

Long Island
South Shore Estuary Reserve Office
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FINAL Minutes

November 9, 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)

Pam Burford (Fire Island Association)

Joe Kayal (Independent)

Pam Donovan (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)

George Costa (Trout Unlimited, Art Flick Chapter)

Guests Present:

Brent Russell, Adelphi University Student

Laura Pashayan, CCE intern

South Shore Estuary Reserve Office Staff Present:

Nancy Rucks, (DOS 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

Captain Don's Nautical Adventure

Great South Bay Audubon Society

Mastic Beach Property Owners Association

Operation SPLASH

Pattersquash Creek Association

Peconic Baykeeper

Sierra Club, L.I. Chapter

South Bay Cruising Club

South Shore Bayhouse Owners Association

1. Called to Order/ Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Maureen Dolan Murphy, Chair. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of September 14, 2010 CAC draft minutes

Minutes could not be approved, due to lack of quorum.

3. SSER Office Report

The South Shore Estuary Reserve Council (SSERC) meeting was held September 28, at the NYS Office Building in Hauppauge from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. SSER Office and NYS Department of State (DOS) support included preparation and e-mailing of notices, reports, and the agenda prior to the meeting as well as logistical support at the meeting. The approved minutes from the May 17th SSERC meeting and the five Power Point presentations made at the September meeting have been posted on the SSER webpage.

Western Bays Working Group: The Town of Hempstead continues work on related DOS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) funded projects (total of \$389,898):

- The Town applied to the DOS for a one-year extension to complete the *Historic Water Quality Analysis Project*. Several project tasks were completed. However, the Town was unable to complete the final project report by the original grant deadline. Work is expected to be completed in 2011.
- Several of the stations for the *Deployment of Continuous Water Quality Sampling Devices Project* are in place and recording data. The stations are recording physical and chemical parameters such as water temperature, salinity, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphate and chlorophyll levels
- The Town has begun looking at existing data for the *Water Quality Sampling for Detection of Illicit Discharges* project and is setting up systems for new data collection primarily for sewage discharge.

*****CAC members were very interested in this project and requested more information for the January 2011 CAC meeting.***

- The gauges at Bay Park and Merrick, part of the *Tide Gauge Upgrade and Data Distribution Project*, are installed and running with data available on the internet: Bay Park: Measures water level, tide, temperature: <http://www.lishore.org/l14/latest.htm>; Merrick: Measures water level, tide, water temperature and precipitation <http://www.lishore.org/l15/latest.htm>. The final gauge, similar to the one at Bay Park, will

be sited at Seaford. It is currently going through final testing and should be fully operational shortly.

- Year three data for the *Oyster Seeding and Reef Development Project* are currently being collected. Images of this years' crop are posted on the SSER webpage. This is a multi-year project funded by a DOS 2006 EPF grant for \$58,203. The Town is using the funds to develop a pilot oyster seeding program designed to assist in the preservation of salt marshes. This project will also demonstrate the feasibility of developing a crop of oysters for future recreational and/or commercial value.

Town of Oyster Bay #C006276: The SSER Office received the final *Town of Oyster Bay Open Space Preservation Plan* on November 1. The plan was undertaken to identify reasons for the diminishing supply of land and natural resources in the Town. Through the plan, the Town hopes to afford fairness to private owners of environmentally significant or sensitive property by balancing environmental protection needs with the owners' right to develop.

Town of Islip, Great Cove Watershed Management Plan #C006322: The first draft of the "Characterization Section" of the *Town of Islip Great Cove Watershed Management Plan* is complete and has been reviewed by the DOS. A meeting was held on November 8th at the Town with their Environmental Council and the consultant to solicit input/comments from the Great Cove Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee on the first draft of the characterization component of the watershed management plan.

*****It was unclear to CAC members if there was a public draft that CAC members could review and comment on. Some members expressed concerns with fishing boats unable to access parts of Great Cove. It was asked if dredging was an issue addressed in the draft plan.***

Nassau County Canoe and Kayak Trail Plan: The SSER staff hosted a meeting of the *Nassau County Canoe and Kayak Trail Advisory Committee* at the SSER Office on October 14. The Office assisted to the Village of Freeport on draft requests for proposals to establish inputs and a non-motorized water trail for trail segments in the Nassau County portion of the South Shore Estuary.

Implementation Status Report: The final draft of the report is undergoing editing by the DOS.

Grant Research: The SSER Office conducted and continues to research available grant programs to advance the SSER CMP and other SSER initiatives. The Office, DOS Albany staff, Operation SPLASH and other partners are working together to develop several marine debris funding proposals. Proposed projects included large debris removal and fishing line recycling. Proposals will be ready for FY 2011 grant opportunities.

New York State Coastal Interpretive Program (NYSCRIP) Signage: SSER Office staff assisted in reviewing text and designs for NYSCRIP signs for Babylon, Islip, and East Rockaway. The Office

staff also reviewed the contract for an interpretive design firm for signs in Patchogue and Hempstead.

Work continues: Bayway Strategic Marketing and Implementation Plan; Updates to Reserve Council Website; Suffolk County Wetlands Stewardship Committee (attend meetings and review data).

NOTE of interest: NEW Internet and Telephone Service - The NYS Department of State was successful in switching the SSER Office telephone and internet service to a new provider (Cablevision), resulting in greatly improved connections of both at lower cost. Formally the SSER Office was unable to view videos or transmit and receive large files in an efficient manner.

4. SSER Council Report

M. Dolan Murphy updated members on the September 2010 SSER Council Meeting. The Stewardship Award was discussed. M. Dolan Murphy reiterated that the CAC does want to be involved with the award moving forward. F. Anders informed Council Members that new stewardship award criteria was being developed and then it would be vetted through the SSER CAC.

M. Dolan Murphy informed CAC Members that the majority of the Council Meeting was spent on discussing the new SSE amendment—what it was, the process for development, and the timeline associated with it. Moving forward DOS will form 3 working groups, which CAC members will be able to participate in.

M. Dolan Murphy reported that there was a push at the Council meeting to reconvene the Science & Technical Advisory Committee. CAC members strongly supported this idea and would like to have a representative on the reinstated STAC committee. **M. Dolan Murphy will draft a letter to Council members supporting the STAC and requesting CAC representation.**

5. Western Bays/Reynolds Channel Report

M. Dolan Murphy updated members on the Reynolds Channel situation in the GSB. At the September meeting, R. Weltner informed members that SPLASH obtained video footage of brown colored plume emanating from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant. M. Dolan Murphy passed around copies of an article in the LI Herald and a letter from Nassau County to the NYS DEC that confirmed Nassau County was in violation of increased suspended solids. An interim plan by the County includes trucking sludge from Bay Park to Cedar Creek for disposal, and adding additional chemicals to the Bay Park Plant to cause a greater amount of settling in the primary tanks.

6. Hard Clams In Great South Bay Report

M. Dolan Murphy updated members on the Suffolk County Hard Clam Workgroup. The workgroup met in October 2010. M. Dolan Murphy provided feedback from the CAC to the workgroup which included the need to establish “trigger points” for when clam harvests can

increase/decrease and the need to have one entity conduct bay-wide clam surveys, instead of individual towns conducting their own. As part of the Suffolk County Hard Clam Workgroup process, there will be a public outreach component that will seek to incorporate stakeholders ideas and feedback. The committee will be looking at a host of different things that include:

- Targeting seed clam locations
- Spawner sanctuaries
- Permits
- Aquaculture Zones

****CAC members would like to get town survey results for the 2010 hard clam season. M. Dolan Murphy will try to obtain these numbers for the January meeting****

7. Election Results

CAC members went over 2010 election results. There is one confirmed change in the NYS Senate, where Lee Zeldin will be the new representative in the 3rd District. The NYS Senate 7th district race is still undetermined. There were 5 changes in the NYS Assembly:

District 1- Dan Lasquadro

District 5- Alfred Graf

District 14- Brian Curran

District 15- Michael Montesano

District 21-Edward Ra

CAC members will send new members of the Senate and the Assembly a welcome and introduction letter. Included in the letter will be the 2011 meeting schedule and directions to the Martine Museum. **M. Dolan Murphy will draft letter.**

8. Great Cove Watershed

L. Kane provided members with an update on the Great Cove Watershed Management Plan. There are several areas within the watershed where the town and the consultant have no water quality (ground water or surface water) monitoring data. If anyone has additional data, please speak to the town or the consultant. Areas include: Watchgug, Southward Ho Canal, Moor, Quintuck, and Hyde Canal.

9. Public Portion/ Announcements

- Audubon is encouraging members to reach out to Governor-Elect Cuomo to say No to the Trump restaurant and the possibly proposed casino for Jones Beach.
- CRESLI has started their winter seal walks. They will send the schedule out to members, please forward onto your memberships.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.