

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

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MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2008

Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, New York

Chair: Maureen Dolan Murphy

Vice-Chair: Allan Aronoff

CAC Members Present: Pam Burford (Fire Island Association); George Costa (for Dave Thompson, Trout Unlimited); Ed Davis (Great South Bay Audubon); Maureen Dolan Murphy (Citizens Campaign for the Environment); Linda Freilich (Sierra Club); Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders Association); Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper); Wendy Murbach (South Shore Audubon Society); Dave Schaper (NY Seafood Council); Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association and South Shore Waterfowlers); and, Florence Sharkey (Brookhaven Baymen's Association);.

CAC Members Absent: Association of Marine Trades; Brookhaven League of Women Voters; Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen; Mastic Beach Property Owners Association; Operation SPLASH; South Bay Cruising Club; Students for Environmental Quality; and, Joe Kayal.

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

Guests Present: Chart Guthrie (NYSDEC); Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay); and, Robert Kessler and Audrey Kessler (CSYL).

1. Introductions

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

2. Approval of CAC Meeting Minutes

B. Sohm motioned to approve the November 13, 2007 meeting minutes. D. Schaper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Presentation

C. Guthrie, Regional Freshwater Fisheries Manager for New York State Department of Environment Conservation (NYSDEC), gave a presentation on aquatic invasive species, which are non native species causing harm to the environment or human health. NYSDEC has established a new Office of Invasive Species to oversee partnerships for regional invasive species management (PRISM). The Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) is the local PRISM conducting research and planning for mitigating invasive species problems on Long Island. C. Guthrie presented CAC members with information about freshwater invasive aquatic species, explaining how they arrived on Long Island and several control options.

Discussion followed the presentation:

- When is a species considered to be non-native? C. Guthrie replied that species are considered non-native if they arrived after the arrival of humans to a particular area. Historic naturalist records are used to determine when species were first determined to be present. For example, alewives are native to Long Island, but they are considered an invasive species in the Great Lakes because they were introduced to that area via the Erie Canal.
- Is it correct that species develop in niches where there is nothing to control them? C. Guthrie replied that species evolve in a particular environment where there are predators and threats present to control their population, and when they move to a new environment these threats are not present so they are able to flourish.
- Have aquatic invasive species been looked for in the Reserve? C. Guthrie replied that the NYSDEC Division of Water looked for aquatic invasive species in 2006.
- How can individuals report the presence of invasive species? C. Guthrie suggested that individuals should contact The Nature Conservancy which manages LIISMA, or a botanical garden to have a botanist identify the species. NYSDEC does not currently maintain an updated distribution list of invasive species.
- Does dredging to remove aquatic invasive species cause “dead zones?” C. Guthrie replied that the creation of dead zones from dredging in freshwater bodies depends on the depth of the dredged area and water flow. Freshwater bodies differ from saltwater bodies because they can turn over and reoxygenate. If a freshwater body is dredged too deep it can create an anoxic condition, but if it is not dredged deep enough and there are remaining nutrients, it is possible that invasive plants will grow back.
- Are there any edible invasive plants? C. Guthrie was not aware of invasive plants that are edible by humans.
- Is dam removal an option for the control of invasive species? C. Guthrie replied that removing an impoundment to a freshwater body will restore flow, which may prevent invasive species growth. However, removing the impoundment turns a pond into a river. Dam removal should be considered when examining the management of a man made reservoirs.
- Has a barrier been removed to control invasive species, and then reconstructed when the invasive species are eradicated? C. Guthrie was not aware of such a situation. Decreasing the water level in a freshwater body, known as draw down, is another option for controlling invasive species. This technique works well in cold climates where bottom sediments can freeze, and plants left above the water surface do not survive. This technique would not work well in shallow ponds on Long Island.
- Are some of the fish present in Upper Lake and Lower Lake on the Carmans River invasive? C. Guthrie replied that large mouth bass found in these lakes are not native to Long Island, but are not causing environmental damage.
- Why does Ludwigia hug the shoreline of a lake? C. Guthrie replied that it begins to grow along the shoreline, and then grows out into the lake creating a mat of vegetation.
- Is there a native species of phragmites? C. Guthrie replied that phragmites is native to North America, but the European phenotype is invasive on Long Island.

- Are there hand removals of invasive species planned on Long Island? C. Guthrie replied that there are hand pulls scheduled on the Peconic River for June 21 - 22, and July 12 - 13. For more information, please contact C. Guthrie at caguthri@gw.dec.state.ny.us or Kathy Schwager of The Nature Conservancy, coordinator of LIISMA, at kschwager@tnc.org
- Is hand removal the most common control technique currently used on Long Island? C. Guthrie replied that hand removal techniques are used by the Village of Patchogue to control invasive species in Patchogue Lake.
- The Town of Brookhaven has organized a task force to consider control techniques for invasive species in Upper and Lower Lakes on the Carmans River. Suffolk County is funding a feasibility study of control options through its 1/4 cent tax water quality improvement fund. K. McAllister suggested controlling nutrients that promote invasive species growth should also be considered by the Carmans River Task Force. C. Guthrie mentioned that there is a report documenting stormwater inputs to the Carmans River, but the contribution of nutrients from failing septic systems is unknown. K. McAllister suggested that there is a need to rewrite codes for sanitary systems, and that failed sanitary systems should be addressed in real estate transfers. Sanitary system inspections could be funded through a transfer tax.
- Does a permit for the application of herbicides require more than a visual inspection of the water body? C. Guthrie replied that monitoring transects of aquatic life present in the water body are required before and after herbicide application.
- What are the impacts of fluridone application on aquatic life? C. Guthrie replied that scientific literature about the application of fluridone indicates that it has low toxicity to organisms other than aquatic vegetation if applied properly. C. Guthrie mentioned that when fluridone was applied to Donahues Pond on the Peconic River, fluridone did not eradicate bladderwort although the label indicated it would.

