

South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

June 1, 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
Corey Humphrey, TAC Vice Chair, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

E. Christa Farmer, Hofstra University
Cassie Bauer, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
Michael Bilecki, National Parks Service (NPS)
Jim Browne, Town of Hempstead
Chris Clapp, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association
Chris Schubert, United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Guests

Michele Golden, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Emily Hall, Seatuck Environmental Association
Artie Kopelman, CRESLI

Meeting called to order at 10:05am.

Review/Approve April Meeting Minutes

Approval of meeting minutes postponed due to low attendance.

ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes via email.

SSER Office Updates

J. Campbell provided update on SAV Gateway story.
Department of State has a new, updated website. SSER has its own page that is being populated. The Governor announced the next round of CFA funding that is available state-wide (\$750 million). Projects can be done to advance goals and implementation of the SSER Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP).

Review of SAV Document

Added comments to document and expanded the content. This document will continue to change based on TAC input. Brad Peterson's student put together maps of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and this could be used to identify proposed management areas. Maps are based on where eelgrass is now and TAC can choose beds for management that have similar

characteristics. These maps can serve as a way to get conversation started on what seagrass management areas could look like.

It is important to remember that each bed is different and there is no “one-size-fits-all,” the threats vary. TAC can rank areas by optimal conditions. A threats/impact analysis for SAV management areas was completed with the former DEC Seagrass Coordinator. Are the maps in an accessible place?

ACTION ITEM: L. Smith will upload these maps that were developed by SoMAS student.

There is research on eelgrass beds being a refugia from effects of coastal ocean acidification for larval fish, this should be added to the document. The NY State safe boater course includes a section on SAV and prop scars.

Request for TAC members to make edits in the document using “suggesting mode.” TAC members can also make comments in a word document and send to L. Smith and R. Neville to incorporate into Google Document.

Suggestion to have a repository for data to store all of this information. This idea has come up in conversation in the past with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

C. Bauer looked at old files and found a summary from the seagrass symposium and workgroup meetings. She added comments in the draft document related to those documents, much of it was covered already. Will look for the threats document in the files.

The TAC might need to suggest funding or agencies to act as a webmaster if a data repository is developed so that someone will be responsible for maintaining and updating it.

Is sediment transport something that needs be considered? It would relate to substrates and would be beneficial to include. In section 3 of the draft document, under “Research,” sediment transport should be added. Sediment transport is difficult to characterize but is important for salt marshes.

Would population genetics be useful? There is a baseline for that from Brad Peterson’s lab (there is great diversity and SAV is heavily reliant on seeds, it is not clonal). Should consider a similar approach to corals currently: finding resilient beds and propagate them to put back out in the wild and interbreed the genes that are able to survive in warmer temperatures.

Should include mention of the role that breaches play in supporting SAV in the document (increased light and improved water quality). There is a breach management plan in the FIMP plan which can be used for information. M. Dunn will get the information for the TAC.

SSER TAC Chair and Co-Chair Elections

It is a 3-year appointment for both positions. This fall will mark 3 years. Bylaws state that elections should be held in September but TAC does not meet in September. The next meeting is in August and nominations will take place then, elections will take place in October. New positions will begin in February. No procedure in bylaws on nominations or voting. If group

approves of nominations, we can develop a list and Google form with those names and members can vote.

Question on meeting in person. SSER travel is limited, but unsure of what that will be moving forward. J. Campbell will see what the directive is on in-person meetings. Meetings may be hybrid meetings moving forward, with the option for virtual and in-person. C. Humphrey will look into additional meeting locations in case technology options at the Maritime Museum cannot support virtual meetings.

Partner Updates and Other Business

M. Bilecki: FINS, TNC, National Wildlife Federation, and Fire Island communities held a two-day bay shoreline management workshop focusing on erosion on the northern shoreline of Fire Island. 12 presenters discussed nature-based shoreline protection systems. Breakout groups discussed solutions for erosion and opportunities for specific locations. FINS will develop a summary/next steps document to share with others. A FINS colleague has been having conversations with NASA. NASA has an earth observation satellite that might be helpful for FINS projects related to sediment transport. NASA has interns for 10 weeks who can work to try to track sediment in the Great South Bay using the satellite images. FINS is deciding if they will move forward.

E. Hall, Seatuck: Seatuck is working on fish passage options for Bellmore Creek. June 8th is the community feedback meeting which is open to the public. Seatuck recently completed the volunteer river herring and eel survey.

C. Clapp, TNC: TNC had a recent hire through the North Shore Land Alliance with NFWF funding for a water quality coordinator. The position will do outreach in LI Sound watershed areas and recruit people for the two Counties' septic programs. TNC wants to expand this to other watersheds, specifically lower to moderate income areas in the South Shore.

J. Browne, TOH: TOH was awarded the "Share the Shore Award" from Audubon for work done with shorebirds. TOH is also working on their SSER grants and has had the first returning diamondback terrapin of the year last week that was tagged a few years ago.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31am.