

South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 2, 2019 10:00am- 1:00pm
Town of Islip Long Island Maritime Museum
86 West Avenue, West Sayville, NY 11796

In attendance:

South Shore Estuary Reserve

Office: Jeremy Campbell Christie
Pfoertner Rachel Neville Sally Kellogg

TAC Members: Lane Smith, TAC Chair, New York Sea Grant
Cassie Bauer, NYS DEC Maureen Dunn, Seatuck
Environmental Association Alexa Marinos, Town of Babylon,
Alternate for Rich Groh Nicole Maher, The Nature
Conservancy John Tanacredi, Molloy College/CERCOM Chris
Clapp, The Nature Conservancy Steve Raciti, Hofstra
University, Alternate for E. Christa Farmer Chris Schubert,
USGS Tom Wilson, Stony Brook University SOMAS Mike
Bilecki, National Parks Service Mike Jensen, Kathleen Fallon,
NY Sea Grant Jim Brown, Town of Hempstead Shawn Fischer,
USGS

Review/Approve February Meeting Minutes MOTION: pass
February meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved.

SSER TAC By-Laws Governance Sub-Committee MOTION:
approve TAC by-laws. Seconded. By-Laws Approved.

USGS Coordinated Water Resources Monitoring Strategy presentation by Shawn Fischer,

USGS Intro: • State of SSER mapping

- Updates since the 2001 CWRMS ○
HABs, climate change
- Data collected in the SSER
- List of management plans
- Perceived management issues
- Monitoring to address issues

Resource Monitoring:

- Description of current monitoring programs
- List of constituents per organization, broken up by media type

QA/QC and metadata:

- Outlines levels of QA and their uses
- Provides examples of data and collection to inform a standardized method
- Highlights the water quality exchange for publicly accessible data – a way to share data collection methods

Data gaps and specific recommendations

- Data gaps and recommendations for filling gaps identified by SSER stakeholders
- Gaps/recommendations summarized by category
 - Water resources
 - Ecological resources
 - Estuarine dynamics
 - Atmospheric resources
 - Infrastructure and land use monitoring
 - To provide consistency between counties and towns with their land use

M. Bilecki asked for examples

- Realtime water quality sampling, continuous nitrate data, continuous DO, pesticides, sources of pathogen loading, SAV mapping, fish habitat restoration in relation to water quality, estuarine dynamics (post-Sandy geomorphology, atmospheric nitrogen deposition)

Coordination and PAC recommendations

- Roles for individual organizations/agencies and SSER Council were suggested
- Coordination and standardization expected
 - Data usability and accessibility was most requested
 - Mapper and centralized database
 - Citizen science support
- More water quality monitoring and remote sensing to support TMDL in tributaries and support HAB and climate change research

CWRMS

Mapper

- Layers include:
 1. Surface water monitoring sites
 2. Sediment monitoring sites
 - 3.

Groundwater monitoring sites 4.

Biological data

- Can filter by organization (DEC, DOH, Stony Brook for example), constituents, status of the study, if data is publicly accessible, water body
- Map layers include culvert locations, storm water outfalls, recharge basins, impaired waterways, DEC shellfish areas
- Can click on sediment monitoring location – information on pH, water temperature and latitude/longitude from a soil sample collected
- QA/QC is ranked from 1 to 3
 1. Government agencies
 2. Universities
 3. Citizen Science/Unknown
- A lot of data present in the mapper is not link-able online and is just now becoming electronic
- Topic of filling gaps in meta data is brought up, this was brought up by the PAC (Shawn from USGS).
- Shawn from USGS mentioned that the mapper identifies everywhere that data is being collected. The next step could be to add the papers that have the data in it and linking to those papers.
- J. Campbell suggests that the TAC needs to identify the projects that we think are important and prioritize them in a list. Ideas can be put forward and voted on, then presented to the council. These ideas should include a description of the project, location, and some information on associated costs. Suggested to look at gaps in CWRMS report and come up with ideas for projects.
- ACTION ITEM: look at CWRMS report for gaps and within everyone's own domain and network and come up with a list of projects and descriptions. Lane will set up a table so members can populate it with ideas prior to the next TAC meeting.

Risk Assessment for Council Letter was put together by sub-committee over the last 3 months. Used the draft CMP because it is the most recent. LISS and PEP compelled to do this by EPA. They look at their goals and make decisions about which parameters to include in their assessment. We can decide how the assessment is designed later but this letter is a recommendation to the Council that the SSER should conduct an assessment.

Comment: TAC should be intimately involved, we should have Request For Proposals and someone needs to manage and facilitate the project.

There was discussion about how the assessment would be done. This was tabled since this will be a big discussion and doesn't need to be made right now.

MOTION: approve letter after edits to make the content slightly more general. Seconded.

ACTION ITEM: 1 week to review. Comments and suggestions are due April 9th by the end of the day. Lane will incorporate all comments into edits. Final letter will be sent to TAC members.

Water quality priority topics SPEDES- a significant contribution to nitrogen. Some discharge into groundwater. Considerable infrastructure needs to rectify the issues. Violations impact SSER water quality, is this a priority of the TAC?

COMMENT: It might be better to put together a comprehensive list of issues and then rank all of them together versus discussion just a few at each meeting?

Q: How were the four water quality agenda items chosen? A: These four are not the topic priorities but just four of many options. A way to start the discussion on current and emerging issues.

SUGGESTION: Message board to continue discussion in between meetings?

TASK: Each member will add 1-3 projects to the CWRMS add more to this

Other Business

Comment: it may be beneficial to get a social science project to raise awareness of the program and identify best strategies to get the community engaged.

Comment: Social media would be helpful as well.

Comment: Should we have a social scientist on the TAC?

SUGGESTION: Maybe we can get someone in as a guest speaker.

May 4th clean-up Seatuck

April 24th Seatuck eco-carnival

Town of Babylon Earth Day April 4th Stony Brook Earthstock Friday

April 19th big day but holding all week.

Experimental wetland treating building wastewater. Up and running and testing is being done at Cold Spring harbor.

In June TNC will be collecting eelgrass reproductive shoots with Stony Brook Peterson Lab.

National Park Week is April

21st

Alewife spawning runs are happening now- Seatuck

April 7th, coastal cleanup with riverhead foundation at wilderness visitors center William Floyd parkway and NPS.

ACTION ITEMS: Lane will distribute TAC emails with each other.

ACTION ITEM: Draft meeting minutes distributed within a week.

ACTION ITEM: TAC has 1 week to comment/suggest edits on climate assess letter. CAC Chair will make edits only.

Adjourned

12:56pm