

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**118<sup>th</sup> Congress Disclosure Form**  
**As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)**

**[Subcommittee on FL Legislative Hearing on  
January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024]**

**For Individuals:**

Name:  
Address:  
Email Address:  
Phone Number:

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**For Witnesses Representing Organizations:**

Name: Louise Harrison  
Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: Save the Sound and Preserve Plum Island Coalition  
Business Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Phone Number: [REDACTED] / (203) 787-0646 (Main Office)

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**For Nongovernment Witnesses ONLY:**

1. Please attach/include current curriculum vitae or resume.

*Attached*

2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract.

None.

3. Please list any contracts or payments originating with a foreign government related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

None.

4. Please disclose whether you are a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

Director, Friends of Plum Island, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to help protect, restore, steward, and promote the natural, ecological, historic, cultural, and scenic resources of Plum Island, New York. The directors and officers are all unpaid volunteers.

5. Please list any current or pending litigation against the Federal government to which you or your organization is a party. Please disclose as applicable case name, docket number, the court, and subject matter of the litigation.

Riverkeeper, et. al. v. Regan, No. 1:17-cv-4916-VSB, District Court for the Southern District of New York – Case against EPA claiming that the agency’s failure to reject New York State water quality standards violated the Clean Water Act. The suit is currently stayed pending negotiations.

Connecticut Fund for the Environment d/b/a Save the Sound, et. al. v. GSA et. al. 16-cv-3791-DRH-AYS, District Court for the Southern District of New York – Case against GSA claiming violations of NEPA in connection with sale of Plum Island. The case has been stayed and then administratively closed.

*Save the Sound, Inc. v. FAA*, No. 24-1028, D.C. Circuit - Claim that FAA failed to comply with NEPA in preparing an environmental assessment for the expansion of Tweed New Haven Airport.

# Louise Harrison

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## **Public Service and Not-for-Profit Experience**

**LONG ISLAND NATURAL AREAS MANAGER, *Endangered Lands Program***

**Save the Sound**

P.O. Box 1851  
Southold, NY 11971

**HQ/Save the Sound**

127 Church Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl  
New Haven, CT 06510

*SEPT 2016 – PRESENT*

- Coordinate and lead 127-organization membership of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition.
- Engage public through varied collaborative initiatives, including a two-year public “visioning” program.
- Write detailed reports, conduct outreach to federal, Native American, and state elected officials.
- Assist with development of new environmental legislation.
- Coordinate multi-organizational activities, including biodiversity surveys.
- Draft articles for publication and edit scientific and other informative reports.
- Conduct environmental advocacy, public education, and SEQRA seminars.
- Organize urban community for tidal wetland restoration.
- Frequent public speaking. Extensive use of social media, website, PowerPoint.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST/LIASON, *to the Long Island Sound Study National Estuary Program***

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,**  
Coastal Program

**EPA Long Island Sound Study Office,**  
Stamford, CT

*MARCH 2007 – MARCH 2011, 4-Year Term Position*

- Coordinated natural resource programs between US EPA Long Island Sound Office (National Estuary Program) and US Fish & Wildlife Service Southern New England Coastal Program.
  - Developed annual work plans, budgets, program reports, and program evaluations for watershed-wide stewardship and habitat restoration initiatives.
  - Used technical skills in land and water resource planning, habitat monitoring, environmental impact analysis, and invasive species management to enhance ecosystem-based management of estuary and plan for climate change adaptation.
  - Conducted field inspections of habitat restoration and stewardship sites; recommended habitat management measures; led open space acquisition; chaired bi-state habitat restoration program and stewardship work groups; supervised seasonal personnel on GIS analyses of watershed conditions, riverine migratory corridor conditions, and tidal wetlands.
  - Prepared RFP for \$250,000 GIS tool development for stewardship site selection.
  - Reviewed over 100 grant applications for habitat restoration, stewardship planning, water quality improvement, and environmental education projects.
  - Sought and applied \$3.1 M in EPA FY 2008–2010 funds for land preservation acquisitions in NY and CT.
  - Served as project officer for EPA Climate Ready Estuaries grant for climate adaptation planning, City of Groton, CT.
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Friends of the Bay (Oyster Bay, NY)***

*APRIL 2002 – SEPTEMBER 2004*

- Administration, supervision, outreach, open space preservation advocacy.
- Supervised staff and volunteers and undertook all administrative duties.
- Nominated and justified key environmentally sensitive properties for public acquisition.
- Conducted field inspections and environmental impact analyses on development projects, provided testimony at public hearings, and supervised staff and volunteers in extensive water quality monitoring program in Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding waters.
- Prepared program reports, budgets, and other materials for board of directors and advised them on local and regional environmental protection issues.
- Guided organizational transition from a single-issue, activist-based nonprofit to a long-term, mainstream, watershed and habitat protection -oriented organization.
- Forged relationship with local government and developed a New York State Waterfront Planning Grant for the town of Oyster Bay.

**COASTAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST, *Stony Brook University***

**NYS Department of State**, Division of Coastal Resources (now Development, Planning, and Community Infrastructure), Albany, NY (satellite office/remote station)

*NOVEMBER 1992 – DECEMBER 1996*

- Provided ecological expertise for New York's Coastal Management Program.
- Drafted chapters of the Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program and developed the concept of and criteria for Regionally Important Natural Areas (RINAs)—ecosystem-based management areas afforded additional protection under New York's coastal policies.
- Conducted extensive field study of the entire New York State coastline that borders Long Island Sound, including shoreline, wetlands, and coastal forest habitat; performed watershed surveys; and documented biological assemblages throughout.
- Provided outreach services through public appearances, publications, and public speaking engagements, and by developing, organizing, and hosting unique events.
- Served as agency liaison to South Shore Estuary Reserve's citizen advisory committee, initiated biological inventory.
- Fostered and maintained new alliances/working relationships among diversity of special interest groups, resolving issues of trust and accountability. Public speaking.

**PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST, *Suffolk County Office of Ecology***

**Supervisor, Bureau of Environmental Management**, Department of Health Services, Riverhead, NY

*NOVEMBER 1986 – OCTOBER 1992*

- Established program initiatives, performed all administrative duties, and supervised staff in all bureau activities.

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- Analyzed environmental impacts, directed environmental planning and wetland studies, biological inventories, environmental education and public education program activities, creation of GIS databases, and mapping.
- Prepared annual budget and program reports and coordinated bureau activities with other County agencies.
- Set bureau priorities, assigned tasks, and evaluated employee performance.
- Prepared ecological and hydrologic assessments of open space acquisition nominations.
- Served on County's nature preserve committee and as liaison to Suffolk County Park Trustees in matters related to open space acquisition, environmental education, and environmental management initiatives.
- Assisted in initiating Peconic Estuary Partnership.
- Reviewed proposed environmental legislation for County's executive branch and assisted County Legislature, as requested, in evaluating proposed initiatives.
- Developed model native plant law.
- With engineers and geologists, conducted extensive, five-year field study of freshwater wetland responses to groundwater level fluctuations in four stream corridors flowing to Long Island's South Shore Estuary (FANS study).
- Developed 1988 map used as a base for protecting the Central Pine Barrens region.
- Conducted seminars and stewardship activities for citizen groups.
- Started a partnership of State, County, and Town of Babylon environmental and law enforcement agencies that created a pilot environmental stewardship program for citizens to report environmental violations on a hotline.

### **CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST, *NYS Department of Environmental Conservation***

**Bureau of Environmental Protection, Stony Brook, NY**

*DECEMBER 1984 – NOVEMBER 1986*

- Managed Long Island freshwater wetlands program.
- Supervised and trained technicians.
- Conducted program administration for region's Environmental Protection Bureau.
- Conducted field inspections for hundreds of freshwater wetland, tidal wetland, and waterways permit applications, and provided permit conditions, environmental impact analysis, and administrative hearing testimony.
- Developed permit review procedures and policies for regional fish and wildlife staff.
- Provided technical guidance for wetland restoration and mitigation plans.
- Monitored permit compliance and initiated freshwater wetlands enforcement cases, provided technical testimony and terms for settlement.
- Performed wetland boundary delineations, impact analyses, biological inventories, wildlife habitat assessments, violation inspections, and endangered species investigations.
- Responded in field to major oil spills affecting wildlife and wetlands.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, *Council on the Environment of New York City (now GrowNYC)***  
**New York, NY**

*FEBRUARY 1984 – DECEMBER 1984*

- Promoted open space greening, environmental education, paper recycling, and Greenmarket programs through radio, television, annual reports, environmental forums, press releases, and newsletters.

## **PARK NATURALIST (REGIONAL), NYS OPRHP, Long Island State Park Region**

**Babylon, NY**

*SEPTEMBER 1980 – MAY 1983*

- Created, oversaw, and conducted environmental and outdoor education programs for State Parks on Long Island.
- Trained and supervised seasonal naturalists.
- Designed and created exhibits in nature museum.
- Prepared educational materials and maps for naturalists and for the general public; publicized programs.

## **Consulting**

**PRINCIPAL/OWNER, Conservation & Natural Areas Planning**

**P.O. Box 2908, Setauket, NY 11733-0870**

*1996 – Present; intermittent*

- Habitat restoration planning, ecological threats/environmental impact analysis, and SEQRA education for communities and non-profit organizations; invasive species management; natural areas and habitat characterization planning/advocacy; wetland assessment and delineation for preservation purposes; community organizing; preserve stewardship; environmental education for all ages; communicating science to lay public and media.

