

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

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DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2007

Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, New York
Chair: Maureen Dolan Murphy

CAC Members Present: Pam Burford (Fire Island Association); Ed Davis (Great South Bay Audubon); Linda Freilich (for Mike Cafaro) (Sierra Club); Joe Kayal (Independent); Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders Association); Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries); Maureen Dolan Murphy (Citizens Campaign for the Environment); Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association); Eric Tallbe (for Curt Matzinger) (South Shore Waterfowlers); Rich Troy (South Bay Cruising Club); Dave Thompson (Trout Unlimited).

CAC Members Absent: Brookhaven League of Women Voters; Brookhaven Baymen's Association; Ducks Unlimited; Mastic Beach Property Owners Association; Operation SPLASH; Students for Environmental Quality; South Shore Audubon Society; Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen; Peconic Baykeeper; NY Seafood Council

South Shore Estuary Reserve Staff Present: Jeff Fullmer (Director); and, Clare O'Reilly (Program Administrative Manager).

Guests Present: Phil Blindenhofer (Association of Marine Industries); Peg Hart; Harry Dodson and Sarah La Cour (Dodson Associates, Ltd.); Peter Mole; Kevin Morgan and John P. O'Donnell (Great South Bay Environmental, Inc.); and Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay).

1. Introductions

M. Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and CAC members and guests introduced themselves. M. Dolan Murphy noted the addition of a public portion to the meeting agenda.

2. Approval of CAC Meeting Minutes

P. Burford motioned to approve the March 13, 2007 meeting minutes. J. Kayal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Reports

SSER Office Report

The SSER Office report was distributed in the mailing to CAC members a week prior to the meeting.

Bayway Presentation by Dodson Associates

Harry Dodson and Sarah La Cour of Dodson Associates Ltd. reported on the South Shore Bayway Strategic Development and Marketing Plan. Dodson Associates will be the lead consultant on the project, and previously developed the Bayway Vision Document. Other team members include Smith & Jones, specializing in branding and marketing, and River Street Planning & Development, which has experience working on Local Waterfront Revitalization Projects.

S. La Cour reviewed the project scope, which includes research and analysis, preliminary planning, implementation plan development, marketing plan development, and outreach and education. The

approximate project end date is July 2008. Dodson Associates will be conducting initial reconnaissance over the next few months, and is seeking information from CAC members and others that will contribute to this project. M. Dolan Murphy is the CAC liaison to the Bayway Advisory Committee, which will be reviewing products and contributing feedback to the consultant team.

Discussion followed the report:

- What is the range of the Bayway plan? S. La Cour replied that the plan will cover the whole Reserve.
- Is the consultant team looking for suggested waterways to be considered in the plan? S. La Cour replied that the consultant team will be identifying potential Bayway connectors, including water trails. In previous Bayway related projects, Dodson Associates has toured the Reserve via road, boat and airplane, and travel on the water provided significant perspective on what is included in the Bayway.
- Are the related Bayway projects completed by Dodson Associates available on the internet? H. Dodson replied that there have been discussions of making those projects available via the internet.
- Are the aerial photos taken for related Bayway projects available to interested stakeholders? C. O'Reilly replied that the photos are available via the Reserve Office.
- Will another set of aerial photos be taken as part of the current project? H. Dodson replied that it was not part of the project scope.
- A website will be set up to facilitate communication between the advisory committee and the consultant team. Input and comments can also be contributed via the Reserve Office.
- J. Kayal express his support of the consultant team and project objective to create a recognizable Bayway presence.

Self-Study Workgroup Report

M. Dolan Murphy reported on the Council Self Study Workgroup meeting held on April 4. The origin of this work group came from a resolution brought to the Council from the CAC. The workgroup discussed development of bylaws, and decided to examine the CAC's charters and procedures as a model for Council bylaws. The workgroup also discussed revision of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The founding legislation does not specify how or when the CMP should be revised. Workgroup members discussed how the CMP should evolve as new issues arise, and establishing targets and goals to encourage partners to strive for and to prioritize implementation actions. The founding legislation does not specify the role of topical workgroups, but does specify the establishment of a CAC and Technical Advisory Committee. The Council has previously endorsed work groups as beneficial to the implementation process. The workgroup also discussed using workgroups in revising the CMP, but agreed that developing Council bylaws should be developed first. The Self Study workgroup will meet again before the next Council meeting to develop proposed bylaws.

