

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

July 14, 2009

Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, New York

Chair: Maureen Dolan Murphy

Vice Chair: Open

**CAC Members Present:**

Maureen Dolan Murphy (CAC Chair, Citizens Campaign for the Environment)  
Dr. Art Kopelman (Coastal Research & Education Society of Long Island, Inc.)  
Hank Dam (Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen)  
Bob DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association)  
Ed Davis (Great South Bay Audubon Society)  
Robert Wilson (Pattersquash Creek Civic Association)  
Ben Sohm (South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association & South Shore Waterfowlers)  
Rich Troy (South Bay Cruising Club)  
Linda Freilich (Sierra Club, L.I. Chapter)  
Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper)  
Jim Brown (South Shore Audubon Society)  
Dave Thompson (Trout Unlimited)  
Sixto E. Portilla (for Dr. John Tancredi, Dowling College, Earth & Marine Sciences)  
Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries)  
Phil Blindenhofer (Association of Marine Industries/Alternate)

**Guests Present:**

Marge Wilson (Pattersquash Creek Civic Association)  
Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay)  
Judi Bird (League of Women Voters – Brookhaven)  
George Costa (Art Flick Chapter of Trout Unlimited)

**South Shore Estuary Reserve Staff Present:**

Jeff Fullmer (Director)  
Lou Siegel (Science Coordinator)  
Sherry Forgash (Program Implementation Specialist)

**CAC Members Absent:**

Operation SPLASH  
Bellport Students for Environmental Quality  
Fire Island Association  
Independent  
Brookhaven Bayman's Association  
Islip Town Leaseholder's Association  
NY Seafood Council

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by CAC Chair, Maureen Dolan Murphy.

M. Dolan Murphy noted one change and two additions to the agenda:

- Ed Hubbard, Town of Brookhaven, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He was to give a report on the Beaver Dam Creek Workgroup regarding the Town of Brookhaven landfill plume. His attendance at a future CAC meeting will be rescheduled.
- Add to the agenda under 'Reports' - SSER No Discharge Zone.
- Add to the agenda under 'Public Portions' – Horseshoe Crab letter was sent to DEC.

1. **Introductions:**

M. Dolan Murphy began round of introductions.

2. **Approval of CAC Minutes from May 12, 2009 Meeting:**

M. Dolan Murphy called for a motion to accept the May 12, 2009 CAC meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Bob DeBona to approve the CAC minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting, seconded by Ed Davis; unanimously approved.**

3. **CAC Membership Applications:**

- a. Don Harris, Captain Don's Nautical Adventures, was unable to attend tonight's meeting; M. Dolan Murphy will call D. Harris, asking him if he still wishes to be considered for CAC membership. This will be on September CAC meeting agenda.
- b. Dr. Art Kopelman, CRESLI (Coastal Research & Education Society of Long Island, Inc.), spoke about his organization at the May 12 CAC meeting, and described again, CRESLI's mission regarding research, stewardship and education of coastal ecosystems. He described CRESLI's connection to the SSER and the importance of CRESLI's membership on the CAC.

**Motion by Kevin McAllister to accept CRESLI's membership on the CAC, seconded by Linda Freilich; unanimously approved.**

Dr. Art Kopelman will be the CRESLI representative.

4. **Presentation:** Ed Hubbard, Town of Brookhaven, has been postponed.

5. **Reports:**

SSER Office Activities Report – Jeff Fullmer, SSER Director reported the following:

- A Final Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Management Plan has been accepted as complete by the Department of State (DOS). This was the second component of a project, the first being an inventory and analysis of barriers to fish passage for six south shore estuary reserve tributaries. The watershed management plan is consistent with the DOS and DEC framework. The Beaver Dam Creek watershed now has a new plan and set of actions that can be implemented to address water quality in the watershed. The Final Report Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Management Plan is posted on the SSER website.
- A Watershed and Corridor Restoration Plan for Massapequa Creek in the Town of Oyster Bay is nearing completion.
- Watershed management plans for Great Cove (Town of Islip), Tuthills Creek and Forge River (Town of Brookhaven) are also planned.
- H. Dam mentioned that he had been informed that the DEC was requesting comments on water quality improvement strategies and would be holding a public meeting in the future. He would try to attend the meeting and inform the Reserve office.
- R. Wilson asked about the progress on the Forge River regarding pollution from area duck farm. The farm was supposed to upgrade its sewage treatment plant. J. Fullmer did not know the current status of the situation.
- J. Fullmer thanked Operation SPLASH for distributing SSER educational materials at the Freeport Nautical Mile Festival held June 6-8. SSER also provided educational materials at the NYSMEA conference on June 5-7. Jeff Herter from NYS DOS gave a presentation on the NY Ocean and Great Lakes Atlas.

- The Diadromous Fish Workgroup met on June 2.
- The Alewife Monitoring Survey program is now being coordinated by Seatuck's fisheries biologist, Brian Kelder.
- The Western Bays Workgroup met on May 27. Battelle was awarded a \$500,000 grant from New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission to develop criteria that may be used in the potential development of TMDLs for the Reserve Western Bays.
- The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) for the SSER Dredged Materials Management Planning project has met four times to date. Woods Hole Group, the consultant on the project, is preparing to present a draft report at the next quarterly PAC meeting to be held at Belmont Lake State Park.
- R. Troy inquired about the stakeholders who are part of the PAC. J. Fullmer explained that the PAC represents local governmental agencies with jurisdiction and regulatory responsibilities on Reserve dredging projects along with non-profit representatives. The DMMP website is at: [www.sser-dmmp.net](http://www.sser-dmmp.net). All past agendas/minutes/presentations are available on the website.
- Suffolk County has hired a consultant to develop a long-term wetlands stewardship program. The County requested SSER's participation in this wetlands stewardship effort, and the outcome will be wetland restoration projects greater than 15 acres. The plan will address all wetlands within Suffolk County.
- The South Shore Bayway Strategic Implementation and Marketing Plan (SIMP) is now on the SSER website. It has been accepted as a complete product by DOS, including the logo. SSER wants the recommendations made in the SIMP implemented. A website for the Bayway must also be launched. SSER is waiting for approval of the hosting agreement with the server. SSER is also working with Nassau County on the south shore water trail project. Other projects in progress are under NYSCRIP (New York State Coastal Resources Interpretive Program).
- The 'Preserve the Reserve Stewardship Certificate Program' continues. Over 200 people or groups have received certificates. The sSELF program also continues, with its newest member, the Long Island Water Sentinels (part of the L.I. Chapter of the Sierra Club), performing water quality monitoring. L. Freilich received a \$5,000 grant from the national Sierra Club for the L.I. Water Sentinels to continue monitoring work. The website is [www.liwatersentinels.org](http://www.liwatersentinels.org). L. Siegel will create a link to this site on the SSER website. The 'Long Island Water Sentinels' will host an event on August 16 from 1-5 p.m. at the Martha Clara Vineyards.

### **No Discharge Zone – Kevin McAllister, Peconic Baykeeper**

The EPA has given its initial approval for a No-Discharge Zone designation for the entire South Shore Estuary Reserve. The public comment period ends August 5. EPA will review and respond to any comments received. If no substantive issues are raised, a final affirmative determination will be made. Written comments must be postmarked no later than August 5 and should be addressed to: Jeffrey F. Gratz, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, Clean Water Regulatory Branch, 290 Broadway, 24th Floor, New York, NY, 10007, 212-637-3873. SSER will post this information, with the link to submit comments if available on the SSER website. M. Dolan Murphy asked if the CAC wants to send a letter to the EPA in support of this NDZ. J. Fullmer suggested that the CMP recommendation for the NDZ be referenced in the support letter.

R. Troy expressed concerns raised by his organization that the NDZ designation might result in the unreasonable boarding of vessels by authorities and as a result he would need to abstain.

M. Dolan Murphy called for a motion for the CAC to send a letter to the EPA in support of the NDZ, referencing the recommendation in the SSER CMP.

