

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

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**MEETING MINUTES**

September 12, 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); Maureen Dolan Murphy (Citizens Campaign for the Environment); Joe Kayal (Independent); Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders Association); Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries); Wendy Murbach (South Shore Audubon Society); Dave Schaper (NY Seafood Council); Florence Sharkey (Brookhaven Baymen's Association); Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association); Eric Tallbe (South Shore Waterfowlers); Dave Thompson (Trout Unlimited); and, Rich Troy (South Bay Cruising Club); and Rob Weltner (Operation SPLASH).

**CAC Members Absent:** Robert DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association); Craig Kessler (Ducks Unlimited); Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper) Students for Environmental Quality.

**South Shore Estuary Reserve Office Staff Present:** Michelle Pluzynski (Program Implementation Specialist).

**Guests Present:** Bob Cizek (Concerned Citizen); Mike Duffy (South Bay Cruising Club); Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay); Tom McCavera (SPLASH); and, Holly Michels (BSYC).

**1. Introductions**

M. Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. CAC members and guests introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of CAC Meeting Minutes**

B. Sohm motioned to approve the July 11, 2006 meeting minutes. D. Schaper seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**3. Reports**

**SSER Office Report**

M. Pluzynski reported on Reserve Office activities since the last CAC meeting:

- The SSER Council met on August 9<sup>th</sup> at the Freeport Recreation Center. SSER Office provided reports to Council on its activities since March 2006 meeting. Copies of written report provided to the Council are available.
- The Council partner boat tour and SSER stewardship award ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 4pm aboard the *Nautical Princess* sailing from the Freeport's Nautical Mile. CAC members are encouraged to attend and should have received invitations. Call SSER office for info. Please RSVP to Michelle P. by Friday.

- The annual American Littoral Society Beach clean-up is scheduled for Sept. 16 from 10:30 - 12:30 at TOBAY Beach, Bay Side. We need additional volunteers. Please call Lou Siegel, Beach Captain at the SSER office for more info and to volunteer.
- Captree Boatmans Association will be distributing SSER outreach info at the annual Captree Carnival (9/16-17).
- Staff is preparing the CMP Implementation Status Report for 2003 - 2005. The Office is planning to release the report at the Council partner boat tour. The report will also be posted on the SSER Website.
- SSER staff prepared program poster and provided presentation on SSER Living Resources at National Marine Education Association Conference (7/18) at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University.
- Staff attended Baykeeper event at Moriches Yacht Club (7/25) announcing the release of Bay Health Index Report. Obtained copies of the report for distribution and posted report announcement on SSER website.
- Staff attended bill signing ceremony for New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act on August 9<sup>th</sup>. There is information about the legislation on the SSER website. There is a public information meeting on September 27, 2006 at Stony Brook University. CAC members are encouraged to attend.
- SSER exhibit staffed at the annual Bradstock Music and Arts Festival at the Long Island Maritime Museum 9/2.
- Staff attended meeting 9/8 to discuss status of fish passage project at Hards Lake dam on the Carmans River.
- Final draft Brown's River/Green's Creek Watershed Management Plan from the Town of Islip has been posted on the Town's new website, [www.townofislip-ny.gov](http://www.townofislip-ny.gov) and a public information meeting has been scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>. Call Kim Rancourt at SSER office (470- BAYS) for more info.
- Prepared and distributed letter to SSER local governments informing them of the stormwater drainage infrastructure mapping assessment study underway and to encourage their support and participation.
- Planning continues for the Reserve Stormwater Treatment Technology Workshop. October 25<sup>th</sup> has been selected as the date.
- Staffed Reserve photo display at Marine Recreation Expo sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph Saladino at Jones Beach Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center. (8/27).
- The East Rockaway Grist Mill Museum was formally recognized by the Council as a South Shore Bayway Destination on 8/9.
- The Bay Shore Interpretive kiosk was installed at the Bay Shore Marina on 8/8.
- A Patchogue River interpretive kiosk designed in partnership with FINS and Village of Patchogue will be completed by the end of September and installed at the FINS Watch Hill Ferry Terminal property.

- The SSER Office report to the SSER Council was made available for anyone on the CAC who wanted a copy.

#### Council Meeting Report

M. Dolan Murphy discussed her CAC report to the Reserve Council on August 9, 2006:

- Reported the CAC's recommendations for Stewardship award. The Council approved these recommendations and voted unanimously on the recipients. The awards will be presented at the Council boat tour on October 20, 2006. M. Dolan Murphy thanked P. Burford chair of the stewardship subcommittee for all of her hard work.
- Reported the Council is going to organize an educational workgroup meeting to reinvigorate the Formal Education Subcommittee to talk about an educational video and other possible SSER educational actions.

M. Dolan Murphy summarized the work being done by The Nature Conservancy and the Bluepoint Bottomlands Council. Suffolk County is contributing \$1 million, and TNC will match that with \$1.2 million. TNC is stocking 1 million clams. TNC wants to improve the post release survival rate, so the property will remain closed until stocks are better.

TNC found an increase in the toadfish harvest decreased toadfish which has increased the population of mud crabs. The mud crabs are then eating the hard shell clams. There may be a need to decrease the toadfish harvest. F. Sharkey doesn't know of any toadfish harvest in that area, and said it's the blue fish that feed on the clams. D. Schaper said the toadfish are too small here, and nobody is catching toadfish commercially. M. Dolan Murphy suggested that F. Sharkey contact TNC to tell them her knowledge of toadfish.

NYS passed legislation to form a seagrass task force. Senator Schumer obtained \$600,000 for Sea Grant to continue their seagrass initiative.

#### **4. Education Subcommittee Report:**

B. Sohm reported on the progress of the education subcommittee's activities. He again distributed an outline prepared by the education subcommittee stating there is a need to promote the estuary and educate the public about the SSER.

The main goal is to produce an educational video. The vision of the education subcommittee is to eventually expand beyond the video, possibly reaching kids in the schools. Ben noted that there are already NYS curriculum guidelines in place that have a niche for what the CAC is trying to achieve. The first steps is for the SSER Office to arrange a meeting, which is being done.

M. Dolan Murphy asked where the Council is at this stage in the process with setting up an official Education Subcommittee meeting. M. Pluzynski responded that J. Fullmer is working on pulling a group together to discuss the Education Subcommittee. M. Dolan Murphy wanted to know if the CAC can have representation at the meeting and would like B. Sohm to attend. M. Pluzynski said she would have to let the CAC know.

B. Sohm began to research cost information to produce a video, and he will try to obtain some real numbers to present at the Formal Education Subcommittee meeting.

R. Weltner contacted a production company for the SPLASH video six years ago, which was 15 - 25 minutes long. R. Weltner had all the footage, but the editing cost \$10K - \$18K. R. Weltner thinks that at present the cost would be close to \$25K.

## **5. Expansion of Council Responsibilities:**

J. Kayal reviewed the motion he made at the request of the CAC at the Council meeting on Nov. 16, 2005: "... that the Council arrange to monitor social, economic, legislative, environmental and other events, projects, proposals and developments that could affect the estuary within the parameters of the Comprehensive Management Plan and that the Council take advocacy positions, as an entity, regarding these on a case by case basis".

He reiterated that although the motion was not seconded at that time, the Council had discussed the issue with interest and he thought it might be appropriate to resubmit the motion at the November, 2006 Council meeting. He requested current guidance from the committee regarding both the substance of the motion and its timing. W. Murbaugh suggested that the motion might be more positively received if it separated "monitoring" from "advocacy" and A. Aronoff suggested that presentation of the motion wait until the CAC review the status report on CMP Implementation Progress.

Further discussion resulted in J. Kayal moving that "The CAC chair propose at the next Council meeting that it create a sub-committee to evaluate the feasibility of the Council monitoring social, economic, legislative, environmental and other events, projects, proposals and developments that could affect the estuary within the parameters of the Comprehensive Management Plan and that the Council take advocacy positions, as an entity, regarding these on a case by case basis". The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **6. Presentation - Habitat Restoration** by Jake Kritzer, Environmental Defense

Presentation on diadromous fish and fish passage.

Discussion following the presentation:

- What kind of habitat do alewife prefer to spawn on gravel or sand? And is salinity an issue? J. Kritzer responded that salinity is a big issue, and that alewives are really resilient and will spawn on both, but like slower moving water.
- How much does a fish ladder cost? The ladder itself is about \$22K, but the installation is about \$125K. This price includes all the inspections and permits that are needed, i.e. dam safety inspections, etc.
- J. Kritzer told the CAC that the Hards Lake dam, which is a project that was discussed in the presentation, will probably not go in for next year's spawning run.
- Road construction leads to some accidental damming. Who can we contact in these instances? J. Kritzer responded that it all depends on when and where the damming is. There are a lot of potential barriers that we need to get a handle on.

## **7. New Business**

E. Tallbe announced Duck Boat Show Water Festival will take place on Oct 29.

## **8. Adjournment**

A. Aranoff motioned to adjourn the meeting. W. Murbach seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.