

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

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DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2007

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

CAC Members Present: Allan Aronoff (Brookhaven League of Women Voters); Matthew Atkinson (for Kevin McAllister) (Peconic Baykeeper); Pam Burford (Fire Island Association); Linda Freilich (Sierra Club); Hank Dam (Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen); Ed Davis (Great South Bay Audubon); Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders Association); Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries); Wendy Murbach (South Shore Audubon Society); Maureen Dolan Murphy (Citizens Campaign for the Environment); Dave Thompson (Trout Unlimited); and Rob Weltner (Operation SPLASH).

CAC Members Absent: Brookhaven Baymen's Association; Mastic Beach Property Owners Association; Students for Environmental Quality; South Bay Cruising Club; South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association; South Shore Waterfowlers; NY Seafood Council; Joe Kayal

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

Guests Present: Phil Blindenhofer (Association of Marine Industries); Robert Cizek; Mike Cafaro (Sierra Club); Paula Valentine and Diane Abell (Fire Island National Seashore, National Parks Service); Elizabeth Mikucki-Fleury and Ernie Rossano (ERM Group Foundation); and Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay).

1. Introductions

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

2. Approval of CAC Meeting Minutes

P. Burford motioned to approve the May 8, 2007 meeting minutes. H. Dam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Reports

SSER Office Report

L. Siegel updated the CAC on Reserve outreach activities since the last meeting:

- Office staff distributed about 50 Reserve Stewardship Recognition Certificates to members of the Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality, Bayport/Blue Point High School Ecology Club, Sayville High School Biology Club, Maritime Museum volunteers, and a student of L. Freilich's.

M. Dolan Murphy asked if the names of certificate recipients will be listed on the Reserve Council's website. L. Siegel replied that he will look into obtaining permission to do so.

- As part of the South Shore Estuary Learning Facilitators (sSELF) program, office staff will be working with students from local high schools including Patchogue-Medford, Sayville, Bayport/Blue Point High School, Islip High School, and Oceanside High School in the fall, and Operation Splash in August.
- Office staff developed and distributed surveys to educators regarding how educators use the Reserve and audiovisual needs as discussed at the May CAC meeting.
- Office staff attended the following education and outreach events with SSER exhibit: Patchogue SEAFAIR (6/8-10), International Conference on Horseshoe Crabs at Dowling College (6/11-6/13), and the Post-Morrow Foundation Habitat and Heritage Partnership celebration (6/30). Operation SPLASH distributed Reserve educational materials at the Nautical Festival in Freeport early in June.
- The Town of Hempstead is offering free kayak “eco-tours” of Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve in Merrick. More information is available on the Reserve website. W. Murbach added that the Town of Hempstead held a press conference on July 5 announcing this program.

C. O’Reilly reported on the following Reserve Office activities:

- Office staff continued to coordinate the volunteer alewife monitoring survey. Volunteers reported seeing several hundred alewives in the Carmans River and a few dozen in the Swan River. This was the first year that alewives were officially documented in the Swan River, and is impetus for installing a fish ladder at Swan Lake which the Town of Brookhaven received Bond Act funds for.
- Office staff attended the Council Diadromous Fish Work Group meeting on June 13, and provided updates on the volunteer alewife monitoring survey and Reserve tributary barrier assessment project. Work group members provided updates on various fish passage and related projects in the Reserve, including planned installation of the Hards Lake fish ladder. Office staff also provided update at the Long Island Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Council meeting.
- The Barrier Assessment and watershed planning project kick off meeting was held in late May with Nelson Pope & Voorhis (NP&V) and representative stakeholders. The barrier assessment portion of the project will be conducted first, and data sheets and collection protocol were reviewed and approved. NP&V will be collecting information on barrier characteristics, in stream features, and habitat assessment in the Browns River, Carlls River, Swan River, Mud Creek, Carmans River, and Beaver Dam Creek. The final product will be a report with recommendations for barrier modification for fish passage. Watershed management plans for Beaver Dam Creek and Carlls River will be developed later this year by NP&V.
- The Brookhaven Town Board formally adopted the Swan River watershed management plan (WMP) on 5/1. The Swan River plan is the second municipally adopted EPF funded WMP in the Reserve. An announcement and a link to the plan are on Reserve website homepage.
- Implementation of the Browns River & Greens Creek watershed management plan is moving forward. Office staff is working with Islip Town Environmental Council (ITEC) and Town of Islip Planning Dept to develop an educational brochure to be distributed to watershed residents by ITEC. L. Siegel met with Maria Brown, a teacher at Sayville H.S. to discuss water quality monitoring and tour Browns and Greens Creeks watershed.

- Archived CAC minutes are now available on the Reserve website. Future CAC meeting mailings will be delivered via email to members who request it.

