

**Meeting Minutes of the
SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE COUNCIL
April 25, 2007
Sayville Yacht Club
Blue Point, New York**

Members/Designees Present: Fred Anders (for Secretary Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez/George R. Stafford); Dan Fucci (for Thomas Suozzi); Carrie Meek-Gallagher, Lauretta Fischer (for Steve Levy); Michael Foley (for Kate Murray/Ron Masters); Nancy Kearney (for John Venditto/Neil O. Bergin); Richard Groh (for Steven Bellone); Tom Marquardt (for Phil Nolan/Eugene Murphy); Alan Svoboda (for Brian X. Foley/John Turner); Marty Shea (for Patrick Heaney); William Glacken; Cornelia Schlenk; Robert Grover; Maureen Dolan Murphy; Carl LoBue; Ken Budny (for Gregory LoVece); Michael Eagan; Charles DeQuillfeldt (for Pete Grannis/Gordon Colvin); Gary Lawton (for Carol Ash); and Darrell Kost (for Astrid C. Glynn).

Staff Present: South Shore Estuary Reserve (Reserve) Office: Jeff Fullmer; Clare O'Reilly; and, Lou Siegel.

Guests Present: Allan Aronoff (Brookhaven League of Women Voters/SSER CAC Vice Chair); Michael Reynolds, Paula Valentine (National Park Service/Fire Island National Seashore); Charles Roman (National Park Service); Phil Blindenhoffer, Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries); John Waltz, Chris Kobos (Bowne AE&T Group); Keenan Boyle; and, Joseph Kayal.

Members Absent: Joseph Febrizio (for Edwin L. Eaton); Lauren Hill (for Michael Deering); William Wise (for David O. Conover); Michael Eagan; Dennis Cataldo; and, Robert Wieboldt.

WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, INTRODUCTION

F. Anders welcomed South Shore Estuary Reserve (Reserve) Council members, designees and guests. He conveyed the Council's appreciation to the Sayville Yacht Club for hosting the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2006 MEETING

F. Anders stated that the draft December 5, 2006 meeting minutes were mailed to Council members. K. Budny made a motion to accept the minutes as written. C. LoBue seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE OFFICE REPORT

A written Reserve Office report was included in the meeting folders. J. Fullmer highlighted Reserve Office activities since the December 5, 2006 meeting:

- J. Fullmer introduced Clare O'Reilly, Program Administrative Manager for the SSER Office. K. Rancourt, former Program Implementation Specialist, recently moved on from her position to pursue graduate studies in urban planning. The office is currently advertising to fill this position and would appreciate Council member assistance in distributing the position announcement. J. Fullmer expressed the office's thanks to K. Rancourt for her excellent work.
- The Town of Islip formally adopted the Browns River/Greens Creek Watershed Management Plan, the first plan to be completed in accordance with the CMP's implementation recommendations. The

Town of Islip is now working with community stakeholders to advance implementation priorities and will soon be initiating the process of preparing a watershed plan for the Great Cove.

R. Grover commented that the Suffolk County Parks Department owns most of the property in the Browns River/Greens Creek watershed, and asked if Suffolk County is aware of and in support of recommendations in the plan. L. Fischer replied that Suffolk County was represented on the watershed advisory committee and agrees with recommendations contained in the plan. T. Marquardt added that the Town of Islip welcomes input from any Suffolk County agency as the plan is implemented in cooperation with partners. J. Fullmer added that the Browns River/Greens Creek plan was a learning experience for all partners involved as the first watershed management plan to be adopted in the Reserve.

