

**South Shore Estuary Reserve Council**  
**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**300 Woodcleft Avenue, Suite E, Freeport, New York 11520**  
**Phone: (516) 470-BAYS Fax: (516) 378-2879 [www.estuary.cog.ny.us](http://www.estuary.cog.ny.us)**

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2008

Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, New York

Chair: Maureen Dolan Murphy

Vice-Chair: Allan Aronoff

**CAC Members Present:** Maureen Dolan Murphy (Citizens Campaign for the Environment); Allan Aronoff, (Brookhaven League of Women Voters); Jim Brown (South Shore Audubon Society); Linda Freilich (Sierra Club); Joe Kayal (Independent)

**CAC Members Absent:** Bellport Students for Environmental Quality; Phil Blindenhofer (Association of Marine Industries); Pam Burford (Fire Island Association); Michael Cafaro (Alternate for Linda Freilich, Sierra Club); Hank Dam (Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen); Ed Davis (Great South Bay Audubon Society); Bob DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association); Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders Association); Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries); Curt Matzinger (South Shore Waterfowlers Association); Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper); David Schaper (NY Seafood Council); Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association and South Shore Waterfowlers); Florence Sharkey (Brookhaven Bayman's Association); David Thompson (Trout Unlimited); Rich Troy (South Bay Cruising Club); Rob Weltner (Operation SPLASH).

**South Shore Estuary Reserve Staff Present:** Jeff Fullmer (Director); Lou Siegel (Science Coordinator); Patrice Benneward (Program Implementation Specialist); Sherry Forgash (Program Implementation Specialist); Sheri Lyn Jewhurst (Program Administration Manager)

**Guests Present:** Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay)

1. *Introductions:* Maureen Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:21pm.

After introductions, it became clear that a quorum of voting members would not be present potentially due to the change in the regular meeting date and other Reserve related meetings held on the same date. It was agreed that any actions requiring a vote would need to be deferred to the January 2009 meeting.

2. *Approval of September 9, 2008 CAC Minutes:* Deferred to January 2009.

3. *Reports:*

SSER Office Report

- Reserve Office Director Jeff Fullmer introduced the CAC to Sheri Lyn Jewhurst, new Program Administration Manager at the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office and proceeded with staff to provide the Reserve office update:
- The CAC was briefed on the outcome of the Reserve Council Partner Boat Tour held on October 16th. The fourth annual Reserve Council Stewardship Awards were presented during the boat tour. (Riverhead Foundation for Marine Preservation and Research and Alexandra Mancuso). Appreciation was expressed to the CAC for its continuing role of

advancing the award program as a Reserve comprehensive management plan implementation activity.

- The next Reserve Council meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2008 from 1-4PM at the Captree Cove Restaurant at Captree State Park.
- The Governor announced 2008 Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) awards to Reserve municipalities, a list of which was provided to CAC members as a handout. A brief overview of the awarded projects listed in the handout was provided.
- The 2006-2008 Reserve comprehensive management plan "Partners for Progress" Implementation Status Report is being compiled by Reserve staff with a target of having a first draft of the text ready for the December Reserve Council Meeting.
- The Reserve Office is coordinating with the Town of Babylon on development of a watershed management plan for the Carl's River.
- The Reserve Stewardship Certificate program is continuing. During the Council boat tour certificates were awarded to Enrico Nardone of the Seatuck Environmental Association for their efforts to lead the volunteer Alewife monitoring program, and Sandra Kosak for her assistance to Alexandra Mancuso with the art layout of "Great Blue's Message".
- The South Shore Estuary Learning Facilitator (sSELF) Program continues. Six school groups actively conducting Reserve water quality monitoring and collecting/submitted data at this time. The Reserve office was informed that the New York State Marine Educators Association (NYSMEA) in cooperation with the Reserve office will be awarded a second grant from the ERM foundation for approximately \$7,000.00 in the 2009 calendar year to continue the program. Lou Siegel will be making a presentation about the sSELF program at the January 7<sup>th</sup> Sierra Club meeting at Dowling College in response to the club's \$800.00 donation in support of the program.
- A Reserve Dredged Materials Management workgroup meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2008. The Reserve CMP recommends development of a Dredged Materials Management Plan for the estuary to provide enhanced coordination among Reserve government partners and to promote safe navigational access to the estuary by recreational and commercial vessels. An inventory of information related to Reserve dredged materials management practices is currently being conducted by a consultant managed by the Department of State and Reserve office to advance development of a dredged materials management plan to determine the most beneficial ways to manage and productively reuse dredged material.

