

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

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MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 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); 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); Craig Kessler (Ducks Unlimited); Curt Matzinger (South Shore Waterfowlers Association); Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper); Wendy Murbach (South Shore Audubon Society); Dave Schaper (NY Seafood Council); Florence Sharkey (Brookhaven Baymen's Association); Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association); Dave Thompson (Trout Unlimited); Richard Troy (South Bay Cruising Club); and, Rob Weltner (Operation SPLASH).

CAC Members Absent: Robert DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association); and, Students for Environmental Quality.

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

Guests Present: Bob Cizek (Concerned Citizen); Mike Doffy (South Bay Cruising Club); and, Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay).

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2005 CAC MINUTES

A. Aronoff motioned to accept the January 10, 2006 CAC minutes as written. B. Sohm seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE NEWS

M. Dolan Murphy shared an article about a Suffolk County land purchase in East Moriches, adjacent to the Terrell River. The resolution was sponsored by County Legislator Ed Romaine.

M. Dolan Murphy also reported that Fire Island Pumpout Company, run by Christian Puma, operates a pumpout boat service for a fee.

4. REPORTS

Reserve Office Report:

J. Fullmer reported the following highlights from Reserve Office activities since the last CAC meeting:

- The Reserve Council is scheduled to meet on March 22, 2006 at Suffolk County Department of Health Office of Ecology Auditorium.
- Reserve Office staff has been continuing to work on the 2003-2005 Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan Implementation Status Report. The report will highlight partnerships and examples of successful implementation projects. A report outline will be shared with the Reserve Council at its March 22nd meeting.
- The Reserve Office will be participating in a panel at the Brown Tide Research Initiative Public Information meeting on March 20, 2006 at Suffolk Community College in Riverhead.
- The report *Bay Flooding and Erosion in the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve: Findings and Recommendations* is complete and will be distributed to the Reserve Council and elected officials. This report is the first compilation of information specifically about flooding and erosion in the bays. A summary will be posted on the website.
- The Winter/Spring 2006 Reserve Council newsletter is complete and has been posted on the Reserve Council website. There are features in the newsletter related to the CAC, about the Stewardship Award and the new chair..
- J. Fullmer and M. Pluzynski were guests on the Long Island Pine Barrens Society public access television show about Long Island environmental issues, which will air on public access channel 20 in June. J. Fullmer suggested that more public service announcements in a variety of formats could be done in the future.

K. Rancourt reported the following progress on water quality in the Reserve:

- In January and February, Reserve Office staff helped facilitate 3 subcommittee meetings of the Massapequa Creek Watershed Advisory Committee to discuss priority stormwater, education and outreach and habitat recommendations for the watershed action plan.
- The Swan River Watershed Advisory committee continues discussion through an internet “group” and is working to assist the Town with development of recommendations for the watershed action plan.
- The Reserve Office has been working with DOS and the Town of Islip to identify capital stormwater improvement projects, including several in the Browns River watershed that will be partially funded by a federal appropriation from Congressman Israel. This is an early step in implementation of the watershed action plan.
- Reserve Office staff continues to participate in monthly meetings of the Forge River Protection Task Force. The Task Force is focused on collecting baseline data to characterize the watershed and identifying potential sources of funding.
- The Reserve Office sent a letter (February 3rd) to Reserve Towns and select villages informing them of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation’s Environmental Protection Fund opportunity for Water Quality Improvement Projects, and highlighting the importance of this opportunity in relation to both CMP implementation and Phase II compliance.
- The evaluation process was completed for the Inventory and Analysis of Stormwater Drainage Infrastructure Mapping project. A proposal has been selected and the contract will be executed shortly. This project will assess the status of stormwater infrastructure mapping in the Reserve,

highlight successful mapping methodologies, and identify municipalities that require assistance to complete mapping. Mapping of stormwater infrastructure enables more accurate and objective characterization of stormwater sources of nonpoint source pollution and promotes the design and siting of cost effective projects and programs to mitigate and reverse nonpoint source pollution in priority waterbodies.

M. Pluzynski reported the following progress on South Shore Bayway development:

- Reserve Office staff has been working with Bayway partners to identify locations for new Bayway *Destinations* and *Connectors* and to develop signage at Bayway sites that is consistent with the New York State Coastal Resource Interpretive Program (NYSCRIP).
- The kiosk in Freeport was installed in 2005, the kiosk in Bay Shore will be installed next. Kiosks are being developed for Patchogue and the Shinnecock Canal.
- Reserve Office staff is working with Hempstead and Babylon and partnering with Fire Island National Seashore and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to install low-profile interpretive signs at a number of Bayway *Destinations*.
- A visitors center is being created on the Nautical Mile in Freeport that will include interpretive exhibits.

L. Siegel reported on water quality in the western bays and a teacher training program:

- The Reserve Council western bays water quality workgroup met on February 15, 2006. Discussion focused on the need to gather and to identify an interested researcher and funding to analyze the data. Reserve Office staff has been reaching out to researchers who may be interested.
- The western bays are listed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as an *impaired* waterbody for not meeting fecal coliform standards. It has been proposed that they also be listed as impaired due to nutrient loading.
- L. Siegel is teaching a 7 week, 30 hour course for teachers, called Ship Board Marine Science. The course includes classroom and field work and provides an opportunity for teachers to become more familiar with methods in environmental science. He is also coordinating an evening meeting of leisure boat captains to discuss the possibility of hosting class research trips on the estuary.

C. O'Reilly reported on living resource initiatives on the south shore:

- Dr. Kritzer of Environmental Defense, submitted a proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct a feasibility study for fish passage on the Carmans River.
- Volunteer monitoring of alewives in Reserve tributaries has begun.
- Public information sessions about the updated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats will be held on May 2nd and 3rd and a public hearing will be held on May ?. Please contact the Reserve Office for more information.

Pumpout Boats Thank You Letter:

R. Troy provided a brief update and distributed a status report on the efforts of the South Bay Cruising Club's pumpout subcommittee.

M. Dolan Murphy stated that comments on the draft letter thanking the Town of Islip for considering funds for a pumpout vessel in their 2006 budget be submitted to her by March 17th.

K. McAllister stated that Peconic Baykeeper would be willing to help fund and set up a monitoring program to demonstrate the need for additional pumpout facilities.

5. STEWARDSHIP AWARD

CAC members discussed increasing solicitation of nominations for the Reserve Council Stewardship Award and expanding the program to include more than one award.

Reserve Office staff agreed to produce a flyer with information about the stewardship award, post nomination information on its website, and provide CAC members with a paragraph describing the award program that can be used on member organization websites and newsletters. M. Dolan Murphy agreed to draft a press release and contact Suffolk Life newspaper with information about making nominations for the award.

P. Burford motioned to expand the stewardship award program to include more than one award. The motion was seconded by F. Sharkey and was passed. Possible award categories were discussed. It was decided that the Stewardship Award Subcommittee would meet to further discuss this topic.

L. Siegel suggested that a Reserve youth stewardship certificates could be created and be made available to teachers and schools to distribute to students who participate in estuary-related activities. J. Kayal motioned to support creation Reserve youth stewardship certificates by the Reserve Office. B. Sohm seconded the motion and was adopted.

6. GOALS FOR THE CAC IN 2006

Due to time constraints, the discussion of goals for the CAC in 2006 was tabled until the May 9, 2006 meeting.

B. Sohm suggested that developing an educational video about the Reserve would be an effective means of reaching many members of the public, especially young people. He expressed strong support for this idea.

J. Kayal made a motion to contact the Long Island Visitors Bureau to see if they would be interested in funding a video. The motion was not seconded.

L. Kane made a motion to form a subcommittee to address development of a video. R. Troy seconded the motion. B. Sohm, R. Weltner, W. Mubach, and L. Kane volunteered to be part of the subcommittee.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

N. Kearney announced that the Town of Oyster Bay is seeking educators to participate in its annual Marine Education Day, which will be held on June 2, 2006 this year. She also announced that the Town has organized a dune grass planting on March 18, 2006.

F. Sharkey expressed concern about the fate of the South Bay Boatworks Marine Railway in Patchogue. She explained that there was been an effort by the owner of the Boatworks to remove the marine railway and that many baymen and vessel owners depend on the rialway to haul out their large boats. She expressed support for preserving the railway and asked that those interested contact Long Island Traditions to find out more about this issue.

L. Kane announced that May 6th and 7th Islip Town Leaseholders Association would be organizing their 9th annual clean up. She also announced that the association is finalizing negotiations with the the Town of Islip to extend the leases to 20 years.

K. McAllister reported that Peconic Baykeeper had petitioned the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to list the Forge River on the 303(d) impaired waterbodies list, and that the DEC is poised to grant that position for three pollutants of concern. The public comment period closes March 17th. He noted that Forge River serves as a model for local participation and government action, progress will be tracked over the next five to ten years and if there is visible change it will show that effective action can reverse the trend of degrading water quality.

M. Dolan Murphy announced that at the May 9, 2006 CAC meeting representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers and NY Sea Grant would present information about ocean-bay water exchange.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.