- The Town of Brookhaven has completed a final draft watershed management plan for the Swan River and the Town Board will soon be considering its adoption.
- Reserve Office staff participated in an event with officials from the Town of Babylon in January to announce an innovative new program to provide free pooper scoopers and literature on reducing non-point source pollution to individuals who adopt pets from the Town animal shelter. The program will educate residents about best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution. Information on this program has been posted on the Reserve website, and a news article was distributed to Council members. R. Groh added that funding from the program is provided through adoption of a sediment and erosion control law rather than tax revenue.
- The Towns of Islip and Brookhaven have taken steps to partner with the Peconic Baykeeper and other estuary stakeholders to advance nomination of their towns' waters as a designated vessel no-discharge zone. A news article about this effort was distributed to Council members.
- The Reserve Office completed and distributed a proceedings report from the October 2006 Stormwater Treatment Technologies workshop held at Bethpage State Park. The proceedings were distributed to stormwater managers, Reserve Council members and interested stakeholders. The workshop proceedings have been posted on the Reserve Council website.
- The Reserve Office will be working with Nelson, Pope & Voorhis to initiate a new project to develop comprehensive watershed management plans for the Carlls River in Babylon and the Beaverdam Creek in Brookhaven. Both tributaries have already had significant implementation work done through municipal and non-government partnership to advance water quality protection and habitat restoration. This project will also encompass an assessment of barriers to fish passage in six Reserve tributaries identified as priorities by the Council's Diadromous Fish Workgroup, including Carlls River and Beaverdam Creek.
- The Reserve Office will be hosting a project kick off scoping meeting on May 8th with the South Shore Bayway Advisory Committee and technical consultants (Dodson Associates) for the preparation of a five year South Shore Bayway implementation strategy and marketing plan.

Clare O'Reilly updated the Council on office activities related to diadromous fish restoration:

- For the second year, the Diadromous Fish Work Group is conducting a volunteer alewife monitoring survey. A report summarizing the results from last year's survey is available on the Reserve Council website. Volunteer recruitment took place at several outreach events. Two public training sessions for the alewife survey were held in late March. Preparation for the training sessions included development of training materials, and site visits to the observation locations. The training sessions were well

attended, and there are approximately 50 volunteers involved in the survey. In addition to public training sessions, students from local schools were trained. Monitoring has already begun, and will continue through May. Results from the survey will be used in an evolving comprehensive diadromous fish restoration strategy.

- A project advisory committee has met in preparation for the upcoming barrier assessment project to be conducted on Carlls River, Browns River, Swan River, Mud Creek, Carmans River, and Beaver Dam Creek. The advisory group has reviewed examples of data collection protocols for assessment of barriers to fish passage, and is beginning to create a list of suggested data collection categories to be included in the upcoming assessment, which will be shared with Nelson Pope & Voorhis. Using the collected data, the consultant will develop recommendations for barrier modification to enhance diadromous fish passage.

Lou Siegel reported on the work of the Formal Education Workgroup and collaborative efforts to implement a water quality monitoring strategy for the Reserve:

- The Formal Education Workgroup met on February 7th and April 17th. The workgroup continued to discuss development of the prioritized strategies to advance the CMP recommendations identified by the work group at the first meeting in November 2006. The work group discussed development of a media outreach tool with associated curriculum materials. The work group also discussed development and implementation of surveys of educators to assess how teachers of marine biology incorporate the SSER in their curriculum, and to ask general educators what type of SSER media product would be of most use in a classroom environment. The results of these surveys would be used to identify a refined strategy for development and production of media products such as a video or DVD to address the needs of educators, and advance education and stewardship objectives. The Reserve Office is working with work group members to design and implement the surveys.
- A meeting to discuss collaborative water quality and hazard monitoring on the south shore was held at the DEC Marine Resources Bureau offices in East Setauket on March 21st. The meeting was organized in partnership with the USGS Long Island office and DEC. Over 20 stakeholders with an interest and role in monitoring attended the meeting representing federal, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic research institutions. The group reviewed a number of on-going monitoring activities, including the proposed strategy prepared for the Reserve Council in 2000 as part of the CMP development process. The group agreed that several of those monitoring elements had been implemented by Reserve stakeholders in varying degrees, but there was no overall tracking of the strategy and effective data sharing is still a major issue. There was also agreement that the Reserve monitoring strategy represented an appropriate framework that could be refined to formulate an appropriate water quality and hazard monitoring strategy to reflect current issues and concerns.

