CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE COUNCIL

Draft CAC Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2020
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:
Maureen Dolan Murphy, Chair CAC/Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Kristen Kraseski, NYS DEC/LINAP
Alli DePerte, Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)
Brian Schneider, Nassau County
Elisa Picca, Nassau County
Artie Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI)
Jeremy Campbell, NYS DOS/Reserve Coordinator
Lane Smith, Chair TAC/NY Sea Grant
Sue McCormick, NYS DEC
Judi Bird, League of Women Voters Brookhaven
Arielle Santos, Seatuck Environmental Association
Sally Kellogg, NYS DOS/Reserve Office
Rachel Neville, NYS DOS/Reserve Office
Jessie Cohen, Calladium Group
Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association
Adrienne Esposito - Citizens Campaign for the Environment
John Hall - Kayak Fishing Association of New York

1. **Introductions**
M. Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **Update on Bay Park Conveyance Project**
E. Picca outlined the purpose of the Bay Park Conveyance Project, to improve water quality and resilience while removing nitrogen to the western bays. This Project will convey treated water from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant currently discharging an average of 50 million gallons per day of treated water into Reynolds Channel, to the Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant ocean outfall pipe. This project will result in an increase of quality of life for residents and rising property values. To improve water quality in the Western Bays and improve storm resiliency, Nassau County is pursuing the following Projects under the Western Bays Resiliency Initiative — the Bay Park Conveyance Project, the Long Beach Consolidation Project, and Point Lookout Sewer Feasibility Study.

The contract process was then described, the design-build method will be utilized which will expedite the project as compared to traditional methods. Micro tunneling will be used to install
underground piping to transport the treated water, tunnels will be 60 feet below ground. The Calladium Group has been hired as the outreach consultant. A variety of communication and outreach efforts will be used including public meetings, stakeholder meetings, the website (https://www.bayparkconveyance.org/) and direct outreach to name a few strategies. The preliminary design is done, and the environmental assessment is being finalized. The RFP was released in April and the best value contractor will be selected in Fall 2020. Notice to proceed should be issued in spring 2021. A virtual public meeting will be held July 2020.

Question: A. Kopelman: Is the ocean outfall pipe being monitoring?
Answer: M. Murphy: Stony Brook University is currently monitoring the ocean outfall pipe at Cedar Creek. Bay Park has been upgraded to remove nitrogen from the effluent, a first for discharge via an ocean outfall pipe.

B. Schneider: This will result in 99% reduction of Nitrogen into the Western Bays.

3. Bioextraction Program
K. Kraseski explained that bioextraction is an effective nonpoint nutrient management strategy in addition to existing land-based nutrient management efforts. This project promotes the growth and harvesting of shellfish and seaweed to remove nitrogen and other nutrients from coastal waters. In 2018, LINAP launched the Nutrient Bioextraction Initiative in partnership with New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and Long Island Regional Planning Council, with funding provided by the Long Island Sound Study. The goals of the initiative include mapping of areas that are suitable for nutrient bioextraction, creation of a guide for permitting of shellfish aquaculture, developing pilot projects for Nutrient Bioextraction, and identification of markets for bioextractive products. The South Shore Sugar Kelp Bioextraction Project is a part of the initiative. Sugar Kelp is a cold-weather brown algal species that can grow in the winter on Long Island. The goal of this project is to support the development of a commercial seaweed industry in New York by providing technical information. It was funded through a grant from the Long Island Community Foundation and the Long Island Sound Study. Project partners include Town of Hempstead and Town of Islip Shellfish Hatcheries, Adelphi University, two private oyster growers who allowed the use of their leased sites in the off-season, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. Project sites were at Hempstead and Islip hatcheries. Kelp was planted in December and harvested in May in deep and shallow waters. Monitoring occurred at the sites, monthly water quality testing, monthly tissue sample testing for nitrogen, phosphorus and carbon, bacteria was sampled every other month, and tissue sampling at the final harvest was tested for micronutrients, metals, organic contaminants and pesticides. Kelp grew 4 feet on average and had good growth at all sites. Total nitrogen removed is still to be determined. A portion of the kelp was made into fertilizer. There are two upcoming pilot projects in the Long Island Sound: a sugar kelp project which is a continuation of the south shore project and a ribbed mussels project. Ribbed mussels are a non-commercial species and can be grown in uncertified waters. J. Hall commented that he would interested in the micronutrient content of the sugar kelp fertilizer.
4. **Jeremy Campbell, South Shore Estuary Reserve Office**

J. Campbell announced completion of the GIS shellfish story and the findings of the 2018 Benthic mapping survey. The maps can be found on the NYS Information Gateway, [http://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/#/home](http://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/#/home), as well as the 2002 eelgrass maps. There was a 50% loss in eelgrass beds within the SSER. J. Campbell also mentioned the TNC and SSER SAV workshop which occurred in July 2020. He also noted the SSER Council meeting will be rescheduled for the fall and pledged that the SSER office will help with outreach for the Bay Park Conveyance project.

L. Smith noted that the TAC will be focusing on SAV as unifying theme of topics within the SSER TAC.

5. **Public Comment/Announcements**

a) **2021 Stewardship Award**

Question: A. DePerte asked if the Stewardship Award could be moved to the spring?

Answer: J. Campbell: That is for the CAC to decide.

b) **AMCS Whale rescue**

A. DePerte described the humpback whale rescue effort that began on July 27, 2020 from a coastguard report that spotted a whale anchored off the coast of East Rockaway Inlet, the event lasted 4 days. AMCS supports disentanglement efforts, Rob DiGiovanni was on site with DEC where he was taking pictures for documentation purposes. The goal of the deployed disentanglement team was to cut as much gear off the whale before un-anchoring the animal. NOAA and USACE were able to assist, USACE pulled up 4,000 pounds of gear that the animal was entangled in which included a steal cable that could not be cut with normal gear. The whale was eventually freed on the fourth day. A. Kopelman captured photos of the whale 3 weeks later off the coast of Montauk and noted the animal was eating and swimmer. A. DePerte emphasized how difficult entanglements can be and stressed following the proper protocols if an animal is found.

**Maureen Dolan Murphy** – There will be a Climate summit for the first and second congressional districts on 10/8 that can be livestreamed.

**Jeremy Campbell** – Encouraged the CAC to send potential topics and announcements to the SSER email ([dossser@dos.ny.gov](mailto:dossser@dos.ny.gov)) to be included the SSER newsletter.

**Artie Kopelman** – Participation of seal walks may be reduced this year; however the research will still continue.

**Maureen Dunn** – Penataquit Creek native planting and invasives removal events will be on September 26, October 17 and November 7 all are welcome to assist. Seatuck Bats and Brews
will be held on October 24 as a virtual event this year. Half shells for habitat had three restaurants participate in collecting shell this year during the pandemic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.