4. Reports

SSER Office Report

J. Fullmer updated the CAC on Reserve office activities since the last meeting:

- The next Reserve Council meeting will take place on March 5 at Stony Brook Southampton, prior to the next CAC meeting on March 11.
- The Reserve Office has reviewed the draft Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping Inventory and Assessment report, and has submitted comments. The final report will be available shortly, with recommendations encouraging Reserve municipalities to develop a standardized mapping protocol to gain an understanding of the drainage conveyance systems in the Reserve.
- Following a resolution by the Reserve Council passed at their last meeting, the Reserve Office sent a letter to EPA and NYSDEC encouraging the preparation of a TMDL for the Western Bays of the Reserve. The Reserve Office received a response from the EPA regional director indicating EPA's awareness of the issue and support for preparing a TMDL, while acknowledging that more data needs to be collected and analyzed for a TMDL. The Reserve Office and partners are working together to collect this information.

- The Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Advisory Committee met in October, and preparations are being made for the public outreach meeting to gather information and input on the watershed management plan's proposed goals and objectives.
- The draft Massapequa Creek Watershed Management Plan is currently being reviewed by the Reserve Office. Comments will be submitted, and a final draft will be reviewed by the watershed advisory committee.
- Reserve Office staff will be attending the upcoming Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council meeting to provide an update on the Great South Bay Ecosystem-based Management demonstration project. CAC members were invited to attend.
- The final stakeholder engagement meeting for the Great South Bay Ecosystem-based Management project was rescheduled from December 13th to January 24th, and will be held at the Long Island Maritime Museum.
- Construction has begun to prepare the site for installation of a fish ladder on the Hards Lake Dam Spillway on the Carmans River. Construction is expected to continue depending upon weather conditions.

G. Costa mentioned that he has been visiting the site daily to document the installation process, the first of its kind on Long Island.

- The Reserve Office is currently reviewing the draft Barrier Assessment report, and will provide comments to the consultant shortly.
- The Bayway Advisory Group met this afternoon with the Strategic Implementation and Marketing Plan consultants to discuss the first draft of the plan, and view proposed visual identity renderings.
- sSELF program participants have begun submitting monitoring data, and Reserve Office staff are exploring using Google applications to collect the data as suggested by Rich Troy.
- A local Girl Scout troop in Babylon received Stewardship Certificates in recognition of their work assisting the Town of Babylon with storm drain stenciling.

G. Costa suggested that the Long Island chapter of Trout Unlimited should receive certificates in recognition of their monitoring work.

- The Formal Education Work Group will be meeting in February to discuss the results of their surveys of educators regarding educational materials about the Reserve.
- CAC members are encourage to submit Stewardship Award applications for the 2008 round. The application is available on the Reserve Council's website, and applications will be distributed at the next CAC meeting.

5. Update on Nassau County Hearing on Western Bays

M. Dolan Murphy updated CAC members on a hearing recently held in Nassau County about sewage treatment plants in the Western Bays. Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Operation SPLASH

provided testimony to Nassau County legislators about the health of the bays, and provided them with a paper prepared by both groups. At the hearing, Peter Scully, NYSDEC Regional Director, reported that his office's budget request included allocations for a TMDL for the Western Bays. A representative from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation reported at the hearing that they are planning on hooking up the outfall pipe from the Jones Beach Sewage Treatment Plant to the outfall pipe from the Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment Plant, which discharged into the ocean instead of the bays. Funding for the outfall pipe and a plant upgrade has been allocated, but project work has not begun yet. Involvement of the regional EPA office is necessary to move the TMDL forward. M. Dolan Murphy will invite an EPA representative to a future CAC meeting and will continue to keep the CAC informed as the process moves forward.

6. New Business

No new business was discussed.

7. Public Portion/Announcements

F. Sharkey announced that several baymen, including herself, will be speaking at the American Museum of Natural History on Saturday, January 12th from 1pm to 4pm in conjunction with an exhibit about water currently on display at the museum.

K. McAllister announced that on Saturday, March 8th, there will be a "Bayscaping Symposium" organized by Peconic Baykeeper and Sayville High School's Students Working for Enhanced Environmental Protection. The symposium will present information about sustainable landscaping practices. To register, please contact Maria Brown at Sayville High School.

N. Kearney announced that the Town of Oyster Bay will be organizing dune grass planting at Tobay Beach on March 15th starting at 10:00am. The town has also scheduled Marine Education Day for June 6th at Theodore Roosevelt Park in Oyster Bay.

L. Kane announced that the Town of Islip and the Islip Town Leaseholder's Association have renegotiated a 20 year lease for the bayhouses on several islands in Great South Bay.

L. Freilich announced that the Town of Brookhaven will be releasing their Stormwater Drainage Management Plan. There is a public meeting about the plan on January 14th at 4:00pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.