

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

**August 3, 2021 10:00am – 12:00pm  
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  
Corey Humphrey, TAC Co-Chair, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Michael Bilecki, National Parks Service (NPS)  
E. Christa Farmer, Hofstra University  
Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association  
Maureen Murphy, Citizens Campaign for the Environment  
Rich Groh, Town of Babylon  
Tom Wilson, Stony Brook School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS)  
Terry Blitman, Long Island Maritime Museum  
Artie Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI)

### **Guests**

Chantal Collier, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (official representative for TNC, fill in for Nicole Maher)  
Jim Browne, Town of Hempstead  
Chris Clapp, The Nature Conservancy  
Michele Golden, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Emily Hall, Seatuck Environmental Association

**Meeting called to order at 10:04am.**

### **Review/Approve April Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: pass April meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved. June minutes will need to be approved at October meeting.

### **Great South Bay Brown Tide Update – T. Wilson**

In the Patchogue/Bellport region, harmful levels (over 30,000 cells per milliliter) were sustained for weeks. Significant brown tide bloom. Buoy-based devices could take filter samples that could be retrieved and put through DNA analysis. Does not seem like something we could quantify continuously. Two immunofluorescent methods exist. Seatuck measures turbidity every other week.

### **SAV Document Discussion (see draft document for additional comments and suggestions)**

C. Collier: Added comments into the document. Purpose and goal need to be tailored to a specific audience (the Council, the public, etc.). Include percent loss from 2002 to 2018.

Mention of off bottom aquaculture and if shading from suspended structures will impact SAV; siting may be an issue for the future.

J. Campbell: The document will target the same group as the Comprehensive Management Plan. SSER office will be meeting with the Towns in the SSER to discuss this document.

C. Humphrey: Include in the introduction how eelgrass is a sentinel species and importance of eelgrass.

Suggestion to compare the document to TNC's EBM plan. Dredging is prohibited west of Shinnecock Bay. Marine debris may impact eelgrass, should be included in the document in physical disturbance section.

M. Bilecki: Any impacts from recreational shellfishing? May contribute to cumulative impacts.

M. Bilecki: Anchoring of boats may go along with recreational shellfishing as a cumulative impact.

M. Dunn: NYS includes eelgrass-awareness section in boating training program. Tunicates are a biofouling threat to eelgrass. Will research to find more information for the invasive species section.

C. Clapp: Cownose rays dig up eelgrass beds looking for shellfish; may be an issue with climate change. Macro algae smothering eelgrass is related to nutrients (the source of it).

R. Neville: Consideration for impacts of waterfowl, such as brant and mute swans, on eelgrass.

C. Collier: Suggestion to include outcomes from the SAV workshop with TNC.

M. Dunn: Need footnote with source for each piece of information.

R. Groh: Suggestion to include nitrogen in the "research" section and areas where sewers are currently and where sewers are proposed.

M. Bilecki: Need a sub-group to get this work done and move it forward.

L. Smith: What is the best way to develop a timeline and get goals accomplished? Need to develop something to guide the group in moving forward, maybe a project tracking tool such as Trello.

M. Bilecki: Suggestion to focus on prioritizing items in section three of the document.

Formation of a sub-committee to determine if section three's list of topics is complete, then prioritizing the list. Participants include M. Dunn, M. Bilecki, C. Clapp, C. Humphrey, C. Collier.

**ACTION ITEM:** Sub-committee members will prioritize the list in section three.

R. Groh: Suggestion to look at SAV density in areas that are/are not sewered. This is a current data gap. Will put together some information on areas that are sewered.

J. Campbell: Will speak with DOS GIS staff regarding sewered areas and nitrogen reduction to develop maps.

J. Browne: TAC should not be doing the research but should be finding funding for other to do the research.

### **TAC Program Updates**

Current Chair and Co-Chair terms are coming to an end. New TAC Chair and Co-Chair will be voted on during the October 2021 meeting to start in 2022.

C. Collier: Nominated K. Fallon from NY Sea Grant and T. Schneider from Town of Hempstead, for either Chair or Co-Chair positions.

R. Groh: Seconded nomination of K. Fallon and nominated C. Humphrey.

M. Dunn: Seconded nomination of T. Schneider.

M. Bilecki: Seconded nomination of C. Humphrey. Request for resumes of candidates.

Need a quorum of 13 TAC members. Suggestion to use a poll and make voting anonymous.

C. Humphrey: Are K. Fallon and C. Humphrey able to vote since they are nominated.

Nothing noted in the bylaws about this, so they can vote as members.

Suggestions to have the vote at the October meeting via a poll.

From the TAC bylaws, the Chair and Co-Chair will be chosen by a simple majority vote of TAC members present during the TAC meeting. Person who gets the most votes will be Chair. Then the remaining two candidates will be voted on for Co-Chair and person with most votes is the Co-Chair.

### **Partner Updates and Other Business**

E. C. Farmer: Teaching sedimentation this fall and if there is an opportunity for students to help via research or developing graphics, would be glad to help.

M. Dunn: August 5<sup>th</sup> is national oyster day. Seatuck will have a webinar on oyster shell recycling.

M. Golden: Nassau County 9 Element stakeholder meeting taking place next week.

M. Bilecki: FINS did a workshop in May about erosional issues on the North shore of Fire Island. Summary document of the workshop is being worked on. DOS is looking at monitoring nature -

based protection solutions and asked Mike if FINS wants baseline data collected. Baseline monitoring might occur next spring 2022.

E. Hall: Diadromous fish working group meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Bellmore Creek project moving forward with a technical fishway design. Emily can present in the future on the project if anyone is interested.

R. Groh: Small sewer project completed. Connection of public bathrooms to sewer. Will be doing additional upgrades to the highway yard at the headwaters of Santapogue Creek. Started a year-round rain barrel program with a lot of interest.

**Motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.**