

# CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO THE SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE COUNCIL

## **CAC Meeting Minutes**

May 9, 2023

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Present:

Maureen Dolan Murphy, Citizens Campaign for the Environment/Chair CAC  
Rob Weltner, Operation SPLASH/Vice-Chair CAC  
Jeremy Campbell, NYS DOS/Reserve Coordinator  
Alexa Annunziata, Peconic Bay Keeper  
Judi Bird, League of Women Voters Brookhaven  
Dorian Dale, Suffolk County  
Alli DePerte, Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMSeas)  
Kathleen Fallon, Co-Chair TAC/NY Sea Grant  
Sally Kellogg, NYS DOS/Reserve Office  
Artie Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI)  
Bob Mozer, Speonk Remsenburg Civic Association  
Brian Schneider, USGS  
Chris Schubert, USGS  
Todd Shaw, Save The Great South Bay  
John Turner, Seatuck Environmental Association

### **1. Introductions**

M. Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

### **2. SSER Action Plan**

**J. Campbell** provided background to SSER Action Plan. The SSER office is in the process of contracting with USGS to create an Action Plan which will identify specific projects to advance items in the CMP. C. Schubert outlined the process and product. Structured decision making was described as it will be the method used to engage with stakeholders and create the action plan/implementation strategy. Other projects that used structured decision making were outlined. The objective is to guide funding decisions made over the next 3-5 years. There will be multiple stakeholder engagement workshops and the end product will include general cost estimates for projects. We are hoping to begin the project this summer to fall. Once the project begins, it should take about 6 months to be completed.

Question: How can a project be included in this document?

Answer: Projects are driven by what is in the CMP.

### **3. Long Island Water Re-Use Plan**

Seatuck Environmental Association created the [Long Island Water Reuse Roadmap & Action Plan](#) to catalyze the implementation of water reuse on Long Island and ensure that the strategy plays a larger and more meaningful role in safeguarding the region's drinking water and surface water resources. This was inspired by concerns for the environmental health including coastal water and aquifer health. By implementing only the top priority projects this plan could eliminate 19 tons of nitrogen that would otherwise flow into our ground and surface waters, and would keep 850 million gallons of water in our aquifer. Water quality and water quantity is important to wildlife. Water reuse is done in other countries, states, and even in some breweries.

Comment: A lot of water reuse is done in areas with a water scarcity.

Comment: Less fertilization could be needed because the recycled water is more nutrient rich.

Question: Who would pay for this?

Answer: Municipalities may need to step in and pay for implementation, golf courses and nurseries don't the ability to fully fund this type of project.

Comment: Criteria still needs to be developed to ensure water can be brought to suitable quality. The water reuse registry, DEC reuse feasibility study and standards still need to be prepared.

### **4. SSER Budget**

The New York State Budget passed last week and the SSER item is now up to \$2 million even though the Environmental Protection Fund did not increase.

### **5. SSER Office Report Jeremy Campbell, South Shore Estuary Reserve Office**

**J. Campbell** reminded members that two Council meetings have occurred this year, January 24 and April 18. The Patchogue Living Shoreline groundbreaking took place before the January meeting and construction is slated to be complete by the end of June. Over the winter, SSER spoke about the Blue Carbon Seagrass Restoration project at a Save the Great South Bay speaker series event. Additionally, SSER staff attended the Patchogue Eco Fair on April 23 and Babylon Earth Day on May 6. Also, SSER is monitoring for alewife and we continue to be a co-site coordinator for Horseshoe Crab Monitoring at a site in Shinnecock Bay. Lastly, the next Council meeting will be July 18, 2023.

### **6. TAC Report**

At the April TAC meeting presentations were given on the SSER action plan by USGS and on the New York Sea Grant funded Eelgrass blue carbon storage research project by Dr. Peterson from Stony Brook University. The next meeting will be June 6<sup>th</sup> with presentations on the SSER Blue Carbon Seagrass Restoration Project, Nassau County Invasive Removal grant, and on the Hempstead Bay 2022 Shellfish Inventory and aquaculture lease feasibility study.

### **7. Public Comment/Announcements**

**D. Dale** mentioned the Suffolk County referendum needs to be approved by the County Legislature before it can be on the November ballot. The general meeting will be on June 21 in Riverhead at 4pm and the public meeting starting at 6:30pm and the official vote would then be on July 25 in Hauppauge.

**R. Weltner** noted Operation SPLASH staff and volunteers are finding shotgun shells on the south shore probably from skeet shooting. There has been an increase in marine debris especially at the beginning of the season.

**J. Bird** noted that internal migratory bird day is May 13.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.