



**Notes  
Quarterly Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 4th, 2024**

**12:00pm-2:00pm**

**IEC @ BioBAT  
Brooklyn Army Terminal  
140 58<sup>th</sup> Street  
Building A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11220**

**Please note:** All voting items are indicated by an \*

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**1. Call to order and Roll Call**

Commissioners present: John Scagnelli (Chair-NJ), Philip DeGaetano (Vice-Chair, NY), Patricia Bisacky (CTDPH), Robert Schuster (NJDEP), Loel Muetter (NJDOH), Alan Talarsky (NJDOH), Christopher Kelly (CT AGO), Selvin Southwell (NYSDEC), Jeffrey Myers (Treasurer, NY)  
Others in attendance: Laura Wilton (NJ GAU), Evelyn Powers (IEC), Michael Flood (EPA Region 2), Elizabeth Tanzi (EPA Region 2)

A quorum was not present.

**2. Approval of Minutes from the September 4th, 2024 Quarterly Meeting (Appendix A)\***

Evelyn presented the minutes from the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Quarterly Meeting. A vote to approve the minutes was held over until the March 2025 meeting due to lack of quorum.

- a. October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Executive Committee Summary (Appendix B)
- b. November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Executive Meeting Summary (Appendix C)

**3. Director's Report**

- a. Project Highlights and Updates:

- NYSDEC Long Island Sound Septic Replacement Project
- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project
- Coordinated Volunteer Pathogen Monitoring
- Sampling and Analyses in support of +Pool Pilot
- Long Island Sound Monitoring
- Unified Water Study
- NYCDEP/Brooklyn College Alley Creek and Bergen Basin Project
- Compliance Monitoring Inspections
- USGS/Federal Urban Water Partnership monitoring

Evelyn reviewed project highlights and updates, in particular the **NYSDEC Septic System Replacement Program project**. This project will utilize Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, awarded to NYSDEC by the EPA Long Island Sound Office, which will be passed through

NYSDEC to IEC based on a contract with NYSDEC finalized in October 2024. IEC is working on drafting contracts with Nassau and Suffolk counties. Chair Scagnelli gave a summary of the progress to date. IEC is working with Glen Bruening, of counsel with Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner, to develop the contracts. Chair Scagnelli is reviewing the draft contracts.

NJDEP-funded **Harbor Monitoring Network** monitoring is in Year 4. Monitoring is ongoing monthly through April. IEC is doing final scoping on continuous monitoring sites and working on permits and permissions to install in Spring 2025.

The **Coordinated Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network** has a new project manager. Ruby Alcorn, who interned with IEC from May through October will be joining IEC fulltime December 9<sup>th</sup>, and will coordinate this program, taking over from Samantha Wilder, who remains at IEC and is moving to the Long Island Sound Monitoring Coordinator position, which was vacated by Kimarie Yap in June 2024.

Monitoring in support of the **+Pool Phase 1A pilot** filtration plant wrapped up in November. This project, funded by NYC and NYS funds passed through to IEC by Friends of +Pool, involved daily, seven-day per week sampling for pathogen indicators and chemical parameters from August through November.

IEC staff will be presenting posters on IEC's water quality monitoring programs, including both the Harbor Monitoring Network and the Coordinated Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network at the Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference, held in New Hampshire in February 2025.

**Long Island Sound Monitoring** is continuing, with a monthly monitoring schedule in western Long Island Sound through May 2025.

Save the Sound-funded **Unified Water Study** monitoring in Little Neck Bay and Manhasset Bay wrapped up in October 2024.

**The NYCDEP/Brooklyn College Alley Creek and Bergen Basin Project**, for which IEC is analyzing pathogen indicators and nutrients, wrapped up for the season in November. Monitoring and analyses may resume in Spring 2025

**Compliance Monitoring Inspections** were on hold during the monitoring season, and will likely resume in Winter 2025, pending quality assurance project plan (QAPP) update and approval. Robert Schuster indicated NJDEP is having ongoing internal conversations about utilizing IEC for stormwater related inspections as well. Evelyn will be reaching out to NYSDEC Regions 1 and 3 as well, in advance of the development of the next EPA 106 draft workplan (FY25) which will be submitted to EPA in March.

No current monitoring for the **USGS/Federal Urban Waters Partnership** project but USGS did reach out to IEC to discuss partnering with them again to monitor the Bronx River in 2025-2026.

IEC partnered with USGS/Federal Urban Waters Partnership in 2022-2023 to perform analyses on samples collected at a public access site in Bronx along the Harlem River.

**NYSDEC- 604b**-funded monitoring in NY-NJ Harbor wrapped up in October and will resume in April.

Evelyn also reported IEC has two upcoming on-site assessments related to its laboratory certifications. NJDEP Office of Quality Assurance will be conducting an on-site assessment in the field with IEC on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. NYSDOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program will be conducting an on-site assessment of IEC's laboratory at the laboratory on January 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Evelyn noted that staff have prepared posters highlighting several of these projects, on display in the laboratory for the open house scheduled immediately following the meeting.

