

## **NITROGEN CREDIT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023, NCAB BOARD MEETING**

The Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board (“Board”) meeting was held virtually via Zoom on November 16, 2023, and was called to order at 1:05 pm.

**Board members present:**

Nisha Patel (Chairwoman), Rebecca Augur, and Gary Zrelak

**Board members absent:** Kim Masson, Tom Tyler

**Other Attendees:**

Carlos Esguerra, Christopher Falk, Iliana Raffa, Robin Rittgers

### **New Business**

MOTION (1:05 pm): Ms. Patel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2023, meeting. Mr. Zrelak put forth the motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Augur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Patel stated that the primary purpose of today’s meeting was to have USGS present to the group on their recent work and for the group to review and consider the USGS funding proposal for FY24. Unfortunately, USGS representatives were unable to join the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. Ms. Patel noted that this year’s proposal of \$316,000 is 5.4% higher than last year’s USGS funding, which totaled \$299,000. This cost increase includes increases in the cost of lab analysis, sample supplies, equipment, and planned salary increases for project staff. Both Ms. Augur and Mr. Zrelak expressed that the price increase was smaller than they were expecting and that they did not have any objections.

Ms. Patel stated that she reached out to Ms. Masson and Mr. Tyler in advance of the meeting to determine if they had any concerns about the funding proposal. Ms. Masson did not express any concerns. Mr. Tyler did not express any concerns either but did inquire about what other funding sources are available for this monitoring work. Ms. Patel stated that there may be a way to augment funding received by the Long Island Sound Study and redirect it for this purpose.

MOTION (1:10 pm): Ms. Patel requested a motion to approve the funding proposal, with the caveat that we will continue to look for alternate funding sources for USGS monitoring. Ms. Augur put forth the motion to approve the funding proposal and Mr. Zrelak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Patel stated that Ms. Masson indicated to her before the meeting that there is about \$1.5 million in the Nitrogen Credit Exchange Program’s account, which will provide the program with some longevity as we work to determine additional funding sources.

Mr. Zrelak inquired about who uses the monitoring data that USGS is collecting. Ms. Patel stated that the data is used by a variety of groups within DEEP, including

Municipal Wastewater and the Water Planning and Management Division, and that the data is useful to the embayment work and nonpoint source work that DEEP is currently working on. Ms. Patel offered to have Kelly Streich provide Mr. Zrelak with an explanation of what she does with the data. A copy of this explanation is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.

## **USGS' NITROGEN DATA USE BY DEEP AND PARTNERS**

**From:** Streich, Kelly <[Kelly.Streich@ct.gov](mailto:Kelly.Streich@ct.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:04 PM

**To:** Patel, Nisha <[Nisha.Patel@ct.gov](mailto:Nisha.Patel@ct.gov)>

**Cc:** Esguerra, Carlos <[Carlos.Esguerra@ct.gov](mailto:Carlos.Esguerra@ct.gov)>; Hall, Ivonne <[Ivonne.Hall@ct.gov](mailto:Ivonne.Hall@ct.gov)>; Raffa, Iliana <[Iliana.Raffa@ct.gov](mailto:Iliana.Raffa@ct.gov)>; Bellucci, Christopher <[Christopher.Bellucci@ct.gov](mailto:Christopher.Bellucci@ct.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FY 24 NCAB Proposal

Hi Nisha,

A bulleted list of how we (including our partners) use the NCAB funded data is below. If other folks have more to add, please do.

Kelly

- Observe trends in nitrogen loads in rivers and delivered to Long Island Sound (LIS) over time. See the USGS dashboard for an example: [https://geonarrative.usgs.gov/lis\\_dashboard/](https://geonarrative.usgs.gov/lis_dashboard/)
- Using the high frequency data together with point source discharge data, we have been able to determine source strength from point sources versus nonpoint sources. See the USGS trends report: <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20155189>. It's important to note that the results of this study supported the development of our Second-Generation Nitrogen Strategy which put an emphasis on stormwater and nonpoint source controls.
- Better track the nitrogen load entering CT at the border. We continue to watch the loading and upstream states discharge permits.
- The data was used in developing the statewide HSPF model (CTWM) which will allow us to evaluate nutrient loads to local waterbodies as well as Long Island Sound.
- The data is being used in the development of the systemwide model for Long Island Sound.
- The data has been used in research studies and publications. For example, Whitney & Vlahos (2021): <https://env.chem.uconn.edu/the-long-island-sound-lis-respire-program/>