L. Siegel suggested the Reserve Council consider re-establishing a water quality monitoring work group that would help advance consensus among stakeholders on current Reserve-wide monitoring strategies, priorities and coordination, including the development of recommendations to facilitate improved data sharing and access, and potential cost sharing partnerships. An informal consensus was reached at the recent stakeholder meeting that the Reserve Council is the appropriate body to include a work group covering these issues. During development of the CMP, a water quality work group existed as part of the Technical Advisory Committee. This work group had developed a water quality monitoring strategy, which was presented at the recent meeting to interested stakeholders. These stakeholders could possibly become members of the work group. Implementation of the monitoring strategy has not been tracked thus far, which could be an objective of the work group, as well as developing baseline water quality conditions. J. Fullmer suggested that the Council

could propose a motion for establishment of a water quality workgroup which would be facilitated by the Reserve Office.

R. Grover suggested that members of the original Technical Advisory Committee should be included if a new water quality work group is developed, and J. Fullmer responded that many members were present at the recent meeting.

C. Schlenk questioned if water quality monitoring and hazards monitoring should be addressed by one work group. J. Fullmer explained that participants at the recent meeting represented those two areas of interest, and there are new federal funding sources available for regional monitoring efforts. Both topical areas are addressed in the CMP. Various options for the structure and topical focus of the work group were discussed.

C. LoBue expressed support of the work group formation, and suggested that additional monitoring efforts will lead to implementation of CMP recommendations related to water quality improvements and hazards mitigation. He asked C. DeQuillfelt and F. Anders if the recently announced state climate change initiative will investigate potential hazards from sea level rise and increased frequency of local storms, or if it will be more focused on carbon sequestering and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). C. DeQuillfelt replied that he was unsure. F. Anders responded that the focus of the climate change initiative has not been decided, and at this point coastal programs have expressed interest in focusing on the direction of the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA), which may include regional hazard and storm protection issues.

L. Siegel added that at the recent meeting, USGS suggested including hazards monitoring due to the availability of equipment to collect real time data for water quality and hazards monitoring parameters. F. Anders added that the Marine Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook University submitted a proposal seeking funding to install tide gauges and monitoring equipment to examine hazards issues in the Great South Bay.

J. Fullmer suggested that establishing a water quality monitoring workgroup would be an opportunity for collaboration among stakeholders, and to establish focus for efforts within the Reserve. C. DeQuillfelt added that establishing continuous monitoring in the Reserve through USGS is a worthwhile effort to pursue. C. Schlenk added that coordinating the relationship between water quality and hazards monitoring in the context of available opportunities should be coordinated through the Council and Reserve Office, and suggested focusing on water quality monitoring rather than hazards monitoring, but with input from USGS. She also suggested that that recommendations from the original water quality monitoring strategy should be examined as a first step.

K. Budny asked if the work group will discuss creation of a central clearinghouse for all water quality monitoring data in the Reserve. J. Fullmer replied that this was an identified need, among other issues that need to be examined. T. Marquardt added that data collection should done to a determined standard of quality to enable efficient resources use and coordination among stakeholders.

The discussion was tabled for additional consideration during the Self Study Work Group Report.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT

Fred Anders presented the Department of State (DOS) report:

