

## **DWW Community Benefits East Hampton Town Trustees**

1. An operations and maintenance facility for the South Fork Wind Farm, also acting as a base for crew transfer vessels, would be established in Montauk and operated for the twenty five year life of the project.
2. The establishment of a fisheries Conflict Resolution Fund for East Hampton fishermen. The conflict resolution fund would be used for the remediation of documented financial losses due to off shore and near shore wind farm related construction and the related on going wind farm operations. Furthermore, it would be used to support the unintended conflicts of use between wind farm operations and fishing activities in traditional fishing grounds.
3. The establishment of Town Trustee Fishery Resource Assistance fund. This fund would have the ability to directly address fishery resource enhancement efforts in Town waters as well as social and economic aspects of concern to the local fishing community. The East Hampton Trustees would be the administrators of this effort. Examples of this dual focus could be:

### 3-1. Shellfish Enhancement and Restoration

The Town Trustees, working with the Town Shellfish Hatchery and baymen have been deeply involved in shellfish enhancement and restoration work for decades. Shellfishing in East Hampton is an important component of commercial and recreational harvest activity. A significant portion of the clam harvest and virtually all of the oyster harvest results from hatchery production. Bay Scallop seeding has been credited with jump starting productive seasonal harvests in the last decade, after many years of population decline beginning in the 1980's and caused by successive harmful algal blooms, particularly of brown tide (*Aureococcus anophagefferens*). With additional resources these efforts could be expanded.

### 3-2. Fisheries Research

Matters such as Winter Flounder and Alewife restoration can be considered. Investigations into breeding behavior and habitat requirements of locally sourced organisms may be undertaken, for example the Horseshoe Crab (*Limulus polyphemus*).

### 3-3. Socioeconomics of the Fishery

The east end fishery is made up of disparate communities. Bringing these communities together could contribute to the effectiveness of stressing their collective economic and social value to the area. Contribution to socioeconomic studies of the local fisheries and the possible development of an East End Fisheries Consortium are possible outcomes.

4. The establishment of an East Hampton Town Trustee Aquatic Environmental Improvement Fund. This fund would be used to undertake local environmental and water quality improvement projects identified by the Trustees and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). The emphasis of these projects would be on East Hampton Town waters. Examples of project areas are listed below:

### 4-1. Shellfish Based Environmental Improvement and Education

In the last few years, the Trustees and Town Hatchery have collaborated on two oyster gardening programs in which residents are given a modest amount of small oysters and the gear to grown them in, taught and coached in proper culture techniques and provided with an area in

public waters to carry out the activity. When mature, half the harvest is for the grower's private use and half distributed on Trustee bottomland for restorative purposes or public harvest. The expansion of this popular hands on program, including into other harbors is in the public interest.

#### 4-2. Aquaculture Based Environmental Remediation

Other projects considered for future implementation include the possibility of establishing:

- Oyster reefs as a natural bulwark to rising water levels and accompanying enhanced storm surges resulting from climate change.
- The cultivation of ribbed, or mud mussels found on estuarine marsh edges is also being looked at for purposes similar to that above.
- The cultivation of macroalgae or seaweeds as a tool for nitrogen extraction from stressed water bodies.

Projected projects can be implemented with resources made available for additional personnel and equipment.

#### 4-3. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Restoration

Subaquatic vegetation, primarily eelgrass (*Zostera marina*), is a vital element of the bay, harbor and creek habitats of the Peconic/Gardiners Bay system. Meadows of eelgrass support a myriad of marine organisms and provide shelter for finfish fry and shellfish, especially the bay scallop.

Since the onset of the Brown Tide algae blooms in the mid-1980's, and possibly due to other factors of degraded water quality or excess nutrients, eelgrass beds have declined precipitously.

The Town Trustees have and are working with other environmental agencies to identify conditions necessary for successful eelgrass restoration in some town harbors. Similarly, another species, widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) may be considered as part of the restoration process, acting as a first step in a plant succession leading to eel grass establishment. This work can be intensified and expanded with additional resources.

#### 4-4. Water Quality Testing

The Town Trustees have expressed as one of their primary goals maintaining water quality in our harbors, creeks and ponds. In Georgica and Wainscott Ponds, which at times have been threatened by harmful algal blooms, they have partnered with residents, other governmental and non-governmental agencies and scientists to monitor environmental parameters, which are displayed in real time. Compiling baseline data such as this is a first step in the development of management plans leading to the remediation of challenges to water quality. Similar data could be collected in other water bodies with additional resources.

#### 4-5. Environmental Management Plan Development and Implementation

Environmental management plans, utilizing baseline data such as that generated by water quality testing, would be a useful tool in the long term management of town water bodies and their surrounding watersheds. Cooperating with residents and other agencies in this goal can augment the Trustees interest in addressing water quality issues as a priority. Trustees would have ample time to develop a comprehensive environmental management plan. Given a model of annualized payments, the scope of work for each year would be designed to match the

anticipated revenues from the community benefits payments for that year.

#### 4-6. Environmental Dredging

Over the years the Town Trustees have considered the possibility of either purchasing and operating, or contracting a small dredge boat in order to carry out environmentally oriented dredging projects in Trustee harbors, perhaps one or two each year. This idea has also been discussed as a collaboration with other east end towns in order to make it more cost effective. Projects might include opening up creeks, dreens or flats in a harbor in order to allow better water exchange to alleviate stagnation, or fine tune a small, formerly dredged channel leading to a boat docking area that would no longer be subject to a Suffolk County maintenance plan. Available resources could be devoted to revisiting this concept in a more realistic way.

#### 4-7. Marsh Replanting

Nearly every harbor and pond in the Town's coastal area has some section of degraded or otherwise compromised fringing marsh or wetland. All these disturbed areas can be inventoried and prioritized for restoration. Degraded areas can be regraded and replanted with native species. Harvest and planting techniques are low impact, using simple hand tools which disturb marsh soils minimally. Project needs include permitting, plant materials, staffing, equipment and monitoring.

#### 4-8. Phragmites Control

Phragmites is an invasive species that has been increasingly taking over wetland areas and crowding out longstanding native marsh communities. Every harbor and most of the larger coastal ponds have phragmites populations at present.

In order to maintain the integrity of existing marsh communities, hand cutting or non-intensive mechanical methods are generally employed as a control, involving periodic cutting of phragmites followed by tidal flooding. Cutting weakens the plant, then salt causes osmotic shock, further weakening the phragmites plant and allowing other in situ native species to gain a competitive foothold and repopulate the phragmites areas. Project requirements would include permitting and resources for staffing, equipment and monitoring.

5. The establishment of a regional Town Trustee historical research project. This project would document and memorialize trustee history, trustee holdings and prior legal proceedings. This project would encompass the East Hampton Town Trustees and include the Southampton Town and Southold Town Trustees where applicable. This would provide both community benefit via documenting our rich local heritage and provide protection of Trustee holdings on behalf of the commonality, regarding future legal proceedings.

6. The establishment of an Infrastructure Needs Assessment, Implementation and Improvement Fund. Among projects that have been discussed:

- Napeague ramp and/or dock (with Town),
- Hog Creek access (with Town),
- Landing Lane launching area (with Town),
- Additional kayak racks,
- Georgica Pond access (with NYS),
- Beach access assessment and improvements (with Town),
- Pump out boats,
- Inlets.

7. Deep Water Wind, its successors and/or assigns will contribute \_\_\_\_\_ per year, for a period of 20 (25?) years to the East Hampton Town Trustee Community Benefits Fund. The fund contributions will be paid in full within 20 days of construction commencing on the DWW SF project in any capacity. All subsequent annual payments will be made on or prior to the initial anniversary date.

8. The fund will be administered by the East Hampton Town Trustees in consultation with the appropriate local stakeholder groups. The funds administration and oversight will be incorporated into the East Hampton Town Trustees annual financial audit and public report.