

**South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**February 5, 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  
Corey Humphrey, TAC Vice Chair, Suffolk County SWCD  
Cassie Bauer, NYSDEC  
Kristen Kraseski, LINAP  
Maureen Murphy, CAC Chair, Citizens' Campaign for the Environment  
Terry Lister-Blitman, LI Maritime Museum  
John Tanacredi, Molloy College/CERCOM  
Kathleen Fallon, New York Sea Grant  
Kyle Rabin, LINAP/LIRPC  
Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association  
Chris Schubert, USGS  
Nicole Maher, The Nature Conservancy  
Rich Groh, Town of Babylon  
Steve Raciti stand in for E. Christa Farmer, Hofstra University  
Tara Schneider, Town of Hempstead

**TAC Guests:**

Alison Branco, The Nature Conservancy  
Tyler Prichett, Town of Babylon DEC  
Alexa Marinos, Town of Babylon DEC  
Andre Matthews, USGS  
Jim Brown, Town of Hempstead

**Review/Approve December Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: pass December meeting minutes. Second, approved

ACTION ITEM: distribute approved December meeting minutes

**Governance subcommittee update**

Membership is by organization, org. would submit a request to be a member, voted on by TAC. A stand in can come to vote if a member is not available. Attendance 2 absences a notice is sent, any more and someone else should be designated member for that organization. meeting times can be changed at the beginning of each year.

Action: Members read over bylaws. Draft will be sent out to members. At next meeting they will be voted on.

### **Presentation by Alison Branco**

Alison Branco works on coastal issues at The Nature Conservancy and was previously the Director at the Peconic Estuary Program. The presentation is meant to feed into the TAC's decision on whether the Reserve should conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment.

The presentation focused on human impact of a changing climate.

A warmer atmosphere means a warmer ocean, which increases sea level rise. All are impacting the estuary, which are focuses of the office goals and objectives. Climate change will mean lots of changes, but flooding will be biggest and most impactful.

NYS adopted official projected sea level rise. It is recommended that the TAC use the NYS projections. This will set a good example and the State will eventually require more and more people to use them in the future.

Sea level rise is expected to be 2-6ft through 2100, which will cause a big impact on South shore especially since low slope. Increased flooding will put \$3 trillion of coastal property at risk

A climate change vulnerability assessment doesn't need to be expensive, heavily quantitative and time consuming. The TAC can use other factors (increase air and water temperatures, longer droughts, stronger coastal storms, heavier rain events, sea level rise, groundwater tables rising, ocean acidification and species range shift.) to evaluate how they will impact the Reserve and the Reserve's goals. Afterward, the TAC can work the results into the altering the Comprehensive Management Plan. There are lots of tools available already to use for an assessment ex. ClimAid. Coastal resilience tool, NOAA's tool and Coastalresilience.org

NYS Homes at risk for chronic flooding, the highest at risk are the Town's of Hempstead, Babylon, Islip, Brookhaven, Southampton, Queens. Most are within the South Shore Estuary Reserve boundary.

Alison recommends the Reserve does a climate change vulnerability assessment.

Models of vulnerable roadway can be found by searching for SLAMM/NYSERDA.

People are becoming more receptive to building resilient communities. Montauk as an example is retreating from the shore and moving hotels farther back. A park will be created to boarder the beach instead of hard structure. The Reserve can be a leader in resilient communities with the first step being conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment.

Long Island Sound Study (LISS) and the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) are required to do a climate change vulnerability assessment but it's a good process and there is no reason a non ANEP estuary shouldn't follow it.

Q: What are they going to do with the product?

A: They will inventory all of the vulnerabilities, then create an adaptation plan. The plan will include projects and actions to address the vulnerabilities.

Q: What is the product?

A: The LISS and PEP are not using data rich and modeling methods. They will mostly just use increases and decreases and the impacts based off those (sea level rise and water temperatures are increasing). It's a written report and a matrix of red, yellow and green boxes that categorize the severity of impacts.

Q: Who did it?

A: LISS has a consultant to the work on the assessment. The PEP has a consulting firm helping but their TAC is mostly involved.