- Gov. Spitzer's Executive Order No. 3 requires all state entities with meetings subject to the Open Meetings Law to webcast their meetings after July 1, 2007. Future Council meetings may need to be webcast, which may influence where meetings are held. There is an exemption process available.
- Executed contracts are in place with Dodson Associates for the Strategic Implementation and Marketing Plan for the SSER Bayway, and with Nelson, Pope and Voorhis for Inventory and Analysis of Barriers to Fish Passage for Six South Shore Estuary Reserve Tributaries and Preparation of Watershed Action Plans for Carlls River and Beaver Dam Creek.
- Two projects in the Reserve funded by the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) have been completed. The Town of Babylon has recently completed improvements to Oak Beach Park, including shoreline stabilization, access enhancements and other public amenities. The Village of East Rockaway has recently completed public access improvements and related amenities on their waterfront at the Talfor Boat Basin. The Village of Lindenhurst has submitted a preliminary draft LWRP for Department review.
- The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management has completed their review of the New York State Coastal Zone Management program, including Reserve efforts.
- Several dialogue sessions were held around New York State in the fall to determine what the relevant issues are for ecosystem based management (EBM). A report on those dialogues has been compiled, and a copy is available through the Reserve Office. Follow up dialogues are being planned for this fall, and feedback on the report is appreciated.
- The designees of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council met on April 20, and discussed the importance of the demonstration projects currently being conducted. The council designees will meet again on May 11 with those conducting the demonstration projects to identify opportunities for increased agency participation and future needs in the demonstration project areas. The demonstration projects will provide the basis for a report to be presented to the state legislature in November 2008 documenting how the state should proceed with implementing EBM across the state. The next meeting of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council will be scheduled for June.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

CAC Chair M. Dolan Murphy presented the CAC report to the Council:

- At the January 9th meeting, the CAC discussed the status of mobile pump out boats in the Reserve, and sent letters to the Towns of Islip, Brookhaven, and Oyster Bay requesting information about how much effluent was being pumped by the pump out boats. Copies of letter to the towns and responses were distributed to Council members.
- At the March 13th meeting:
 - C. LoBue gave a presentation on ecosystem based management and an update on the Bluepoints Bottomlands Restoration project.
 - The CAC learned of efforts to establish a vessel no discharge zone in the Reserve. Representatives of the Long Island Maritime Museum gave a presentation on the status of the

waterfront on museum property and their dredging needs. The museum is proposing a project to DEC and other agencies to address this issue in a holistic and innovative manner.

- The CAC discussed learning more about the TMDL process in relation to a TMDL being done for the Western Bays, defined as the area between the western boundary of the Reserve and Wantagh Parkway. A DEC representative will give a presentation on the TMDL process at the December 2007 CAC meeting.
- The CAC Stewardship Award Subcommittee is accepting applications for the Stewardship Award, and the deadline is June 15. Copies of the award nomination form were distributed to Council members.

PRESENTATION

John Waltz of Bowne AE&T group presented an in-progress report of the SSER Drainage Infrastructure Mapping Assessment project. Based on the information collected thus far, preliminary recommendations include providing assistance to municipalities that have not started mapping, and field verification of mapping results. Products of the project will include a report and database of mapping completed thus far.

Reserve Council members discussed the extent of completed mapping projects, jurisdiction of stormwater drainage infrastructure, possible report recommendations for assistance to be provided to smaller municipalities to conduct mapping, and the relationship between stormwater mapping and Phase II requirements. The report will be used to determine how to assist municipalities to complete stormwater mapping in the Reserve, and to identify priorities for stormwater control following recommendations in the CMP.

D. Fucci commented that Nassau County hired a technical consultant to identify candidate sites in the Reserve for stormwater improvement projects based on impervious area and other factors. The process for identifying candidate sites will be shared with other municipalities. J. Waltz added that this forthcoming report will have recommendations for additional stormwater mapping, and what information should be collected. Recommendations from this report will be considered in the forthcoming report on Reserve mapping.

C. LoBue asked if a clearinghouse for the mapping data will be established. F. Anders replied that ultimately the data will be available through the DOS Coastal Atlas, and license agreements will be covered by agreements already held with the New York State GIS Clearinghouse.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER REPORTS

- M. Reynolds of Fire Island National Sea Shore (FINS) provided an update on the FINS General Management Plan development/revision process. The plan will be a guiding document for future management decisions within the FINS park boundaries, including part of Great South Bay. Issues that will be addressed include dredging, vehicle access, user fees, and improving partnerships with local municipalities. FINS is also exploring the possibility of establishing areas to experiment with erosion mitigation techniques. He requested that a Council representative attend a foundation workshop on plan development. A public draft of the plan is expected to be released in 2009, and FINS is encouraging public participation throughout the process.

