

South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 6, 2021 10:00am - 11:30am

Zoom Meeting

In attendance:

South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER) Office:

Jeremy Campbell
Sally Kellogg
Rachel Neville

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members:

Lane Smith, TAC Chair, New York Sea Grant

Cassie Bauer, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

Michael Bilecki, National Parks Service (NPS)

Jim Browne, Town of Hempstead

John Tanacredi, Molloy College - CERCOM

Chris Clapp, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association

Chris Schubert, United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Steve Raciti, Hofstra University

Maureen Murphy, Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Tom Wilson, Stony Brook School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS)

Guests

Bradley Peterson, Stony Brook School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS)

Michele Golden, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Emily Hall, Seatuck Environmental Association

Meeting called to order at 10:01am.

Review/Approve February Meeting Minutes

MOTION: pass February meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved.

SSER Office Updates

SSER office is monitoring for alewife in Patchogue River, Westbrook, Tuthill's Creek, and Terrell River as part of Seatuck's monitoring program.

The office will be participating in NYSDEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Program this year at Meadow Lane in Southampton.

Review of SAV Document

Review of/discussion on the SAV document with TAC members. J. Campbell said next step is to sit down with Towns in the SSER to discuss this and get their buy-in before developing a full action plan document.

This document could be a refresh to the Ecosystem Based Management Plan (EBM), which was written by The Nature Conservancy for DOS.

Suggestion to include benefits of SAV at the beginning of the document, like the Gateway story. Inlet management is important to consider for SAV management but is not addressed in the Ecosystem Based Management Plan.

The EBM document that was published was cut down in size. Other items not in the EBM document may have been in the original document that was developed. It may be difficult to find the original, full document but C. Clapp will search for it.

It would be beneficial to have a library of information related to SAV, including data, reports, etc. It is important to consider the vulnerability of the areas where grass can best survive, such as inlets, to boating damage and boat access.

Suggestion to draw maps for SAV management areas using new DOS benthic habitat survey maps. Develop actions for each area. Towns and other entities would have jurisdiction over the areas. Come up with a list of things to look at for each management area.

C. Bauer will look at files for a list of BMPs related to seagrass. NYSDEC held seagrass workshops in 2017/2018 and C. Bauer will look at the meeting notes for any information.

It is important to include a developed education/outreach component in the SAV document, including educating the boating community. Suggestion to include educational material with boater registration mailings and install signs/distribute handouts at boat ramps.

J. Campbell said the SSER office will add information from the EBM document into the new SAV document and will reach out to TAC to fill in pieces that are missing and for review of the next draft.

Suggestion to talk to Towns in the SSER prior to major edits of the document. SSER office will just incorporate the suggestions at this point and then once we speak to the Towns we will incorporate their thoughts.

(See SAV draft document for edits and suggestions made by members).

ACTION ITEM: SSER office will incorporate comments into the document for TAC review.

Partner Updates and Other Business

M. Bilecki asked about the status of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Letter. It has not yet been discussed with the Council and is on the topic list for next Council meeting.

M. Bilecki, NPS: Fire Island's Bay Shoreline Management workshop is coming up on May 13th and 14th. Goal is to understand damages and loss of ecosystem services due to sea level rise and impacts to the shoreline. Will discuss actions to protect hot spot areas. M. Bilecki will report out the results of the workshop at the next TAC meeting.

E. Hall, Seatuck: River Herring survey is ongoing, with over 200 observations so far. Seatuck is working with Cornell to implement a camera at Carman's River to quantify alewife migration.

Community Science LI web series installation in May will feature horseshoe crabs and the Cornell/NYSDEC monitoring program.

M. Golden, NYSDEC: Nassau County is working on their 9 Element Plan. This is a priority for LINAP, ideally to get the plan completed this year. Stakeholder involvement is very important in this effort and a stakeholder group meeting will be taking place. TAC member input would be helpful.

S. Kellogg, SSER: Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a District Manager. Please feel free to share with professional contacts the email that the SSER office sent out regarding the position.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22am.