

**APPENDIX N**  
**Support Letters**

**Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program Mitigation Funds**  
**Department of the Interior – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

**January 31, 2014**

**Suffolk County New York Application for:**

**“Coastal resiliency via integrated salt marsh management”**

Support Letters have been received from the U.S. Congress, several Federal and State agencies as well as from conservation groups within New York State, and surrounding states. In addition support letters have also been received from all eight (8) of the New York Rising Communities and from a veterans/volunteers group that will be working with us if we are awarded the grant. The support letters were combined into a single file for your review and this file contains letters from the following:

1. U.S. Congress
2. U.S. Department of the Interior – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3. U.S. Department of the Interior – U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
4. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)
5. South Shore Estuary Reserve (NYS DOS)
6. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the West Gilgo/Captree communities
7. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Babylon/ West Babylon communities
8. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Fire Island communities
9. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Shirley/Mastic communities
10. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Amityville/Copiague communities
11. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Oakdale/West Sayville communities
12. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Lindenhurst community.
13. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the West Islip community – Letter 1 (DeCarlo)

14. New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the West Islip community – Letter 2 (Donohue)
15. Town of Brookhaven
16. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
17. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
18. Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
19. Barnegat Bay Partnership – New Jersey
20. Seatuck
21. Stony Brook University – School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS)
22. Save the Bay – Narragansett Bay - Rhode Island
23. Proposed Town of Babylon Supporting Resolution – to be voted on February 18, 2014
24. Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
25. The Corps Network (TCN) - Volunteers

Please note that Islip and Babylon Towns are also providing in-kind services as project partners.

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 31, 2014

Mr. Jeff Trandahl  
Executive Director & CEO  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St. NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Trandahl:

We write in support of Suffolk County's application for funding from the 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This funding will assist the county in restoring and improving the management of approximately 400 acres of estuarine-salt marsh coastal habitat to enhance resiliency of coastal ecosystems, maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce inland communities' vulnerability against risks related to storm surges, flooding, wave energy, erosion, and long-term sea level rise.

The south shore of Suffolk County was significantly impacted by Hurricane Sandy in late October, 2012. Storm surge floods easily surpassed the FEMA 100 year flood level marks, leaving lasting damage to thousands of properties on and near the coastline in addition to the barrier islands. In addition to the immediate damage caused by Sandy, salt marshes in this area are now more vulnerable than ever to the threat of rising sea level. According to the county, this vulnerability is causing a loss of marsh vegetation and thus threatening the long-term viability of these important ecosystems in the face of future storm events.

If this funding is granted, Suffolk County plans to address restoration needs identified by the New York State South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan. This proposed plan includes efforts to improve water quality and natural living resources. Further, this project will restore and enhance environmental and socioeconomic services from currently degraded salt marsh areas affected by large areas of invasive common reed, waterlogging, extensive mudflat and panne formation, and shoreline erosion. Besides providing buffer areas to prevent the loss of property, these wetlands are valuable open space areas that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and education. The proposed areas for restoration include conserved sites and land owned by in the Towns of Babylon, Islip and Brookhaven, Suffolk County, and the State of New York. Although Suffolk County has continually worked to address storm resiliency on Long Island, they cannot completely restore this area without funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

We ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

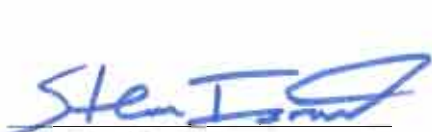
Sincerely,



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senator



STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY H. BISHOP  
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress



Town of  
Brookhaven  
Long Island

**Edward P. Romaine, Supervisor**

January 27, 2014

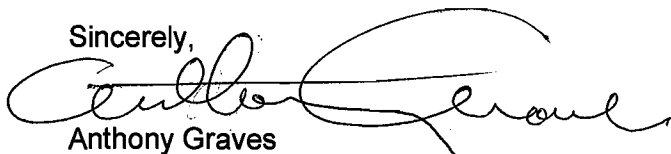
Mr. Martin McHugh  
Program Coordinator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. McHugh

