

**Meeting Minutes - Suffolk County Legislature's
Marine Industry & Revitalization Advisory Council**

May 15, 2019

Committee Members Present: *Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Legislator Al Krupski, August Ruckdeschel, Tom Kehoe, Lisa Calla, Michael Jensen, Kim Lamiroult, Danielle Stango-Torre, Diane LaChapelle, Bill Hillman, Vincent Biondo*

Committee Members Absent: *Legislator Susan A. Berland Dr. Shaun McKay, Debra Montaruli, Legislator Bridget Fleming, Chris Pickerell, Kristen Jarnagin, David Wicks, Vincent Pesce.*

Staff Members Present: *Lora Gellerstein, Christina DeLisi, Irene Donohue, Bob Fonti, Nancy Jacobsen, Derek Stein, Sharon Wyman, Katherine Peterson.*

Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked for those present to review the Minutes from the January 16th, 2019 Meeting and the February 6th and 7th, 2019 Public Hearings (Hauppauge and Riverhead).

Review and Approve Minutes from January 16th, 2019 Meeting, and February 6th and 7th, 2019 Public Hearings (Hauppauge and Riverhead)

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory stated that everyone should have had a chance to review the Minutes. Tom Kehoe made a motion to accept the February 7th Public Hearing Minutes, seconded by August Ruckdeschel, as long as his changes were made, and the Minutes were approved unanimously. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked to review the January 16th Meeting Minutes Tom Kehoe made a motion to accept the January 16th Meeting Minutes, seconded by August Ruckdeschel, and the Minutes were approved unanimously. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory then made a motion to accept the February 6th Public Hearing Minutes, seconded by Tom Kehoe and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

Schedule Subcommittee meetings

Presiding Officer Gregory stated that there was a short agenda today, but there was a goal of setting up subcommittee meetings, since some had not been meeting regularly.

Tom Kehoe stated that he would schedule a meeting of the Aquaculture and Commercial Fishing Subcommittee with Derek Stein. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked the members of the Advisory Council to schedule their subcommittee meetings with Derek Stein.

Subcommittee Discussion of the Hauppauge and Riverhead Public Hearings.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory stated they had wanted each subcommittee to discuss the Hauppauge and Riverhead Public Hearings and what they can learn from them.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory noted that yesterday (May 14th, 2019) the Legislature passed Resolution No. 394-2019 "Implementing a Shellfish Annual Temporary Event Permit." He stated the resolution had come from the Public Hearings and Chuck Westfall of the Long Island Oyster Growers

Association (LIOGA), who suggested the proposal due to the prohibitive cost of filing out permits for every day of an event. Tom Kehoe stated it is a big deal and that it allows oyster growers to get a seasonal permit for an event. He said it could provide hundreds more dollars to oyster growers and sellers. August Ruckdeschel stated it is open to wild oyster harvesters as well. Legislator Al Krupski stated they still are under federal sanitation standards and that this resolution only changes it so they do not have to get a permit for each individual event. Finally, Legislator Al Krupski and Tom Kehoe applauded the adoption of the resolution, stating it will help small family growers.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked for each subcommittee to review and identify priorities from the Public Hearings and to move towards strategizing on how to implement proposals. He then asked if the members thought it would be best to break into subcommittees today for discussion. Derek Stein stated that David Wicks, who chairs the Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee and Vinny Pesce, who chairs the Environmental Subcommittee, were unable to attend. Sharon Wyman stated that Economic Development Subcommittee chair Kristen Jarnigan could not make it, but asked for her to attend the meeting and take notes.