In addition, the National Parks Services has established an Ocean Parks Stewardship Action Plan to address scientific research needs with the coastal National Parks and relevant global climate change issues. The plan proposes marine research natural areas to determine what stressors and assets are present. C.

Roman, a coastal ecologist with the National Park Service described the plan, and expressed that the National Park Service could be interested in participating in partnerships for the ecosystem based management of Great South Bay through establishment of a marine natural research area. Research would focus on the interactions between species and habitats over a long term. Decisions about the location of the research area and activities allowed within it will be made in partnership with Reserve Council members and local governments. Information about the action plan was distributed to Council members.

- C. LoBue provided an update on the on The Nature Conservancy's efforts to advance development of an ecosystem-based management plan demonstration project for the Great South Bay. The plan is still in draft phase, and TNC is working with DOS and partners to move the report along towards completion by the end of 2008 which will demonstrate improvements to ecosystem health that can be accomplished, and actions necessary for integrating EBM. There will be opportunities for additional stakeholder input as the report is developed. C. LoBue provided a handout highlighting pieces of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act, and a survey to gain feedback from Council members regarding state agencies represented on the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council. The survey questions were as follows:
 - Please provide at least one issue that you think should be addressed in the Ecosystem-based management report that will be delivered to the Governor and Legislature next year.
 - Please provide at least one recommendation for NY State agencies to better align their activities for ecosystem-based management. (If your recommendation is for DEC and or DOS, please consider another recommendation that includes one of the other 9 agencies)
 - Please provide at least one recommendation to improve alignment between any of the 9 state agencies and any other level(s) of government that would help to advance ecosystem-based management in the marine/coastal areas of NYS.

C. Meek Gallagher asked if there was dedicated staff for supporting the Ecosystem Conservation Council. F. Anders replied that there was funding appropriated from the state legislature for the Council, and dedicated staff from DEC and DOS. C. Meek Gallagher suggested that this staff review the legislation guiding the nine agencies represented on the Council to ensure that their missions are not in conflict with one another. F. Anders replied that this was being done on a broader level outside of the context of the Great South Bay demonstration project.

R. Groh asked how EBM will incorporate existing structures such as local governments that have jurisdictions over local waters. C. LoBue replied that TNC is considering this issue, and the most effective manner to incorporate local governments. F. Anders added that the state legislature was aware of the good management efforts currently in place when the act was developed, and existing activities will be considered in future management decisions. T. Marquardt suggested that additional links between agencies will offer benefits for effective implementation of EBM. C. Meek-Gallagher suggested that EBM will provide an opportunity for making decisions among the multiple jurisdictions that currently make management decisions in the Great South Bay. A. Svoboda suggested that EBM should be used to guide efforts, such as water quality monitoring, to be done in a coordinated manner.

Council members discussed examples of activities from agencies other than DOS and DEC that could be aligned with EBM, such as the DOT Environmental Initiative program to address water quality issues.

J. Fullmer asked how EBM structure could help advance implementation of the CMP, and what areas of the CMP should be advanced relative to EBM. C. Schlenk replied that the CMP provides a good framework for

EBM, and while there are some recommendations of the CMP that appear to be counter to other recommendations, the Council has agreed to them and they should be incorporated in the EBM plan.

M. Shea discussed an EBM type of project currently being developed by the Town of Southampton for part of Shinnecock Bay. The town is currently in the process of establishing a marine park and preserve, and there are concerns among baymen and hunters that park development will lead to closure of this area for certain uses that may impact commercial activities. The town is seeking assistance from The Nature Conservancy to address issues regarding uses that are compatible and incompatible with EBM. F. Anders commented that it is difficult to overcome initial perceptions of what EBM means, and that it is important to convey that EBM involves humans in addition to natural resource issues, and how human uses are managed with respect to natural resources. M. Shea concurred, and mentioned that there are concerns that traditional uses will be driven out of the fragile area in question, and of competing authorities among stakeholders. A. Svoboda suggested that sustainability is a more easily understood concept than EBM, and connecting these two concepts may make EBM more acceptable to the general public.

