

## Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee

March 26, 2026 @ 2 PM ET

Agenda & Notes

### AGENDA

- 2:00 PM Welcome – Anne
- 2:05 PM LCSG updates, programs, and priorities – Anne, Jessie, Tim, and Hallee
- 2:20 PM Strategic plan proposed revisions and performance metrics overview and feedback – Kris
- 2:30 PM Breakout rooms – Ideas for LCSG activities to help us meet performance metrics
- 2:50 PM Sea Grant budget status – Anne
- 3:05 PM Breakout rooms – Ideas to help us meet anticipate funding gap
- 3:15 PM Share from breakout rooms – best ideas (verbal sharing)
- 3:30 PM Current LCSG programming emphasis – Kris
- 3:40 PM Breakout rooms – Ideas for LCSG programming emphasis for 2028-2032
- 3:55 PM Next steps - Anne
- 4:00 PM Adjourn

### NOTES

#### I. Attendees:

PAC members: Chris Navitsky, Crea Lintilhac, Dan Albrecht, Mark Malchoff, Maureen Cunningham, Sarah Coleman, Ted Lawson, Sonal Patel-Dame, Kara Lenorovitz

Ex Officio PAC members: Hallee Meltzer, Anne Jefferson, Tim Mihuc, Kris Stepenuck

LCSG Staff: Jessie Curl, Ashley Eaton, Michelle Lockhart, Aude Lochet, Gretchen Nareff, Mark Mitchell, Shawn White, Tori DesRocher

Anne Jefferson welcomed the PAC members, Ex Officio members and staff, asking PAC members to share in the chat their organizational representation and their top priority in the next 4 years, that intersects LCSG work. Responses focused on improving water quality and resilience by advancing non-regulatory phosphorus reduction, stormwater and flood protection efforts, and building understanding and stewardship of ecosystems across the Lake Champlain Basin. Linkages with community outreach, education, and capacity building existed in addition to engaging members of the public in support of long-term clean water goals.

Tim Mihuc shared that SUNY has a new research vessel and will have an event to celebrate its arrival on June 9. Details to follow as they become available.

Jessie Curl is LCSG's new communications and reporting lead. She introduced herself to the PAC and shared a preview of LCSG's new website that is anticipated to go live in mid-April.

Kris shared an overview of proposed edits to the 2028-2032 strategic plan and welcomes PAC members to provide input on those proposed revisions. The revisions mainly clarify target audiences for outreach and ensure that all goals include actionable (mid-term) outcomes as well as anticipated long-term outcomes of LCSG efforts. One more sizabelt proposed revision is to simplify the Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture focus area to include just a single goal rather than two due to limited capacity within that focus area.

Kris shared LCSG's Resilience Performance Metrics, which includes sharing with the National Sea Grant Office the number of communities that adopt or implement hazard resiliency practices to prepare for and respond to minimize coastal hazardous events. Invited the participants to enter breakout rooms. She asked the PAC members to break into smaller groups to share ideas of how LCSG might work to meet that deliverable between 2028 and 2032.

### **Breakout Room 1 (New York)**

**Attendees:** Chris Navitsky (Lake George Waterkeeper), Mark Malchoff (LCSG retired), Marueen Cunningham (AWI)

**LCSG Staff:** Aude Lochet, Anne Jefferson, Tori DesRocher, Tim Mihuc

The breakout focused on advancing flood and climate resilience in the New York portion of the Lake Champlain basin by having LCSG better coordinate with watershed organizations, soil and water districts, and state and federally-funded programs. Participants highlighted needs around municipal capacity building, grant readiness, green and blue infrastructure with homeowners, CSO separation, and roadway and culvert upgrades, while emphasizing the importance of clearer outreach, impact measurement, and framing resilience as both a risk-reduction and funding opportunity. There was also interest in adapting to changing seasonal impacts such as ice jams and snowmelt and in developing materials to help municipalities understand why and how to invest in resilience.

### **Breakout Room 2 (Vermont)**

**Attendees:** Dan Albrecht, Crea Lintilhac, Ted Lawson, Halle Meltzer, Sarah Coleman

**LCSG Staff:** Ashley Eaton, Shawn White, Gretchen Nareff, Jessie Curl, Mark Mitchell, Kris Stepenuck

The discussion emphasized flood resilience at the municipal scale by prioritizing source-based solutions such as wetland, floodplain, upland forest, and riparian restoration, supported by research and on-the-ground examples that demonstrate avoided damages and downstream benefits. Participants also wrestled with how to define and measure meaningful action versus baseline policy adoption, and identified the need for inventories of streams and headwater properties, clearer tracking of community actions, and better outreach so municipalities and landowners can access programs and funding to implement restoration and green infrastructure projects

**Identified needs from the two groups include:**

- presentations from people about work where they have enhanced flood resiliency and progress reports.
- identifying groups doing flood resiliency work, understanding combined sewer overflows, and available funding opportunities (e.g., NY state bond act).

Anne shared the strong Congressional support that LCSG and SG nationally has. Despite this, there is an anticipated funding gap in the 2028-32 period based on federal funding levels and increasing costs to support programming efforts. PAC members offered ideas for potential new partnerships and opportunities to engage in conversations of how to address these shortages as LCSG prepares to write its 2028-2032 omnibus proposal in 2027.

Kris asked PAC members to help us think about what LCSG does now with its outreach programming and where we should double down to be most effective in our outreach efforts during 2028-2032. Kris shared a list of areas of current outreach efforts in the chat. PAC member input underscored the importance of sustained environmental education and youth engagement as a foundation for long-term stewardship, highlighting watershed programs that successfully connect students to outdoor learning, near-peer mentoring, and career pathways. Participants emphasized maintaining and expanding momentum in Green Schools and watershed education, strengthening coordination across states, and pairing education with technical support—such as floodplain mapping, realtor education, and access to geomorphology expertise—to better inform land-use decisions and community resilience moving forward.

During the fall PAC meeting, LCSG will ask for PAC member input to inform research priorities in the next RFP cycle.

Kris shared a revised timeline for strategic planning that will conclude with submission of the LCSG plan to the National Sea Grant Office by November 12, 2026.

Anne thanked PAC members for their time and the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM