

**South Shore Estuary Reserve Council
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2006

Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, New York

Chair: Maureen Dolan Murphy

CAC Members Present: Allan Aronoff (Brookhaven League of Women Voters/CAC Vice Chair); Pam Burford (Fire Island Association); Michael Cafaro (Sierra Club); Henry Dam (Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen); Ed Davis (Great South Bay Audubon); Robert DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association); Maureen Dolan Murphy (Citizens Campaign for the Environment); Mike Duffy (South Bay Cruising Club); Joe Kayal (Independent); Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders Association); Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries); Curt Matzinger (South Shore Waterfowlers); Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper); Wendy Murbach (South Shore Audubon Society); Dave Schaper (NY Seafood Council); Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association); and, Dave Thompson (Trout Unlimited).

CAC Members Absent: Florence Sharkey (Brookhaven Baymen's Association); Rob Weltner (Operation SPLASH) Craig Kessler (Ducks Unlimited); Students for Environmental Quality.

South Shore Estuary Reserve Staff Present: Jeff Fullmer (Director); Kimberly Rancourt (Program Implementation Specialist); and, Lou Siegel (Science Coordinator).

Guests Present: Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay); Trudy Freulich; Gerald Ludwig (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association); Kevin Morgan and John P. O'Donnells (Great South Bay Environmental).

1. Introductions

M. Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. CAC members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of CAC Meeting Minutes

B. Sohm motioned to approve the September 12, 2006 meeting minutes. A. Aronoff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Reports

SSER Office Report

J. Fullmer announced that the next Reserve Council meeting will be held on December 5th, at the City of Long Beach Public Library from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and then updated CAC members on Reserve Office activities since the last meeting:

- The Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan Implementation Status Report for 2003-2005 was released in September. It was submitted to Governor Pataki and the legislative leadership as required by the South Shore Estuary Reserve Act. It was also distributed to Reserve Council members and elected officials. The report is available on the Reserve Council website and printed copies will be

provided to CAC voting members in the near future. Thanks to all CAC members who assisted with providing implementation information.

- This year's Reserve Partner Boat Tour was held on September 20th. Over 100 partners enjoyed an afternoon touring the western bays of the Reserve aboard the Nautical Princess out of Freeport. During the cruise, the 2006 Reserve Council Stewardship Awards were presented.
- The Western Bays Water Quality Workgroup will meet on November 15th. The outcomes of this meeting will also be reported at the December Reserve Council meeting.
- Governor Pataki announced a number of NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grants that were awarded to local governments for projects to implement the Reserve CMP in August (2005 Round) and October^h (2006 Round). Reserve Office staff will be assisting Department of State and local governments with implementation of the grants.
- The Bayway interpretive kiosk for the Patchogue River Maritime Center has been completed and will be installed at the Fire Island National Seashore Watch Hill Ferry Terminal in the spring of 2007. The Reserve Office is working with a technical evaluation team to review proposals for development of a comprehensive Bayway implementation strategy.

K. Rancourt reported on the following Reserve Office activities:

- The Reserve Council Diadromous Fish Workgroup met on November 2nd and a number of updates were shared about Long Island and regional diadromous fish issues.
- On October 25th, the Reserve Office organized a Stormwater Treatment Technology Workshop. Workshop presentations addressed the use of structural stormwater treatment practices in the context of watershed planning and Phase II compliance, and three panel sessions which focused on conventional, manufactured, and alternative stormwater treatment best management practices. Peter Scully, Regional Director of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, facilitated the panel sessions. Dr. Tom Ballestero of the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center participated in all three panel sessions and offered valuable input on stormwater treatment practices. The workshop was attended by approximately 60 Reserve stormwater managers, representing state, county, town, and village governments, as well as additional stakeholders including several CAC members.
- A final draft of the Brown's River/Green's Creek Watershed Management Plan was completed by the Town of Islip and distributed to the watershed advisory committee for review. A public meeting was held by the Town on September 24th, at which the plan was presented and public comment was received. The Town is currently incorporating comments into a final plan.
- The Reserve Office continues to attend monthly meetings of the Forge River Task Force and to assist the Task Force by preparing summaries of these meetings. The Town of Brookhaven has been awarded an EPF grant for \$238,000 to prepare a watershed management plan for the Forge River. The grant will be matched by local funds.
- The Inventory and Analysis of Stormwater Drainage Infrastructure Mapping in the Reserve continues to progress. Bowne AE&T has distributed questionnaires to all government entities in the Reserve, inquiring about the status of their mapping efforts.