J. Kayal asked if the workgroup discussed the possibility of the Council taking an advocacy position. M. Dolan Murphy replied that advocacy was not discussed extensively, but Council members did express an interest in being more active, and identifying priority actions and funding sources to support these priorities.

Council Meeting Report

M. Dolan Murphy reported on the April 25 Council meeting:

- The Council discussed forming a water quality and hazards monitoring work group. Council members discussed if there should be one work group or two to cover these topics, and came to a consensus that both topics could be covered. A meeting of interested stakeholders was held prior to the Council meeting to discuss monitoring needs, and the Reserve Office distributed a survey to meeting participants asking if they were interested in participating in the work group. The TAC has not been active in recent years, and Council members suggested a water quality work group should involve TAC members, which may prompt the TAC to become more active again in structuring topic based work groups.
- Representatives from Bowne AE&T Group gave a presentation on the status of the Inventory and Assessment of Stormwater Drainage Infrastructure Mapping project. The purpose is to assess which municipalities are conducting stormwater infrastructure mapping, and what is the status of these mapping efforts. Possible recommendations include developing standards for consistent mapping among municipalities. The study is a precursor for a larger project to map stormwater infrastructure in the entire Reserve. Infrastructure mapping can help stormwater managers determine which infrastructure should be addressed first, and determine where drainage is going.
- Superintendent Mike Reynolds of Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) gave a presentation on preparation of a FINS General Management Plan, and would like to give a similar presentation to the CAC, which CAC members agreed to. M. Dolan Murphy will request that FINS present at the next CAC meeting. FINS held a science conference on May 9 - 10 at Stony Brook. J. Fullmer participated in a panel discussion on an ocean parks stewardship initiative being developed by the National Parks Service.
- The Town of Southampton is beginning efforts to establish a marine park and preserve for 2,500 acres of ecologically sensitive area in Shinnecock Bay.

Western Bays Update

M. Dolan Murphy provided an update on the Western Bays Workgroup. The Western Bays are listed on the Impaired Water Body list for pathogens and were recently listed for nitrogen. There is speculation that excess nitrogen from the four sewage treatment plants discharging into these shallow bays may be causing ulva growth. The workgroup reached a consensus to move ahead with the TMDL process to assess the pollution problem and possible solutions. This decision is was supported by the Council. A similar process was conducted in the Long Island Sound which led to capping of nitrogen levels discharged into the Sound. Peter Scully, Region 1 DEC Director, or a representative will give a presentation at the September CAC meeting on the TMDL process.

The Jones Beach sewage treatment plant's discharge permit is due for renewal. The plant has been cited for 32 violations in the past five years. Two options being considered for the future of the plant are connecting to the Cedar Creek plant which discharges into the ocean, or using UV technology to treat contaminated waste. A decision has not been reached on the best course of action.

Education Workgroup Update

J. Fullmer provided an update on the Formal Education Work Group. The workgroup met on April 17 at the Reserve Office, and a meeting summary is available. The workgroup discussed developing a film about the Reserve, and the related CMP recommendations. Discussion focused on potentially developing two different products: a video about the Reserve, and a package of teaching materials for teachers to incorporate in their curriculum. The workgroup also discussed if a media product should be developed to serve both purposes. Luke Thorpe, a local film maker, provided suggestions and recommendations about what product should be developed. He estimated that it would cost approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000 to develop a video or DVD.

The workgroup decided to develop two surveys for guidance in developing media and curriculum products. One survey will be used to determine how local educators use the SSER, asking questions related to where educators bring students and what activities they use to teach students about the Reserve. Another survey will be used to determine what level of interest for SSER curriculum products exists among educators in the Reserve and beyond, and how a DVD or video would be used in classroom.

Discussion followed the report:

- L. Freilich expressed interest in joining the workgroup, and commented that she has significant experience in developing curriculums. She suggested developing a series of short films with accompanying lessons to reinforce the message of the films.
- L. Kane commented that the CAC Education Subcommittee had originally discussed developing an hour long video for an adult audience. B. Sohm added that the workgroup decided to expand the audience to include schools for the media product to be of the most value. He suggested collecting a large body of film to be used in developing an hour long film, and then expand development of several films for various audiences. He expressed his support of using the survey to gain input from educators about what kind of product should be used.
- P. Mole suggested developing a short “You-Tube” style video for the 18-35 year old demographic which has a short attention span. L. Kane suggested that the length of the film would depend on the dynamism of the film maker, and should be long enough to hold people’s interest.
- N. Kearney asked where an hour long film about the Reserve would be shown. CAC members suggested libraries and local public access cable channels for broadcast.
- B. Sohm suggested that the CAC Education subcommittee will produce their own video. M. Dolan Murphy replied that the CAC does not have funding for producing a video. J. Fullmer commented that there would need to be process to identify appropriate funding sources for such a project as discussed at previous workgroup meetings. B. Sohm commented that he believed that this process has already been done. M. Dolan Murphy replied that the Council agreed that the process for developing educational media projects should be done within the Council Formal Education Workgroup in conjunction with CAC recommendations. B. Sohm suggested that the CAC Education subcommittee had completed its work and should not continue to meet.

EBM Report/Follow-up

On behalf of Carl LoBue of The Nature Conservancy, a survey was distributed regarding state agencies represented on the New York State Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council.

4. Great South Bay Environmental Presentation

K. Morgan and J. O'Donnell of Great South Bay Environmental, Inc. (GSBE) gave a presentation on their proposed tidal flow distribution system. The presentation included an explanation of water residence time in the bays, and how a tidal flow distribution pipeline system will decrease residence time and increase flushing of the bay. The proposed system will be done in phases: water quality testing and gathering previously collected data, identifying system locations, engineering and development, construction, commissioning and monitoring, and testing and observing the system. GSBE applied for funding from the Nassau County Bond Act to develop and implement this system. Their proposal asks for \$18 million, with a time line of four to five years for project completion.

Discussion followed the presentation:

- How will small organisms be affected by this system? GSBE replied that the impact on organisms and other factors will be examined in further studies.
- How will salinity levels be controlled? GSBE replied that their proposed system includes a desalinization plant to control salinity levels. The proposed desalinization plant will be located with a pumphouse on Fire Island.
- Is there a similar system in place elsewhere? GSBE replied that a similar system was installed in the East River in the early 1900s.
- How would a large storm event impact the system? GSBE replied that would be investigated in further studies.
- J. Kayal commented that the permitting process for a project of this nature would take a long time, and that it will likely require more money than the amount proposed. GSBE replied that their estimated costs were based on rates offered by local engineers in support of the project, and therefore were not standard rates.
- M. Dolan Murphy commented that the CAC agreed to have the presentation, and that it is an appropriate venue to present new ideas.

6. New Business

R. Troy proposed that future CAC mailings should be sent via email to those with email access. C. O'Reilly agreed to include a CAC contact list in the mailing for the next meeting, and will ask CAC members to confirm their contact information. The mailing for the September meeting will be distributed via email and hard copy. R. Troy also asked if CAC minutes could be posted on the CAC page of the SSER website, and C. O'Reilly said it was possible.

7. Public Portion/Announcements

P. Burford reminded CAC members that nominations for the Stewardship Award are due by June 15. The CAC will review suggested award recipients at the next meeting. Those who have nominated individuals and groups in the past are encouraged to resubmit.

L. Kane informed CAC members of a recent situation regarding the Islip Town Leaseholders Association licensing agreement with the Town of Islip, which proposed increasing lease rates by 400%. Leaseholders, with support from Long Island Traditions and CMP recommendations to preserve the bayhouses, confronted the Islip administration about this prohibitive increase. The Town Board agreed to

postpone increasing lease rates for one year, and negotiate a new licensing agreement with the leaseholders. L. Kane also expressed an interest in nominating the bayhouse islands as Bayway destinations.

8. Adjournment

L. Kane motioned to adjourn the meeting. J. Kayal seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.