

South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

**October 5, 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
Tara Schneider-Moran, Town of Hempstead
Corey Humphrey, TAC Co-Chair, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District
Michael Bilecki, National Parks Service (NPS)
Cassie Bauer, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
E. Christa Farmer, Hofstra University
Kathleen Fallon, New York Sea Grant
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)
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
Emily Hall, Seatuck Environmental Association (fill-in for Enrico Nardone)
Cailin Draper, Town of Babylon (fill-in for R. Groh)

Meeting called to order at 10:00am.

Review/Approve August and June Meeting Minutes

MOTION: pass August and June meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved.

SSER TAC Chair and Co-Chair Elections

Candidates:

T. Schneider-Moran, Senior Conservation Biologist, Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways.
K. Fallon, Coastal Processes and Hazard Specialist, New York Sea Grant.
C. Humphrey, District Manager, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Suggestion to get Nassau County Soil and Water District involved.

L. Smith administered a Zoom poll for the Chair position. Remaining two candidates to be voted on for Co-Chair position.

Results: T. Schneider-Moran won the vote with 6, C. Humphrey second with 5, and K. Fallon in third place.

New Chair takes over in January 2022.

Vote for Co-Chair position via a Zoom poll. Ended in a tie. Held a re-vote with members who did not vote that can vote.

Voting members:

M. Murphy
K. Fallon
C. Collier (fill-in for N. Maher of TNC)
A. Kopelman
C. Bauer
E. C. Farmer
T. Wilson
J. Browne
M. Dunn
T. Schneider-Moran
E. Hall (fill-in for E. Nardone of Seatuck)
M. Bilecki

K. Fallon won Co-Chair election.

SSER Office Updates

Held a meeting with the SSER Towns. Towns were supportive of the SAV work that the TAC is doing and gave helpful feedback and comments.

Document is being developed and the next step is to include actions in the document. Hope to have something drafted by the next TAC meeting to share with the group members.

Great need for educating the public on what seagrass is. Town of Babylon put together a draft of a potential educational sign focusing on SAV and nutrients in the SSER, to be placed in all Towns in the SSER.

Goal to get the SAV action plan draft document done by early 2022. Suggestion to have the sub-committee meetings in-between the regular bi-monthly TAC meetings to work on this document. The document will be an actionable list.

Steve Schott of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County will join in on SAV subcommittee meetings as he is able.

SSER Council meeting scheduled for October 14th. Agenda and call-in information will be sent out.

Shared the draft SAV educational sign from Town of Babylon. Signs would be placed outdoors.

Suggestion to include actionable items for boaters. If focusing on nutrient input could include information on lawncare. Need to include credits for photos.

Signs are intended to be put up for the Towns but can expand it to include others. Goal is to have the same sign for each Town with specific Town logos on each. Signs would be larger, so don't want to include too much text. Sign could be a poster as well. Make a high-resolution PDF too.

Each Town has their own sign shops for printing these signs.

Include damage by boating, anchoring, fishing, and shellfishing.

Future Topics for the TAC

Climate change vulnerability assessment.

Partner Updates and Other Business

M. Bilecki: FINS is starting to put together their Science Conference for 2022 (to be held around the end of April, in person at Patchogue ferry terminal, but may be virtual). Will include NOAA/DOS seagrass mapping.

C. Schubert: the USGS report summarizing analysis of groundwater has been published. Includes geospatial data. Available online, including the model.

C. Bauer: DEC Division of Marine Headquarters has moved, now located in Nissequogue State Park. Will be holding an open house on October 16th.

E. Hall: For the Bellmore Creek Project, the DEC grant is completed. Nassau County has decided to go ahead with the technical fishway but may do alterations to the design to make it more effective. E. Hall can do a presentation or summary on the assessment of the alternatives.

A. Kopelman: 17th year of seal sightings and walks at Cupsogue Beach will begin in November. 36 walks are scheduled for the public into early May. Longest standing study of a seal haul-out site in NY. If anyone has known seal haul-out areas where people are going out to collect information, please contact Artie so he can collaborate and get an idea of seals in the SSER.

K. Fallon: New York Sea Grant reached a milestone with their storyline maps, targeted for shoreline decision-makers. Please share widely. This project will have a phase 2 during which they will expand on it and add more chapters, including more in-person outreach and trainings.

Question about whether the Long Island Natural History Conference is going to happen in 2022. No updates or definitive answers.

L. Smith: Long Island Sound Research Conference will be held this year in Connecticut in May.

C. Humphrey: 2022 LI Envirothon will be held in-person the week of April 27th. Partnership with Usdan Center for the Arts in Wheatley Heights, plan to hold the event there indefinitely. Looking for volunteers for the event. Last event was held at Bethpage Village Restoration in 2019, then virtually in 2021.

M. Dolan-Murphy: CAC is still meeting virtually. Last presentation was from researchers at CUNY focusing on culture in the Great South Bay.

R. Groh: Did a project with Save the Great South Bay (SGSB). Stormwater Systems donated a litter trap to SGSB that was installed in a tributary in Carlls River. Started collecting floating debris. There will be a press release on it soon. The trap will be monitored, and the collection items will be analyzed.

M. Dolan-Murphy: Army Corps of Engineers is holding public meeting for the Nassau County Back Bays Study on October 6th from 1:00pm-2:30pm.

J. Campbell: Army Corps will present on the Nassau County Back Bays Study at the upcoming SSER Council meeting.

Tuesday, December 7th is the next SSER TAC meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21am.