#### Western Bays Workgroup Report

- The Western Bays Water Quality Workgroup met on November 18, 2008. Numerous government, academic and non-profit partners attended the meeting and discussed progress towards establishment of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Hempstead Bays. Presentations were made by staff from the United States Geological Survey and Stony Brook School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences outlining research and

monitoring to be conducted to determine the status of the bays ecosystem and fill data gaps necessary for the TMDL development. After research/monitoring is completed, the DEC estimates it will take 3-5 years to develop the TMDL. In the interim, it was agreed that local governments must continue to plan ahead for improvements and updates to their wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

#### South Shore Bayway Workgroup Report

- A Bayway partner update meeting to discuss the status of the draft South Shore Bayway Strategic Implementation and Marketing Plan was held on October 16, 2008 for Reserve Council members and interested partners prior the Reserve Partner Boat Tour. About 30 Bayway partners attended representing local governments, recreational and tourist related businesses and non-profit estuary stakeholder groups. After a presentation by members of the Bayway plan advisory committee, the partners were enthusiastic and discussed the various components of the draft plan including a dedicated website, outreach brochures, a visual identity and recommended destinations and connectors, and ways that implementation of the plan and promotion of the Bayway concept could be advanced public/private Reserve partners.
  - The final draft Bayway strategy has been submitted to the Department of State, work continues for preparing the launch of the website, Reserve staff is working toward having a revised version of the plan that includes a specific section on the NYS Coastal Interpretive Signage Program. Formal release of the plan and launching of the website is targeted for early 2009.
4. *Election of CAC Chair and Vice Chair for 2009-11 Term:* Deferred to January 2009 meeting
  5. *Public Portion/Announcements:*
    - Jeff Fullmer raised advancement of the CACs mission during challenging economic times. He suggested that the CAC consider the current economic climate as an opportunity to creatively emphasize the recreational and educational benefits of promoting a sustainable maritime economy in connection to the environmental benefits of a thriving South Shore Estuary. He suggested it could be beneficial for the advancement of the Reserve CMP to have policy makers and Reserve partners informed about the various benefits that could stem from increased tourism and appreciation of our maritime resources, provided they continue to advance efforts to preserve and expand environmental quality and public accessibility to the Reserve.
    - Linda Freilich suggested that once the South Shore Bayway strategy is formally launched, she would like to help get an article published in the Sierra Club national magazine. The CAC recognizes this increased publicity as having potential to increase appropriate visitation and public appreciation of the Reserve.
    - Patrice Benneward announced that the Fire Island Lighthouse celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 1<sup>st</sup>. A South Shore Bayway “Roadshow” display was created for

the event in order to educate visitors to participate in similar events that promote Bayway destinations.

- Maureen Dolan Murphy pointed out that five sewage treatment plants are discharging into the Reserve western bays. The Citizens Campaign for the Environment has been strongly advocating for tertiary treatment in the Bay Park sewage treatment plant with a possible ultraviolet system to disinfect the sewage. Even if the sewage treatment plants decide to have ocean outfalls, they should still upgrade to minimize pollutants.
  - Nancy Kearney discussed the “Greening Our Schools” program meeting coordinated by the Town of Oyster Bay and the Sierra Club. Approximately 50 people attended to discuss reducing energy demands and possibilities for renewable energies in schools.
  - Linda Freilich reported on the status of a proposed “Green Leaf” trail in the Bayport area near the flea market. There are 4 miles of trails on public lands preliminarily marked by the Sierra Club, but there is some resistance to the establishment of official trails because residents bordering the area have encroached upon the trail land with their properties.
  - Jim Brown reported that the South Shore Audubon Society worked in conjunction with the Molloy Civic Association to successfully convince Nassau County to preserve long standing undeveloped land near Molloy College from becoming baseball fields.
  - Jeff Fullmer mentioned that he had been in contact with members of the Association of Marine Industries (AMI) about antifouling paint BMPs in response to the presentation on harmful marine bottom paints that was given by Rob Weltner of Operation SPLASH at the September CAC meeting. He said that they recognize that the use of antifouling paints for boat maintenance with toxic ingredients such as heavy metals and the release of them in marina waters causes bottom sediment contamination resulting in extremely costly dredge spoil management. He said that they were interested in CAC thoughts and suggestions and supportive of finding ways to work with the CAC to promote safer alternatives to harmful antifouling paints among their members. He suggested that they be invited to speak to the CAC on the subject in the future.
6. *Adjournment:* There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm. The Chair wished all a happy upcoming holiday season.