August Ruckdeschel updated the Advisory Council, stating that fish processing facilities are lacking on Long Island, so some catch from Montauk is shipped to Fulton's Fish Market in New York City and then is shipped back to Long Island. Legislator Al Krupski asked how processing is defined. August Ruckdeschel stated in the survey going out now he asked fishermen to define processing in order to identify their needs. He stated Julie Lofsted worked with Southampton Town to identify sites for ship processing plants. He stated he will attend a seafood investment forum next Thursday (5.23.19). He noted there are a number of species that would be sustainable but are under caught, such as Porgy or Bluefish. August Ruckdeschel stated that he has caught Porgy, Sea Robins, and Spiny Dogfish and that they are edible. He stated that there are sustainable, plentiful species that if an investor was able to assist and help create a market, these species could be sold successfully on Long Island. Legislator Al Krupski asked how this would be processed. Tom Kehoe stated he believes Bonnie Brady imagines flash-freezing catch and they are looking to establish a market for these fish. He recalled that millions of pounds of Spiny Dogfish used to be caught for European markets. Legislator Al Krupski asked if the problem was how to filet it. Tom Kehoe stated he believes the East End fishing community is looking for someone to freeze fish and ship it overseas and noted Port Judith, Rhode Island has that industry already. August Ruckdeschel stated New Bedford and Cape May have that kind of industry and he has spoken to Bonnie Brady about the possibility of an industry being established here. He noted they will help to direct fishermen to viable species and to bring them to market. August Ruckdeschel stated there is funding available as well, such as Empire State Development's Consolidated Funding Application which can provide \$200,000 to match \$1 million investments, USDA's Local Farmers' Promotion grants, or Suffolk IDA grants which he felt together could overcome upfront costs and create an operating budget profit.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked if there was ever a processor. Tom Kehoe replied there was one at Promised Land (the former Smith Meal Fish Factory) in Amagansett. Legislator Al Krupski stated they will not put a processor there again. Tom Kehoe asked who owns the land. August Ruckdeschel replied New York State Parks. Tom Kehoe stated that even a short truck ride from Montauk adds a cost. August Ruckdeschel stated the Shinnecock Nation could be a potential site. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory mentioned a member of the Shinnecock Nation had asked to be on the Advisory Council and August Ruckdeschel stated he had met with the Nation about commercial fishing opportunities.

August Ruckdeschel stated he had written two grants for Choose Long Island and had not received funding grants from Empire State Development or New York Farm Viability Institute. He stated he will apply for the USDA Local Farmers' Promotion Program which is due June 18th. He stated the program's goal is to get people excited about locally grown foods and products and they hope to continue to expand it. They are looking to apply for the program with assistance from the Amagansett Food Institute, which was a previous recipient of a grant.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory had attended a meeting with Legislator Al Krupski and Bill Hillman regarding dredging. Legislator Al Krupski stated that it has been a long discussion to try and open up the dredge window and where there has been a number of partners involved. He stated the DEC has been helpful, but Federal Fish and Wildlife Services have been more difficult. He noted winter storms create a mess of the dredge window. The meetings look to take a pragmatic approach to the window, where if a species is not found in an area then the window should not be closed. Tom Kehoe asked what Congressman Lee Zeldin's position is and if he can expedite the process. Legislator Al Krupski replied that he has been supportive, but he individually cannot speed up the process, which has been ongoing since Congressman Tim Bishop was in office. Bill Hillman stated they were asked to submit a priority list at the end of the last meeting and Congressman Zeldin's representative asked to be copied on the email. Tom Kehoe recalled that Federal Fish and Wildlife had almost banned the Eastern Oyster catch before he was able to have hearings with the House resource committee that prevented a ban. Legislator Al Krupski stated the new issue is the Red Knot, which may visit the site, but not nest there. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory stated it was a learning experience for him, and with the Red Knot the instructions from Fish and Wildlife Services were unclear and required expensive monitoring without needing to prove if it is necessary. Legislator Al Krupski noted the Red Knot migrates, and thought it was crazy to base the dredge window alone on migration patterns. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory stated that they tend to overcomplicate issues.

Open Discussion

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked if there were any other comments. Lisa Calla replied that Suffolk County Community College held a meeting recently at Kingsborough Community College to tour their Marine Technology Program. She stated Conrad Kreuter visited SCCC and met with one of the deans and the Head of the Automotive Department, whom is looking to put together two special topic course for next year. One will focus on small marine engines, and the other will focus on electronics for boating. She stated that based on the response, they will look to expand it. Legislator Al Krupski asked to promote the program in local schools with robotics clubs and shop programs. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory stated his father was a mechanic and recognizes there is a difference in how car engines and boat engines work. Legislator Al Krupski stated that promoting the program in schools would give interested students direction. Lisa Calla stated they will promote it at high schools, or bring high school students to SCCC for the program.

Presiding Officer Gregory asked if there was any other business. Sharon Wyman stated Discover Long Island could host the next Economic Development Subcommittee and will send a few dates to Derek Stein. Derek Stein stated he will send out dates on behalf of the Environmental Subcommittee.

There being no other business, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m. The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on June 19th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes compiled by Derek Stein, Legislative Aide to Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory