

# CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO THE SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE COUNCIL

## **Draft CAC Meeting Minutes**

January 10, 2023

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Present:

Maureen Dolan Murphy, Citizens Campaign for the Environment/Chair CAC  
Rob Weltner, Operation SPLASH/Vice-Chair CAC  
Jeremy Campbell, NYS DOS/Reserve Coordinator  
Alexa Annunziata, Peconic Bay Keeper  
Judi Bird, League of Women Voters Brookhaven  
Sabrina Cassese, student at West Islip High School  
Dorian Dale, Suffolk County  
Jackie DeFede, NYS DOS/Reserve Office  
Rob DiGiovanni, Atlantic Marine Conservation Society  
Emma Fallon, student at West Islip High School  
Kathleen Fallon, Co-Chair TAC/NY Sea Grant  
Sally Kellogg, NYS DOS/Reserve Office  
Mary Kroll, Science Research Teacher at West Islip High School/Principal Investigator for SPARK Collaboration at Brookhaven National Lab for High School Research  
Andy Mirchel, Save The Great South Bay  
Tara Schneider-Moran, Chair TAC/Town of Hempstead  
Robyn Silvestri, Save The Great South Bay  
Lane Smith, NY SeaGrant  
Tamson Yeh, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

### **1. Introductions**

M. Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Introductions were made.

### **2. Presentation: Boat Bottom Paint & Alternative, Dr. Tamson Yeh**

**T. Yeh** presented on three different types of boat bottom paints and some of the issues that arise with each. The types of paints discussed included copper-based ablative paints, copper-based leaching paints, and non-biocide paints as an alternative to copper-based paints. All of these paints possess heavy metals such as copper and zinc. There is a lack of awareness on the environmental impacts. Through funding with a grant from the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute, T. Yeh is working with K. Fallon of NY SeaGrant to provide education on this topic.

Descriptions on how each of these paints work and how recommendations vary based on type of boat and the use of the boat were provided. Variations on how these paints work and how they are typically

chosen for a vessel were identified. Methods were discussed on how applications differ and the damages that can be caused to both the vessel and to the marine environment. Presenter then discussed pros and cons of different types of paints. She provided tips for protecting the environment while working on boat.

If interested in scheduling future workshops/trainings or to access the full manual, T.Yeh can be contacted at [tsy3@cornell.edu](mailto:tsy3@cornell.edu).

**M. Dolan Murphy** thanked T. Yeh for the presentation and gave a shout out to Suffolk County for switching the boat bottom paint on their boats from copper-based paints to alternatives.

**R. Silverstri** expressed that Save The Great South Bay would be interested in hosting a public facing presentation by T. Yeh in the early spring, for boaters who are interested in being more environmentally friendly.

**R. Weltner** shared an anecdote about a local marina that surveyed its customers to find out whether they were open to the idea of switching to copper-free boat bottom paints to benefit the environment. While this came with an increased cost, boat owners were receptive to the idea after learning how this would benefit their experiences in the water (i.e. cleaner waters for swimming, fishing). The marina now applies this practice.

### **3. Microplastic Research on the South Shore, Emma Fallon and Sabrina Cassese**

**E. Fallon and S. Cassese**, students at West Islip High School, summarized their ongoing individual research projects on microplastics. They provided a background on the topic, indicating how humans are ingesting microplastics through consuming water packaged in plastic bottles in addition to eating fish, bivalves, and crustaceans that are affected by plastic pollution in our oceans. They stress the importance of this issue as microplastics have recently been identified in human blood.

E. Fallon sought out to study whether there are microplastics present in surface water from six locations on Long Island, three of which came from saltwater and three are from freshwater. She found microplastics were present in all water samples. S. Cassese hypothesized that Nile Red dye will provide an accurate staining method for microplastics and she will be able to use this to test microplastics in plastic bottled water. She tested 7 samples from name brand water bottles. She found that microplastics were present in all bottle water samples. On average, the Nile Red stain indicated more particles per sample. These students summarized the research methodology in both projects and they shared their data thus far. Analyzed and interpreted data. Both students are continuing their research through SPARK program at Brookhaven National Lab by partnering with students from other schools and working with "A Day in the Life of a River."

**L. Smith** asked if tap water was tested for microplastics. S. Cassese stated that she has a tap water sample but due to time constraints she has not be able to test it yet. She plans to in the future.

**T. Yeh** stated concerns of microplastics coming from fishing line and microfiber cloths used for cleaning. **E. Fallon** plans to further her research in finding chemical compositions and hopes to be able to identify where the microplastics in her water samples may be coming from.

**D. Dale** asked whether bottled water is being purified before the water is bottled, eliminating some microplastics. **S. Cassese** states she wasn't looking at that directly, however she knows that many filters aren't made to filter microplastics. She would need to further research in chemical composition of microplastics in samples at Brookhaven National Lab.

**M. Dolan Murphy** informed group members that research has been coming out about microplastics in the north and south poles addressing some questions about how these particles could have gotten there. She requested that both students provide follow ups on their projects.

#### **4. SSER Office Report Jeremy Campbell, South Shore Estuary Reserve Office**

**J. Campbell** announced the addition of new staff member, **J. DeFede**. At the very end of 2022, Governor Hochul awarded \$22M in grants to 76 communities to promote smart, sustainable, and equitable growth through three Department of State Programs. \$16.4M in funding was awarded to 23 communities through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, \$4.1M was awarded to 19 communities through the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program, and \$2.4M was awarded to 34 communities through Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Program. There is a current Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant on south shore of Long Island in the Village of Patchogue. An additional \$3M was awarded towards this Living Shoreline Project to replace the bulkhead at Shorefront Park. Reminded members that there are four SSER Council Meetings in 2023. The next meeting is on January 24, 2023 and the NYS Secretary of State will be in attendance. More information and an agenda will be distributed.

#### **5. SSER Funding Request Update**

**M. Dolan Murphy** thanked participants for attending the successful legislative breakfast. There was good support among officials to increase budget of SSER. Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre stated she would be requesting \$5M for funding for the SSER program. CCE has mailed an official letter to Governor Hochul requesting an increase in funding for SSER. The Governor's budget will be released in February, with senate and assembly budget to follow. An informative document outlining the progress in the SSER as well as the work that still needs to be done was sent to senate and assembly members as well as to ENCON chair Legislator Peter Harckham. A sign on letter will be drafted and circulated to CAC to be sent to Albany to show diversity of groups supporting increase in funding. Welcomed thoughts and input.

**R. Silvestri** asked where additional money will be spent and if funds will be available to local non profits. **M. Murphy** replied money will come from Environmental Protection Fund. Money will then trickle down from DOS to help address action items in CMP. Council discussions are taking place and towns have provided project lists showcasing projects that are ready to go when funding comes in. **J. Campbell** followed up with the importance of an action agenda to provide more specifics on the CMP. Announced that the Cornell Cooperative Extension seagrass restoration project was just executed.

#### **6. TAC Report**

**T. Schneider- Moran** provided an update on the TAC, which has been reflecting on the previous round of Local Assistance Grants and the projects that were made possible with that funding. Examples, Town of Brookhaven boat ramp/stormwater mitigation project and Town of Hempstead C.O.R.E. project will be presented at next meeting. A Salt Marsh Subcommittee was recently created within the TAC, volunteers are welcome and should email Sally if interested. Goal of the subcommittee is to create a prioritization map of locations that need help the most by looking at a variety of parameters to identify priority marsh islands. The subcommittee is in beginning stage, working on establishing the group and identifying kick off date. More updates to come. Shout out to D. Dale & C. Salazar from Suffolk County and their continuing efforts in salt marsh restoration. Encouraged submission of priority project lists and stressed the importance of sharing priority project lists as a way to identify partners and collaborators on grant applications when funding arrives. Reminder that next TAC meeting is Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**R. Silvestri** requested that Save the Great South Bay could participate in TAC meetings.

## **7. Public Comment/Announcements**

**J. Campbell** announced the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SSER. Webpage, logo and newsletter are moving forward.

**R. Silverstri** announced Save the Great South Bay clean ups have been established for March & April. Requested assistance spreading the word.

**D. Dale** announced Suffolk County is expanding outreach opportunities to increase awareness for County waste water improvement programs. Looking to interact with civic community groups and NGOs, please contact [dorian.dale@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:dorian.dale@suffolkcountyny.gov). Thanked Citizens Campaign for the Environment for their support.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.