic Replacement Project
- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project
- Coordinated Volunteer Pathogen Monitoring
- Eelgrass Restoration Monitoring- Living Breakwaters (Raritan Bay)
- Sampling and Analyses in support of +Pool Pilot
- Long Island Sound Monitoring Programs

Evelyn outlined the timeline for the strategic planning RFP, which will be released by the end of March, and sought input on how the Commission wants to move forward with the process. Evelyn noted monitoring programs were significantly impacted by icing conditions making it unsafe or impossible to access some waterbodies, particularly the Hackensack River over the winter, with January-February sampling being particularly impacted. IEC will be expanding the

Coordinated Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program, with additional samples collected as part of the Community Water Quality Testing Program, which was previously coordinated by Billion Oyster Project and now coordinated by Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM). IEC will be continuing an effort in conjunction with NY-NJ HEP to pilot eelgrass restoration at a site adjacent to the Living Breakwaters in Raritan Bay off the south shore of Staten Island, including monitoring of water quality at the site. Monitoring will resume in April. IEC also remains available to assist with analyses of samples collected in support of the +Pool project to bring a water-filtering floating pool to the East River. The project aims to pilot a scaled back version of the pool in summer 2026. IEC is also discussing a project coordinated by HDR, an engineering and consulting firm, and funded by NYCDEP, to assess CSO long-term control plan options in the Bronx River.

b. Update on Staffing and Current Laboratory Operations

Operations are going reasonably well. Evelyn noted that there is significant construction occurring in our quadrant of the Brooklyn Army Terminal. Although it does not impact our space directly, the BioBAT Art space has been temporarily de-commissioned. Some art works continue to be re-installed in the hallways adjacent to IEC's space.

6. Old Business

- a. Commissioner vacancies

7. New Business

- a. IEC 90th anniversary event

Evelyn provided updates for a 90th anniversary event, possibly in conjunction with the December 2026 open house and strategic planning effort.

8. Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026 (in-person)
- Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026
- Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026 (in-person)

9. Adjourn

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25am

APPENDICES:

- A- December 3rd, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- B- January 14th, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Summary

- C- February 11th , 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Summary
- D- FY26 YTD Statement of Financial Activity
- E- FY26 YTD Statement of Financial Position