

Long Island  
**South Shore Estuary Reserve Office**  
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**FINAL Minutes**

**September 14, 2010**

L.I. Maritime Museum, West Sayville, NY

Chair: Maureen Dolan Murphy

Vice Chair: Pam Burford

**CAC Members Present:**

Maureen Dolan Murphy (CAC Chair, Citizens Campaign for the Environment)  
Joe Kayal (Independent)  
Don Harris (Captain Don's Nautical Adventure)  
Larry Merryman (Great South Bay Audubon Society)  
Maria Brown (CRESLI)  
Dave Schaper (NY Seafood Council)  
Dr. John Tanacredi (Dowling College, Earth & Marine Sciences, CEECOM)  
Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholder's Association)  
Jim Brown (South Shore Audubon Society)  
Robert DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association)  
Rob Weltner (Operation SPLASH)  
Pam Burford (Fire Island Association)  
Bill Fahey (Pattersquash Creek Association)

**Guests Present:**

Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay)

**South Shore Estuary Reserve Office Staff Present:**

Fred Anders (by conference call) (NYS Department of State, NYS DOS)

**CAC Members Absent:**

Association of Marine Industries  
Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality  
Brookhaven Baymen's Association  
Brookhaven League of Women Voters  
Peconic Baykeeper  
Sierra Club, L.I. Chapter  
South Bay Cruising Club  
South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association  
South Shore Waterfowlers Association  
Trout Unlimited, Art Flick Chapter

## Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen

### 1. **Called to Order/ Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Maureen Dolan Murphy, Chair. Introductions were made.

### 2. **Approval of July 13, 2010 CAC draft minutes**

Motion by J. Kayal to approve July 13, 2010 CAC minutes, seconded by B. Debona; unanimously approved.

### 3. **SSER Office Report**

There will be a South Shore Estuary Reserve Council meeting on September 28, 2010 at the State Office Building, 250 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY, from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Meeting notices and attachments of reports will be emailed to Council members prior to meeting.

#### **a. Western Bays Working Group**

The Department of State is providing over \$800,000 for research in the area of the South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER) known as the western bays. The State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), have agreed to work with the Department of State and DEC on a series of multifaceted studies to help determine the cause of high nitrogen levels (and other nutrients) and excessive *Ulva* growth in the SSER's western bays.

F. Anders stated DOS most likely will set up a technical oversight group to ensure the information coming from the SoMAS study is usable towards the TMDL. J. Tanacredi noted that the Marine Consortium would be a good place to recruit members.

The Town of Hempstead continues its work on related EPF funded projects (total of \$389,898 in matching funds,) including:

- Historic Water Quality Analysis. This project is in its final phase after several years of work.
- Deployment of Continuous Water Quality Sampling Devices. The devices have been purchased and are being readied for placement.
- Water Quality Sampling for Detection of Illicit discharges: The initial scoping meeting has recently been held.
- Tide Gauge Upgrade and Data Distribution Program: Two of the three gauges scheduled to be upgraded are running and the third is being worked on.
- Hard Clam Stock Quality Assessment: This project is still in the planning stages.

- Oyster Seeding and Reef development Program. This program is continuing with the third cohort of animals having been placed this year.

The office and DOS Albany staff participated in a meeting held by the Nassau County Legislature on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at which progress reports were given by:

- Battelle Environmental Consulting Group- They in cooperation with The School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at SUNY Stony Brook, a member of the work group, are preparing a report examining nutrient assessment and management in the western bays. The project is funded by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.
- SUNY SoMAS- Reported on the previously mentioned DOS funded research.
- USGS- Reported on the previously mentioned DOS funded research.

Representatives from the DEC and the EPA present at the meeting confirmed that the data expected from these projects, in concert with that obtained from the Town of Hempstead and Nassau County would be valuable in the process of developing a TMDL.

**b. Town of Oyster Bay, Implementation of SSER CMP (C006276)**

The final report of the Estuary Public Use and Tourism Study, was received by the SSER Office on September 10 and forwarded to DOS for approval. The final report of the Open Space Preservation Plan was sent back to the consultant for final printing, and is expected the week of September 13. These are the last two components of this contract to be completed.

**c. Great Cove Watershed Management Plan, Town of Islip**

The consultant completed the draft watershed characterization section of the report, including pollutant assessments of the Town highway & maintenance facilities. The characterization report was submitted to the Town of Islip in early August. The consultant has since met with the Town to discuss the characterization information, status of the current stormwater infrastructure data, as well as to discuss additional data needs. Since this meeting, the Town has updated their recharge basin data layer and provided it to consultant to assist with continued assessment of the current stormwater infrastructure system. Next steps are to prepare recommendations and an implementation strategy for the WMP. The characterization section will be distributed to the advisory committee and the first public meeting will be scheduled.

**d. Forge River Watershed Management Plan, Town of Brookhaven**

The Town of Brookhaven continues work on this EPF funded watershed management plan, which includes the development of TMDLs. The Forge River website is now up and running; there is a link from the Town's home page. The Town's consultant is continuing to prepare the watershed characterization report and this information will soon be turned over to the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Forge River Feasibility Study. The first public outreach meeting is planned for this Fall.

**e. NYSCRIP Signage**

DOS staff sent conceptual designs to the Town of Babylon, with an in-depth review anticipated in September. DOS staff approved Paul Singer Designs as the consultant for sign projects in the towns of Islip and Hempstead. DOS staff requested contract extensions for the Town of Islip (to December 2011) and the Village of Patchogue (to 7/21/2012).

**f. Nassau County Canoe and Kayak Trail Plan**

Reserve staff is assisting the Village of Freeport in forming an advisory committee for a ***Nassau County Canoe and Kayak Trail Plan*** under a \$50,000 EPF grant administered through the village with the match contributed by Nassau County with county environmental bond funds. A draft RFQ is being prepared and an advisory committee meeting is anticipated sometime at the end of September or beginning of October.

**g. Scenic Byway**

Reserve staff reviewed a draft **Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan for Select Long Island Parkways** prepared by RBA group for the NYS Dept. of Transportation. Comments were submitted to RBA on July 19. The selected parkways are: Bethpage State Parkway, Wantagh State Parkway south of the Southern State Parkway, Meadowbrook State Parkway south of the Southern State Parkway, Loop Parkway, Bay Parkway, and Ocean Parkway. The draft will be reviewed by a state Byway committee, which includes the NYS Secretary of State as a member. The state committee will then submit the plan to the National Scenic Byways Committee. Grant money is available through the NYS DOT and/or National Scenic Byways Program (USDOT, Federal Highway Administration). Because the Bayway and Byway plans share common and/or complimentary goals, projects funded through the Byways program may help to advance the Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan and the Bayway.

**h. New Acting Secretary of State**

The new Acting Secretary of State is the Honorable Ruth Noemí Colón.

**i. Work continues on:**

- Bayway Strategic Marketing and Implementation Plan
- Implementation Status Report
- Updates to Reserve Council Website
- Grant Opportunities Research

**j. Patchogue River**

A recent report, "Shallow Groundwater Quality in the Village of Patchogue, Suffolk County, New York" (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5132/>) prepared by USGS in cooperation with the Village of Patchogue, New York Department of State, was released.

**k. Stewardship Award**

P. Burford inquired if there was a Stewardship Award update. Members asked if the CAC would be included in the process moving forward. F. Anders said he thought the CAC members did not want to be involved in the Stewardship Award, that the Stewardship Award would be too much work for the CAC, particularly since the CAC has taken on more responsibilities that include taking meeting minutes. Members of the CAC all agreed that was simply not true. The CAC remains committed to the Stewardship Award and would like to be involved moving forward. This includes involvement in additional changes, the review process, and implementation. After the report, CAC members discussed the future of the Stewardship Award. Members were hopeful that the award would continue in 2011.

#### **4. Western Bays Report**

R. Weltner gave members a victory update on the Western Bays. The long-awaited money for the Stony Brook Study was finally approved/released at the end of August. This study is critical for the development of the TMDL in the Western Bays. R. Weltner also announced that the Jones Beach Sewage Treatment Facility will begin construction to hook-up into the Cedar Creek facility. This will eliminate the treated effluent from discharging into the bay.

R. Weltner participated in an EPA project this past summer that conducted ocean water quality monitoring. As part of the project R. Weltner and the EPA conducted tests around the 2 ocean outfall pipes (Cedar Creek and Bergen Point). They also took underwater pictures and sampled sediments. The CAC agreed that it would be good to have someone from the EPA come in and talk about this project.

R. Weltner reported that September 4, 2010, in Reynold's Channel a SPLASH member took video of a brownish plume that was moving towards Point Look-out. After the incident, there were no closures. No agency has been able to confirm what the brownish plume was, what caused it or if there was any connection to the Bay Park Plant.

#### **5. Hard Clams In Great South Bay Report**

M. Murphy provided 2 updates on the restoration of Hard Clams.

##### **a. Commercial Fishery Failure Ruling**

In 2008 Senator Schumer's office spoke to CAC members on the need for a Commercial Fishery Failure ruling for hard clams in GSB. Both the Senator and the Governor submitted a formal request to the US Secretary of Commerce. This ruling would open up the potential for the GSB to receive federal funding for research, restoration, and reseeded efforts. M. Murphy reported that in January 2010 Senator Schumer's staff convened a meeting with government, stakeholders, and researchers to discuss the potential ruling. It was reported at that meeting that the Secretary of Commerce was reviewing NY's application and would make a ruling "within the next few months."

In August 2010, Senator Schumer's office and CCE worked to convene a meeting with the NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco. The meeting focused on the decline of hard clams in the bay, the current restoration efforts, and the need for federal dollars to bring back the clams. To date the Secretary of Commerce has not made a ruling on a Commercial Fishery Failure for Hard Clams in GSB.

**b. Suffolk County Hard Clam Working Group**

M. Murphy sits on the Suffolk County hard clam working group, representing the CAC and CCE. The working group was tasked with the development of interim measures to restore hard clams, as well as developing a long-term restoration plan. The interim measures included a moratorium on new hard clam permits in the bay. This measure was passed by Islip, Babylon, and Brookhaven. The working group is now in the process of developing a long-term restoration strategy. As one of the first steps the committee agreed and put forth a Vision Statement. An RFP for a consultant went out that will provide science-based advice, alternative management options, and alternative rebuilding plans to the committee.

M. Murphy noted that Brookhaven has eliminated their clam survey in 2011 due to budget restrictions. It is estimated that the survey costs them \$15,000/year. D. Schaper suggested that an independent organization should be conducting the clam surveys for the entire GSB. He also noted that in the long-term plan there should be "trigger points" that allow clam licenses/ clam harvests to increase as the clam population increases.

**c. Public Portion/ Announcements**

- On October 8, 2010, Dowling College will host the NY Marine Science Consortium from 8am- 4pm.
- D. Schaper recommended that CAC Members read "The Most Important Fish in the Sea", by Bruce Franklin. <http://islandpress.org/mostimportantfish/>
- R. Weltner reported that Operation SPLASH got their 6<sup>th</sup> boat in the water. If anyone would like to volunteer please let him know.

**d. Adjournment**

Motion by P. Burford to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., seconded by L. Merryman; unanimously approved.