CONSULTING CLIENTS, examples

***Douglas Manor Environmental Association***  
(2015–2019)

Community organizing and grant writing for habitat restoration grant application; tidal wetland restoration design; community organizing and education

***Three Village Community Trust*** (2004, 2013–2016)

Prepared proposal seeking town support for watershed study and education plan; trained volunteers, conducted outreach, monitored conservation easement, conducted forest ecology walks, prepared inventories and stewardship plans

***North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary*** (2013)  
Locust Valley, NY

Successful grant proposal for invasive species removal at Coffin Woods Preserve

***Town of Shelter Island*** (2011)

Tidal wetland delineation and ecological characterization report for use in town planning decisions

***North Shore Land Alliance*** (2004–2006)  
Old Westbury, NY

Ecological site documentation, baseline inventories for four conservation easements

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<b>Coalition for the Future of Stony Brook Village</b> Stony Brook, NY	Co-chair; successful advocacy for open space acquisition of Stony Brook’s last forest as Suffolk County preserve and follow-up protection of buffer. SEQRA education/assistance. Outreach campaign and trail opening celebration, Forsythe Meadow County Park. Pro bono.
<b>Riverside Drive Neighborhood Coalition</b> (2002)	Environmental impact analysis and SEQRA guidance toward open space preservation in Peconic Estuary watershed
<b>Avalon Nature Preserve</b> (1998–2000) under contract with the Museum of LI Natural Sciences, Stony Brook University	Preserve inventory coordination: geological, historical, and biological inventory; conduct biological/ecological inventory
<b>The Nature Conservancy</b> (1997–1998) Long Island Chapter, Cold Spring Harbor, NY	Ecological threats analyses for Suffolk County parkland; preserve management proposals: Dwarf Pine Barrens, Sears-Bellows County Park, and Cordwood Landing County Park
<b>Citizens Environmental Research Institute/CCE</b> (1996–2001)	Water quality educational publications under EPA grants on sanitary sewer overflows, pollution prevention – author/editor

## Education

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**, *Master of Science Program in Ecology*  
The Graduate School, Piscataway, NJ

**ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY**, *Bachelor of Science in Biology*  
Canton, NY

**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**, *Biology Teacher Preparation Program*  
Stony Brook, NY

## Supplemental Education, *examples*

<b>ArcGIS</b> , 3-day training course	US EPA, Region 2, New York, NY
<b>iMap Invasives Training</b>	LI Invasive Species Management Area and The Nature Conservancy, Oakdale, NY
<b>The Leadership Challenge</b> , MA 3-day training course	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
<b>Negotiations in Natural Resources Management</b> , 12 hrs	Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

## Skills & Knowledge

- Biological inventories, ecological community characterization, habitat, and invasive species management
- Estuarine and coastal natural resources/waterways protection, planning, restoration
- Climate and sustainability planning, water quality improvement and protection
- Tidal and freshwater wetland delineation
- Environmental impact analysis; NEPA/SEQRA review; Environmental laws, regulations
- Administration, employee and consultant supervision, training, coordination
- Interpreting maps, spatial data; trained in ESRI ArcGIS; Microsoft Office Suite; Teams; Adobe apps
- Project and grant management; grant writing and review
- Workshop and committee leadership
- Writing and editing - including technical, educational, promotional
- Inter-governmental relations
- Public speaking
- Environmental education

## Appointments, Leadership

### **Save Mattituck Inlet**

Mattituck, NY

2000-Present, Advisor to Steering Committee

### **Frank Melville Memorial Park**

Setauket, NY

2012-2018, *Trustee*

### **Preserve Plum Island Coalition**

2013–Present, *Steering Committee*

### **Long Island Sound Study (LISS)**

2007–2011, *Chair*

### **Stewardship Initiative Work Group and LISS Bi-State Habitat Restoration Work Group**

### **North Shore Land Alliance**

#### **Advisory Board**

Oyster Bay, NY

2003–Present, *Member*

Conservation & Stewardship Committees, *Member*

### **Eastern Waterfront Planning Initiative**

Town of Oyster Bay, NY

2003–2004, originator, grant co-author, founding committee chair

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<b>Coalition for the Future of Stony Brook Village</b>	1999–2005, <i>Founder and co-Chair</i>
<b>Long Island North Shore Heritage Area Planning Commission</b>	1999-2007, <i>Commissioner</i>
<i>State of New York</i>	Boundaries committee, <i>Chair</i> ; Management plan & outreach committees, <i>member</i>

## Awards

<b><i>Sierra Club Long Island Group (2022)</i></b>	Environmentalist of the Year
<b><i>North Fork Audubon Society, Honoree (2022)</i></b>	“Extraordinary work in protecting the natural environment of the East End of Long Island”
<b><i>Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources Leadership Award, Milestone Achievement (2021)</i></b>	“Preservation of Plum Island”
<b><i>STAR Award (2008)</i></b> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal Program	"Leadership, vision and skill in organizing the Stewardship Initiative"
<b><i>Dennis Puleston Conservation Award (2003)</i></b> The Open Space Council, Brookhaven, NY	“Passionate Pursuit of Open Space Preservation”
<b><i>Ray of Light Award (2002)</i></b> Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY	“Leadership in Promoting Protection and Stewardship of the Environment”
<b><i>Person of the Year (2000)</i></b> <i>Times-Beacon-Record</i> Newspapers East Setauket, NY	“People Who Saved Forsythe Meadows”
<b><i>Woman of the Year in the Environment (1997)</i></b> <i>Times-Beacon-Record</i> Newspapers East Setauket, NY	