L. Siegel reported that the first Reserve Council Formal Education Workgroup meeting, facilitated by Reserve Office staff, was held on November 8th at Massapequa High School. There was broad attendance and much enthusiasm to advance Reserve-related formal education efforts. The outcomes of the meeting will be reported to the Reserve Council at its December meeting.

Education Subcommittee Report

B. Sohm reported that the Education Subcommittee has met several times and has met with several film makers about producing an outreach video for the Reserve. He anticipated that by the next CAC meeting he would be able to report out on the likely cost of producing a video and on a potential person to lead the project. He asked CAC members to consider possible funding sources for producing the video.

Ecosystem-based Management Meetings

M. Dolan Murphy reminded CAC members about the discussion at the last meeting regarding the new legislation passed by the state that created the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council. She reported that, as part of this effort, five public meetings addressing ecosystem-based management were held throughout the state. The Long Island meeting was the most well-attended, and many CAC members participated in the event. These meetings provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about ecosystem-based management and to offer input. A meeting summary is being prepared and CAC members will be informed when it becomes available. Two pilot ecosystem-based management projects are being implemented: one on the Great Lakes and one for Great South Bay, which is being carried out by The Nature Conservancy.

J. Fullmer reported that staff from The Nature Conservancy would be providing a brief update on their work at the December 5th Council meeting. He suggested that perhaps a series of speakers could be invited to present on ecosystem-based management at future CAC meetings. M. Dolan Murphy suggested that perhaps staff from The Nature Conservancy could be asked to provide an update on this work as well as their work with the Bluepoints Bottomlands Council.

4. Stewardship Award

M. Dolan Murphy reported that the 2006 Reserve Council Stewardship Awards were presented to Wilfred Kleisler and Operation SPLASH at this year's Reserve Council Boat Tour, on September 20th. She thanked P. Burford and the Stewardship Award Subcommittee for their work and suggested that the CAC start thinking about next year's award.

P. Burford stated that the concept of having an individual and group award worked well this year and suggested that the award program not be expanded yet. She stated that last year's nomination form had worked well and CAC members agreed. She encouraged resubmission of nominations that did not win this year.

J. Fullmer asked about publicizing the awards. M. Dolan Murphy stated that there are photos and text available about the 2006 award recipients if CAC members are interested in using them for their newsletters or websites.

It was decided that nomination forms and an updated flyer would be brought to the January CAC meeting. P. Burford suggested that announcement of the 2006 award recipients and solicitation of nominations for the 2007 awards could be combined.

CAC members interested in serving on the subcommittee for the 2007 awards should contact P. Burford.

5. Education Certificates

L. Siegel distributed sample certificates that could be used for a broader Reserve stewardship recognition program. He suggested that teachers or other individuals could submit applications to the Reserve Office for review and then participants in projects or activities deemed eligible could sent certificates. In the process, the Reserve Office could create a database of interested citizens.

CAC members discussed various aspects of the proposed program. It was decided that the Reserve Office would suggest criteria for selection and further define the components of the program, and present the details of the proposed program to CAC members for review at the next meeting. It was also decided that the idea would be presented to the Council at its December meeting for their input.

6. Peconic Baykeeper 2006 Bay Watch Report

K. McAllister distributed the Peconic Baykeeper's 2006 *Bay Watch Report* and briefly described the purpose and findings of the report. The report identifies various environmental trends in the Peconic and south shore bays.

7. New Business

A. Aronoff inquired about the possibility of creating a Reserve scholarship program. M. Dolan Murphy stated that the CAC does not have a budget to create such a program. J. Fullmer noted that while the CAC does not have a budget, it could work to develop a program and look for external financial resources to implement the program.

K. Morgan and J. O'Donnells of Great South Bay Environmental, Inc. distributed a flyer with information about their proposal to increase ocean-bay water exchange in Great South Bay. They expressed their interest in presenting their idea to the CAC at a future meeting. M. Dolan Murphy agreed to review their proposal and report back to the CAC at the January meeting.

8. Announcements

There were no announcements.

9. Adjournment

B. DeBona motioned to adjourn the meeting. A. Aronoff seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.