

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

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**MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2006

Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, New York

Chair: Maureen Dolan

***CAC Members Present:*** Allan Aronoff (Brookhaven League of Women Voters/CAC Vice Chair); Matthew Atkinson (Peconic Baykeeper); Pam Mitchell Burford (Fire Island Association); Michael Cafaro (Sierra Club); George Costa (Trout Unlimited); Henry Dam (Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen); Ed Davis (Great South Bay Audubon); Robert DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association); Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders Association); Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries); Craig Kessler (Ducks Unlimited); Curt Matzinger (South Shore Waterfowlers Association, Operation SPLASH); Florence Sharkey (Brookhaven Baymen's Association); and, Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association).

***CAC Members Absent:*** Joe Kayal (Independent); Wendy Murbach (South Shore Audubon Society); and, Students for Environmental Quality.

***South Shore Estuary Reserve Office Staff Present:*** Clare O'Reilly (SCA Estuary Steward); Kimberly Rancourt (Program Implementation Specialist); and, Lou Siegel (Science Coordinator).

***Guests Present:*** Bob Cizek (Concerned Citizen); Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay); John Tanacredi (Dowling College); and, Richard Troy (South Bay Cruising Club).

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

At 7:00 p.m. M. Dolan called the meeting to order. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2005 CAC MINUTES**

R. DeBona motioned to accept the November 15, 2005 CAC minutes as written. D. Schaper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**3. SOUTH BAY CRUISING CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

M. Dolan introduced Rich Troy of the South Bay Cruising Club (SBCC). R. Troy spoke briefly about his organization's efforts to improve pumpout facilities along the south shore, and its interest in joining the CAC. C. Kessler motioned to accept SBCC as a member of the CAC and D. Schaper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. D. Schaper also suggested that the CAC send a letter to the Town of Islip recognizing their decision to provide a mobile pumpout service in Great South Bay. M. Dolan agreed to draft a letter and show it to CAC members.

#### **4. SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE NEWS**

##### ***Stewardship Award Press Release:***

M. Dolan distributed a press release about the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council Stewardship Award and reported that she had not yet received any calls in response to it. K. Rancourt noted that there is now information about the award on the Reserve Council Website.

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### ***Highlights of November 16, 2005 Reserve Council Meeting:***

M. Dolan shared a summary of the Reserve Council's discussion about expanding Council responsibilities that was prepared by J. Kayal and distributed in the CAC meeting mailing. She also reported on Vic Consiglio's presentation about ocean-bay water exchange that was given at the Reserve Council meeting. CAC members discussed V. Consiglio's presentation and the issue of ocean-bay water exchange. M. Dolan asked CAC members if they would be interested in hearing a presentation by NY Sea Grant on this topic at a future meeting. There was consensus that such a presentation would be welcomed and M. Dolan agreed to contact Sea Grant. D. Schaper suggested that it might also be helpful to have the US Army Corps of Engineers present on this topic.

##### ***Reserve Office Report:***

K. Rancourt reported on highlights of Reserve Office activities since the last CAC meeting:

##### **Water Quality**

A draft watershed action plan for Brown's River/Green Creek has been distributed to the advisory committee for comments. The Massapequa Creek watershed advisory committee met in December to discuss progress in plan development. The Swan River watershed advisory committee met in November to discuss progress that the Town of Brookhaven and the Consultant have made in developing the plan, the goals of the plan, and the potential role of teachers. The Forge River Task Force was officially formed through a Town of Brookhaven Resolution.

##### **South Shore Bayway**

Two additional Bayway *Destinations* have been recognized by the Reserve Council: Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society and Sailors Haven/Sunken Forest at Fire Island National Seashore. A kiosk has been produced for the Bay Shore Marina and its installation is planned for the spring. The Village of Patchogue is working on a kiosk and waysides for the Watch Hill Ferry Terminal. Reserve Office staff is working with NYS Parks to develop Bayway interpretive exhibits for three recognized Bayway *Destinations*.

##### **Education and Outreach**

Reserve Office staff gave a presentation to the Point Lookout Civic Association at its request. A draft of the latest Reserve Council newsletter has been completed. The final version will be posted on the Reserve Council website shortly. A postcard will be sent to the newsletter database, requesting email addresses for the newsletter email list. Interested parties without internet access may request receipt of a printed copy. The Education Resources Directory is being updated. Information about the Stewardship Award is available on the Reserve Council website. Reserve Office Director presented at the Dowling College Ecosummit.

### Diadromous Fish

C. O'Reilly reported that the Diadromous Fish Workgroup will meet next week to finalize the protocol for citizen monitoring of alewives in select Reserve tributaries. Volunteer monitors are still needed.

### ***Highlights of December 7, 2005 Hempstead Bays Meeting:***

M. Dolan reported that the Reserve Office hosted a second meeting of stakeholders to discuss water quality issues in the western bays of the Reserve, in response to a presentation by Operation SPLASH members at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Reserve Council meeting. She reported that there was significant positive discussion about the topic and that the group will meet again soon.

### ***Update on Pumpout Boats:***

R. Troy updated CAC members on the South Bay Cruising Club's (SBCC) efforts to promote improved pumpout facilities along the south shore. He reported the Town of Islip has agreed to provide a mobile pumpout service in Great South Bay, and explained that they are still working to have a similar agreement from the towns of Babylon and Brookhaven. SBCC has done outreach and education and has received letters of support from many agencies and organizations, including the NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation and State. It was suggested that the Towns could start sharing ideas and resources. R. DeBona reported that the Mastic Beach Property Owners Association has purchased two pumpout stations from the State.

## **6. STEWARDSHIP AWARD**

M. Dolan distributed nomination forms for the 2006 Reserve Council Stewardship Award and asked that CAC members submit nominations. P. Burford volunteered to serve as the new Chair of the Stewardship Award Committee. Nominations may be submitted to the Reserve Office, M. Dolan, or P. Burford. website

## **7. RESERVE TRIBUTARY BROCHURE**

The Reserve Office has produced a brochure entitled *Tributaries of the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve*. It was distributed to CAC members in the meeting mailing. CAC members provided comments on the brochure.

## **8. GOALS FOR THE CAC IN 2006**

M. Dolan asked CAC members to provide input on developing goals for 2006. The following ideas were suggested:

- Become more active in outreach and education by providing more presentations to interested groups, submitting articles for the Reserve Council newsletter developing a calendar of events, public service announcements on local radio (as done in the past), and/or developing a television program or video;
- Increase cooperation with other estuary programs; and,
- Encourage extended responsibility of the Reserve Council.

J. Tanacredi stated that Dowling College could host informational miniconferences.

M. Dolan provided the following suggestions: continue to develop and expand the stewardship award program, consider use of affordable touch screen exhibits, follow the western bays water quality issue, promote improved pumpout facilities, develop a homeowner certification program, develop a Reserve video, promote education and awareness about native landscaping.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

J. Tanacredi announced that Dowling College will be producing a “report card” on environmental issues that have been covered at previous sessions of the Dowling College Ecosummit.

M. Cafaro announced that C. Kessler was chosen as the Sierra Club’s Environmentalist of the Year and that he would be honored on March 10, 2006.

M. Dolan announced that The Nature Conservancy will hold a press conference a new initiative entitled *Long Island’s Last Stand* on January 11, 2006.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.