#### **4. IEC Finances and Current Grant Funds Update**

##### **a. FY24 Statement of Financial Activity and Balance Sheet (Appendices D and E)**

Evelyn reviewed the preliminary FY24 Statement of Financial Activity (Appendix D) and Balance Sheet (Appendix E), which were distributed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. Evelyn explained that the financials were preliminary and will likely go through several updates as additional work is invoiced and federal drawdowns are made to reconcile the fringe and indirect costs. The NYS SFY24-25 appropriation of \$96,600 is also not reflected in the financials as it was received in FY25, but should be invoiced and credited to FY24 as it was invoiced to NYS in FY24.

##### **b. Funding and Grants Update**

###### **Ongoing or Pending Awards:**

- CWA §106 FFY 22 Closeout process

The budget and project period for IEC's FFY 22 CWA §106 assistance agreement closed September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Evelyn submitted the final progress report for the agreement and will be submitting the final financial closeout documents requirement for the agreement by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

- CWA §106 FFY 23 assistance agreement

IEC's CWA §106 FFY23 assistance agreement is supporting current §106 workplan related activities. The project and budget period for this award currently runs through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and has approximately \$693,000 in funding available as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

- CWA §106 FFY 24 assistance agreement

IEC's CWA§106 FFY24 assistance agreement was awarded September 10, 2024. This agreement has not yet been drawn upon, and the full original award amount of \$727,000 remains available. The project and budget period for this agreement runs through September 2026.

- LISS FFY24 Base Program Budget Request ( MC approved, \$714,135, pending award)

IEC’s LISS FFY24 Base Program Budget Request, which includes support for IEC’s ongoing western Long Island Sound monitoring as well as a subaward to Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor to support monitoring in Hempstead Harbor, is pending and IEC anticipates it being awarded by the end of the calendar year. IEC has approximately \$1,527,000 in Long Island Sound Funds available, from assistance agreement amendments since FFY22 to support a variety of Long Island Sound projects, including IEC’s western Long Island Sound monitoring, the coordination of a Pathogen Monitoring Network in the Long Island Sound watershed, as well as pathogen track-down projects in the Long Island Sound watershed.

- LISS FFY25 Base Budget Submission (\$1,532,590, Submitted November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024)

IEC submitted a FFY25 base budget request to the EPA Long Island Sound office on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. The base budget request, in the amount of \$1,532,590 requests support to continue a variety of Long Island Sound projects, including IEC’s western Long Island Sound monitoring, and the coordination of a Pathogen Monitoring Network in the Long Island Sound watershed as well as a subaward to Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor to support ongoing monitoring in Hempstead Harbor.

- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project

NJDEP-funded **Harbor Monitoring Network** monitoring is in Year 4. IEC is doing final scoping on continuous monitoring sites and working on permits and permissions to install in Spring 2025. Year 4 budget is \$364,090 and runs through April 30, 2025

- Brooklyn College (CUNY) and NYCDEP Alley Creek/Bergen Basin Project FY24-FY25 Contract in progress

Work for the Brooklyn College (CUNY) and NYCDEP Alley Creek/Bergen Basin Project FY24-FY25 Contract has wrapped up, with approximately \$105,000 in work invoiced and awaiting payment.

- NYSDEC 604b Funding Year 2 Workplan and Budget approved (\$131K), contract received 11/27.

IEC is still working with NYSDEC to finalize the 604b Year 2 (of 4) contract and awaiting payment for Year 1 services, which totaled just under \$10,000 due to the delay in Year 1 workplan and contract approval.

## 5. Laboratory/Office Update

### a. Update on Staffing and Current Laboratory Operations

New Hires:

Ruby Alcorn, Environmental Analyst I, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Remy Freeman, Environmental Analyst I, December 16<sup>th</sup>,

**6. Director's Report**

See Section 3.

**7. Old Business**

a. Commissioner vacancies

Connecticut indicated to Evelyn in early 2024 that they had a qualified and willing candidate, but indicated their statute only allows the state to appoint members to the Interstate Environmental Commission in odd-numbered years

**8. New Business**

State appropriations- Evelyn will be preparing the Financial reports to the States at the end of January which will include appropriation requests.

**9. Upcoming Meetings**

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

**10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30pm

**IEC OPEN HOUSE 2:00-5:00pm**

**APPENDICES:**

- A- September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- B- October 9th, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting Summary
- C- November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting Summary
- D- FY24 Statement of Financial Activity
- E- FY24 Statement of Financial Position
- F- EPA Progress Reports April 1-September 30, 2024