J. Fullmer commented that stakeholder engagement in EBM plan preparation and development is essential, and that the Council is an appropriate group to discuss EBM as the process moves forward. He suggested that Council members consider how the Council should provide input, and establish connections to additional stakeholders.

COUNCIL SELF-STUDY WORKGROUP

C. Schlenk reported on the first meeting of the Council Self-Study Work Group. A summary of the meeting was provided in the Council mailing. Discussion at the meeting focused on three topics:

- The work group concluded that it is valuable for the Council to develop bylaws to establish procedures and document how the council makes decisions so the decisions making process will be understood in the future. Bylaws should also establish how often the CMP is revised, and how work groups operate. Self-study work group members agreed that the process may be tedious but necessary, and will review examples of bylaws and convey to the SSER Office which types of procedures should be included in Council bylaws. The SSER Office will draft bylaws to be reviewed by the work group prior to being shared with the Council.
- The work group discussed revising the CMP to address emerging issues, identify gaps in the implementation process, and reflect progress made since adoption of the plan in 2001. Review of the Implementation Status Reports can assist in this process. The process through which CMP revision will take place should be identified in bylaws. Self-study group members suggested having established topic based work groups focus on reviewing the CMP and suggesting potential revisions.
- The work group also discussed developing targets and goals to establish an accountability factor to judge if the Council is achieving what it set out to do as identified in the current CMP. These targets and goals can serve as motivators for achieving priorities which are currently pursued in an opportunistic way. Establishing targets and goals with Council member input can also guide how SSER funds are spent.

C. Schlenk encouraged appointed Council members to review the 2001 CMP due to the turnover in Council members since plan adoption.

K. Budny suggested that the Council require a two thirds majority vote for adoption of new positions or goals that are put forth. J. Kayal commented that the United State Congress operates on a 50% vote policy because a

two thirds vote policy potentially gives a small minority control over the majority. F. Anders suggested that a vote policy should be included in the bylaws.

J. Fullmer said that the SSER enabling legislation suggests future revision of the CMP and recognizes it as a dynamic document, but it does not specify how often the CMP should be revised or through what process. C. LoBue expressed support for plan revision to take place through a work group process involving prioritization of implementation actions.

Review of the bylaws examples provided to work group members suggests that the Citizen Advisory Committee's Policies and Procedures is a good model to adapt for the Council. J. Fullmer requested that Council members review those and consider how they can be applied to the Council.

F. Anders suggested that the Self Study Work Group meet again before the next Council meeting to review drafted bylaws and additional input from Council members. The Reserve Office will prepare a draft of bylaws to be reviewed by the Self Study Group, which will be circulated to Council members prior to a Council meeting in August or September to provide enough time to react to the proposed bylaws. The Council will make a more substantive decision regarding bylaw adoption at the next Council meeting.

There is little guidance in the enabling legislation on how the CMP should be implemented other than identifying the Reserve Council to oversee implementation. The enabling legislation mentions topic based committees but does not provide guidance for the structure of these committees. Committees were formed similar to the structure of the National Estuary Programs, and topic based work groups of interested stakeholders have operated well thus far operating on consensus based decision making. Work group structure and function should be included in bylaw development. C. LoBue expressed support for the development of bylaws, and suggested that bylaw development should not restrict the creation of additional work groups such as a water quality monitoring work group. He added that bylaws should be in place to prioritize the actions of work groups.

F. Anders expressed support for having Council members review the CMP, and C. LoBue suggested that this review could be done through work groups to see what actions identified in the CMP have been implemented, what is still pending, and what new issues have arisen. J. Fullmer suggested that Council members review the "Next Steps" at the end of the chapters in the 2003-2005 Implementation Status Report, *Partners for Progress*. The Reserve Office Staff developed these as part of the report without Council input, and they represent logical next steps based on the information collected rather than priorities. J. Fullmer suggested that Council members review these as a first step to developing priorities for implementation actions.