Comment: Tidal gates at the Fire Island Inlet are being proposed. The TAC may need to take a stand on the issue.

Comment: There is not enough good data and information in the Reserve to be able to fight a gate. Maybe the Reserve should invest in that?

Comment: USGS did a study, there is data but it's not being used.

Comment: Ecosystem health needs to be addressed in the climate change vulnerability assessment, we have a foundation document from USGS, maybe start there and build off that.

Q: Is there a program we can lean on to learn successes and failures?

A: There are a few examples, but there is no one good community that has it all figured out. It's a new problem and everyone is still trying to figure out the best approaches.

Q: What are the challenges working with communities and getting support?

A: We need people to understand the real pros and cons of quick fixes. A big lesson in an emergency is that no one is going to make a well thought out logical decision. We need to plan ahead of time during nice weather, so we know where relief funds should go after the next big storm hits. Talking more about the daily flooding, this changes peoples risk assessment for themselves, I think that is what will really get people moving, daily impact vs. once in a while storms.

Comment: People are coming to towns to ask for roads to be raised. There is a huge cost associated with that.

Comment: Identifying vulnerable sites within towns may help in the long term.

Comment: The fact that data is not being utilized properly shows the value of weeding through the data and starting a bird-eye view of a climate change vulnerability assessment.

Q: What is the status of the Reserve CMP draft?

A: It's going through review at DOS. The document is not open for comments at this point but comments will be welcomed during the open public comment period that will come.

Comment: We may need additional funding for some help with this. We should bring this to the Council as a priority?

VOTE: Is a climate change vulnerability assessment a priority of the TAC and should we make a recommendation to the Council? Motion passes.

A draft letter to be presented to the Council will be created by a sub-committee and will be approved by the next TAC. Sub-committee members: John Tanacredi, Nicole Maher, Kathleen Fallon, Maureen Dunn and Corey Humphrey.

ACTION: Send CMP draft to TAC members again.

### **Tentative List of water quality projects and priorities.**

Comment: Anything that's regulated should be followed through with enforcement. Compiling State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) violations to support enforcement which will help water quality could be beneficial.

ACTION: John Tanacredi will assign a student to compile this information.

Suggestion: A groundwater seepage project.

Suggestion: The Reserve CAC is interested in and has discussed microplastic projects to quantify the problem within the Reserve. This can help support the changing legislation locally happening.

Comment: Not a lot of sampling of pH alkalinity is being done in the South Bays. This issue was identified by the Ocean Acidification Task Force.

Comment: There is a lot of water quality monitoring data that doesn't have a QAAP and therefore isn't being used.

Suggestion: Have targets for reducing water quality issues, it is important to measure habitat responses to decreased nutrient inputs.

Suggestion: eDNA projects.

Suggestion: Biological indicator species projects.

Suggestion: Environmental response to water quality improvements.

Comment: We may need a biological version of the USGS coordinated water quality monitoring study.

Suggestion: Funding for fish passage/dam removal

Suggestion: Funding for mitigation of Harmful algal blooms marine and freshwater

Suggestion: HAB and ocean acidification monitoring, more advanced monitoring system

Suggestion: Look at algal species around long island, not necessarily just the harmful ones.

Comment: There is a gap in algal ecology/ community.

Comment: There are only a few organizations on LI getting grants for HAB work, if they move or get interested in a new topic, who will pick up the research?

ACTION: Corey and Lane to compile list of ideas to be distributed to TAC members and expanded upon.

### **Solute Transport Model**

Tabled until next meeting. Try to get Ken Zegel to attend the April meeting.

### **New business**

A bill to ban offshore drilling in NY state waters and connecting infrastructure was passed by the Assembly yesterday and Senate today (Feb. 5, 2019)

A ban on purse seiners from fishing menhaden passed the Assembly and Senate.

Sea Grant and the Reserve are cohosting resiliency forums aimed at coastal property owners. Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at LI maritime center. A second will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> in Babylon Town Hall.

Diadromous fish workgroup meeting at Seatuck Feb 14 at 2pm

LI sound research conference in port Jefferson March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Next TAC meeting will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

ACTION: Add remaining meeting dates to bottom of agendas

Meeting adjourned 12:42pm