**Motion by Ben Sohm, for the CAC to send a letter to the EPA in support of the SSER No-Discharge Zone, referencing the recommendation in the SSER Comprehensive Management Plan, seconded by Dr. Kopelman; 13 in favor (yeas) and 1 abstention.**

Judi Bird was present at this CAC meeting and will represent the Brookhaven League of Women Voters, replacing Alan Aronoff on the CAC.

6. **Stewardship Award Subcommittee**

Recommendations for Individual and Group Awards:

M. Dolan Murphy describes the history of the Stewardship Award and process for selection of recipients. Pam Burford chairs the Stewardship Award subcommittee and was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The subcommittee met in June to review the nominations and recommend one group and one individual to the CAC for approval. M. Dolan Murphy shared the subcommittee's recommendations on behalf of P. Burford and stated that the CAC will inform the Reserve Council of the selections, to give the Council the opportunity to comment.

**Motion by Rich Troy to approve the recommendation of the Stewardship Award subcommittee for Individual Recipient, seconded by Hank Dam; unanimously approved.**

**Motion by Ben Sohm to approve the recommendation of the Stewardship Award subcommittee for Group Recipient, seconded by Linda Freilich; unanimously approved.**

M. Dolan Murphy announced the names of the 2009 Stewardship award selections:

Individual Recipient – Cory Weyant, Bayman, Freeport, NY  
Group Recipient – Seatuck Environmental Association, Islip, NY

7. **CAC Vice Chair Position**

M. Dolan-Murphy raised that there is no guidance in the CAC charters, policies and procedures for selecting a CAC vice chair in the event of an unexpected vacancy and that is now the case with the passing of Allan Aronoff. She recommended that it should be at the discretion of the CAC chair to appoint a replacement to fill out the term of the vice-chair but she wanted to raise this with the CAC for discussion and input. Discussion ensued. The CAC agreed that it made sense for the chair to appoint a vacant position to vice-chair. M. Dolan Murphy recommended Pam Burford as her appointment to fill out the term of Allan Aronoff. J.Fullmer suggested that the CAC consider amending the charters, policies and procedures to address this issue in the future. Discussion on amending the CAC policies and procedures will be on the agenda for the next CAC meeting in September.

M. Dolan Murphy called for a motion for the CAC to accept her appointment of Pam Burford as Vice Chair.

**Motion by Bob DeBona to approve Pam Burford as Vice Chair of the CAC, seconded by Hank Dam; unanimously approved.**

A motion to amend the charters, policies and procedures of the CAC was discussed to address a change in language in the charters, policies, procedure to address the selection of vice chair. The CAC agreed that the below motion would be voted on at the September CAC meeting.

**In the event of vacancy for position of vice chair, the chair will appoint the vice chair who then must be confirmed by CAC resolution.**

8. **Public Portion/announcements**

L. Kane had suggested holding the September CAC meeting at her bayhouse on Havemeyer Island. A field trip could be held. M. Dolan Murphy suggested starting the meeting at 5:00 p.m. She will speak with L. Kane to work out the logistics of the September CAC meeting and inform all members.

B. Sohmer suggested beginning each CAC meeting with a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

B. DeBona distributed flyers announcing the Blue Claw Crab Festival in August.

R. Troy announced that there are 4 pumpout boats in service this year in the Estuary. The Town of Islip pumpout boat concentrates on areas with high boat traffic. He suggested that locations of all pumpout boats in the Reserve be posted on the SSER website.

R. Wilson distributed articles on the Forge River and information on septic systems.

J. Fullmer reminded the CAC to review the news articles in their meeting packets.

G. Costa reported that Trout Unlimited and DEC performed fish surveys on June 23, 24 at Beaver Dam Creek, Little Neck Run, and Yaphank Creek. Brook trout were observed in Beaver Dam Creek.

J. Fullmer recommended that the work of the diadromous fish workgroup be presented at a future CAC meeting. SSER will ask Brian Kelder to give CAC presentation.

**Motion by Rich Troy to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Bob DeBona; unanimously approved.**