T. Marquardt suggested that the Council should provide emphasis on priorities for implementation in 2007 to give a sense of urgency and mission in implementing the CMP and recently approved watershed management plans.

L. Fischer commented that implementation actions have been driven by available funding opportunities. She suggested that revision of the plan should identify funding opportunities for significant projects that have not been undertaken due to the lack of funding, and that the Reserve should receive a constant source of funding similar to the National Estuary Programs.

J. Fullmer commented that there is a source of funding for the Reserve in the state budget, and partners can match these funds for future implementation projects with funding or other resources such as staff time. Council members can subtly influence how partners use resources for implementation projects, and this system has successfully implemented CMP recommendations for the past 6 years. There is potential for increased Reserve funding to be used as a catalyst for implementation actions based on Council input.

M. Dolan Murphy commented that the National Estuary Programs have less funding than is perceived, and L.

Fischer replied that their funding sources are dependent on program structure. C. DeQuillfeldt added that most estuary programs have base funding of \$500,000 from the federal government, and receive funding from additional sources as well. L. Fischer commented that local municipalities are implementing the CMP in different ways based on funding sources and other factors, and that funding gaps should be reduced using funding from the state or federal government.

C. LoBue asked if revision of the CMP would help identify which priorities to advance and focus funding sources towards. L. Fischer replied that local municipalities know what programs should be implemented and have been working with partners, but additional assistance is necessary for how programs should be implemented and with what resources based on fixed local funding sources.

J. Fullmer expressed support for continuing the establishment of work groups prior to bylaw adoption, and requested informal approval from the Council to continue engaging stakeholders in forming a water quality workgroup. He requested assistance from Council members in identifying additional stakeholders to move development of a water quality monitoring strategy forward. The Council expressed consensus for this workgroup establishment, and C. LoBue added that based on discussion earlier in the meeting, the group should be called a water monitoring group.

R. Groh expressed support for the creation of repository for water quality monitoring data, and J. Fullmer replied that the workgroup could explore the logistics of creating this repository.

C. Schlenk suggested that several work groups could proliferate from the water quality work group, and this process could be addressed in the bylaws or in reviewing the CMP. The broader water quality group should address developing a monitoring strategy, and other topics could be covered by other groups. J. Fullmer added that the primary objective in forming this group under the auspices of the Council would be to make sure that Council members and stakeholders are engaged through facilitation by the Reserve Office.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was raised by Council members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Aronoff commented that Governor Spitzer's webcasting initiative was highlighted in his "100 Days in Office" speech. A. Aronoff is involved with a project regarding public meeting participation, and expressed his support for webcasting of Council meetings to increase awareness of the CMP. He mentioned that other states have similar initiatives to increase public involvement. F. Anders reported that DOS has identified 24 meetings under their jurisdiction which may require webcasting. C. Meek Gallagher reported that the Long Island Pine Barrens Commission was able to gain exemption from webcasting their meetings because the commission would have been forced to pay for outside services in order to webcast their meetings. (C. Schlenk asked if local governments receive feedback on their town meetings, which are currently televised on local cable stations. A. Svoboda replied that he receives informal feedback from viewers.) A. Aronoff commented the primary purpose of webcasting is for sessions of legislative bodies to be available to the public, and eventually for local government meetings to be made available to increase citizen involvement. J. Fullmer commented that this effort was laudible and will help build constituency. K. Budny commented that citizens can request meeting minutes as well.

L. Siegel invited Council members to join his Marine Biology class from Dowling College on The Christeen Oyster Sloop on Friday, April 27.

M. Reynolds invited Council members to attend the Fire Island National Seashore Science and Planning Conference on May 9 - 10 at Stony Brook University.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Budny motioned to adjourn the meeting, W. Glacken seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.