J. Fullmer reported on the following Reserve South Shore Bayway activities:

- Office staff is working on the development of interpretive signage with the Village of East Rockaway for Talfor Boat Basin, and with the Town of Babylon for Oak Beach Park, both Bayway destinations. Office staff is also working with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and the Town of Islip on Bayway interpretive signage at recognized Bayway destinations.
- Completed Patchogue River Maritime Center NYSCRIP Kiosk was installed at the Fire Island National Seashore Watch Hill Ferry Terminal on June 8. The kiosk was displayed during the Patchogue SEAFAIR event and is the first permanent SSER interpretive project resulting from a partnership between the state, federal government and a Reserve village. A photo and brief article about the kiosk unveiling at SEAFAIR was posted on Reserve website.
- Office staff met with representatives of Bayway strategic implementation plan consultants (Dodson Associates) to review previous pilot cultural resources survey work prepared by LI Traditions, share information and identify strategic locations for potential Bayway destinations/connectors and maritime interpretive themes prior to planned field reconnaissance by Dodson staff.
- Office staff assisted with facilitation of meeting (6/26) of Nassau County stakeholders (Town of Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Nassau County, Operation SPLASH) to discuss proposed Nassau County Bond Act project to establish a water trail for non-motorized vessels between south shore waterfront County parks and potentially Town locations.

L. Freilich asked if maps of the proposed water trail would be developed, and J. Fullmer replied that it is included in the proposal. Eventually, there will be maps for the whole Bayway with water trails to serve as connectors. This initiative will be included in the Bayway Strategic Implementation Plan currently being developed by Dodson Associates as presented at the last CAC meeting.

- A volunteer clean up of derelict boats in Wreck Cove took place with assistance by Reserve Council member Captain Mike Eagan, South Bay Cruises; Betsy Wintenburger, OPRHP; and Jim Reynolds, Towboat US. This action is the first step towards cleaning up debris from the Wreck Cove area. Additional equipment is necessary to clean up additional debris. This cleanup effort was partially a result of CAC stewardship award program. The Reserve Council awarded Wilfred Kleisler with the Stewardship Award in 2006 in recognition of his efforts to promote removal of debris from this area. This cleanup effort will help raise visibility of this issue, and will encourage others to become involved and discourage individuals from dumping their boats in the bay.

N. Kearney described a similar cleanup effort on the north shore involving students. L. Kane asked who would be receiving the derelict boats, and J. Fullmer replied that in this instance state parks has agreed to accept the derelict vessels.

4. Presentation on Fire Island National Seashore General Management Plan

Paula Valentine and Diane Abell of Fire Island National Seashore gave a presentation on development and updating the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) General Management Plan. The presentation described the historical establishment of FINS, its significance and the importance of the General Management Plan. The focus of the plan process is engaging stakeholders to understand why a park exists and its general purpose. The plan will lay out a vision for the next 15 to 20 years, and will be used as a guidance document for park management. It will address issues such as protection of resources,

specifically the Sunken Forest and the William Floyd estate; zoning; community identification; transportation; shoreline stabilization; and interpretive themes. There have been a series of scoping sessions to discuss these issues, and there will be additional opportunities for stakeholder input in the future as the planning process progresses. CAC members asked how the FINS general management plan would take into account the SSER CMP recommendations and how it could improve stakeholder participation from the barrier island communities. CAC Chair Dolan-Murphy thanked the FINS representatives for an informative presentation.

5. Stewardship Award

P. Burford and M. Dolan Murphy presented the Reserve Council Stewardship Award Subcommittee recommendations for recipients of the 2007 awards, including the recommended and alternate candidates in each category (individual and group). Candidate names were withheld until CAC members had reached consensus on which candidates were to be recommended to the Reserve Council.

H. Dam motioned to endorse the subcommittee's choice for the individual award [Charles Balsamo]. D. Thompson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

P. Burford motioned to endorse the subcommittee's choice for the group award [Art Flick Chapter of Trout Unlimited]. A. Aronoff seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

M. Dolan reported that a local artist to create the awards had been identified.

6. Public Portion/Announcements

N. Kearney announced an initiative by the Town of Oyster Bay to collect old unused boat flares in June on the north shore and said they expect to do it again on the south shore at the boat show at Tobay Beach Marina on October 7th. She also announced that the Jones Beach power squadron will be working with the town on an adopt-a-waterway program.

L. Kane has discussed with representatives from the Town of Islip the need to recognize certain bay houses as local landmarks of cultural and historic significance, and the need to increase efforts to regulate motorized vessel traffic near wetlands. The town government supported the Islip Town Leaseholders Association's application to have the bay houses on Captree, Havemeyer and Sexton islands considered as a South Shore Bayway destination.

L. Freilich announced an upcoming lecture by Ron Vitis on "green" building at the Cold Spring Harbor Library on September 16 from 2:00-4:00pm. Sierra Club and Operation Splash will hold a beach clean up on September 22.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.