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's application, to 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program. The main objective of this project is to improve and strengthen Great South Bay estuarine-salt marsh coastal habitats to enhance resiliency of coastal ecosystems, fish and wildlife, and reduce inland communities' vulnerability against risks related to storm surges, flooding, wave energy, erosion, and long-term resiliency to sea level rise. This project will restore and enhance environmental and socioeconomic services from currently degraded salt marsh areas affected by large areas of invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*), waterlogging, extensive mudflat and panne formations, shoreline erosion and high mosquito production. In addition, this project will provide volunteer and educational opportunities for citizens, as well as research opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students by integrating ecosystem structural and functional indicators into the pre and post project monitoring activities.

The Town of Brookhaven is familiar with the successes of past efforts at marsh restoration by Suffolk County and believes that the expertise and experience which the County's staff has will make this proposal a resounding success should it be funded. Again, Brookhaven supports Suffolk County and its partners in this important project.

Sincerely,



Anthony Graves  
Chief Environmental Analyst

Planning, Environment and Land Management  
Tullio Bertoli, AICP, Commissioner  
Brenda Prusinowski, AICP, Chief Deputy Commissioner  
One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6400 • Fax (631) 451-6419  
[www.brookhaven.org](http://www.brookhaven.org)



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
of Suffolk County

Extension Education Center

423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100  
Riverhead, New York 11901-3071  
t. 631.727.7850  
f. 631.727.7130

Mr. Martin McHugh  
Program Coordinator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Date: January 23, 2014

Re: Letter of support for SCDEDP Sandy Application

Dear Mr. McHugh:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County strongly supports the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's application, for the 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant.

This proposed project to improve and strengthen Great South Bay estuarine-salt marsh coastal habitats to enhance resiliency of coastal ecosystems, fish and wildlife, and reduce inland communities' vulnerability against risks related to storm surges, flooding, wave energy, erosion, and improve long-term resiliency to sea level rise is a goal we support. Implementation of this project will help to restore currently degraded salt marsh areas affected by invasion of common reed (*Phragmites australis*), excessive waterlogging, extensive mudflat and panne formations, shoreline erosion and high mosquito production.

There are many areas of concern for Suffolk County and the Nation, including the loss of tidal marshes and other coastal habitats that have reduced estuarine productivity and eliminated critical feeding and nursery habitat for fin and shellfish. We feel the proposed project goes a long way towards addressing these concerns and does it in a sound scientific manner.

I consider this to be an excellent proposal to enhance our south shore of Long Island wetlands to better protect our communities and to also strengthen our natural ecosystems to benefit fish and wildlife. I look forward to supporting Suffolk County and in this important project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Pickerell".

Chris Pickerell  
Marine Program Director  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County



# Memo

To: Mr. David O'Neill, Vice President, Conservation Programs, National Fish & Wildlife Federation

From: Paul Capotosto, Program Specialist I *Paul Capotosto*

Date: 1/30/2014

Re: DOI /Sandy Funding Program – support Suffolk County, NY's, "Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York".

We at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management Program in CT support Suffolk County, NY's application for NFWF Hurricane Sandy funds under the proposal, "Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York".

The primary goal of this proposal is to restore the multiple benefits of healthy wetlands to deteriorating wetlands on the south shore of Long Island, NY; however, in addition to the local restoration benefits, this proposal also includes a very important regional component that will have significant influence on wetlands across the entire Sandy-impacted region.

The Regional Technical Workgroup (RTW) to be led by The Nature Conservancy will be composed of experts in wetland restoration from across the region (DE, NJ, CT, NY, and RI). This group will be further strengthened by including Project PI's from other Hurricane Sandy resilience projects across the region into the RTW. Any lessons learned from one project will be easily shared across the entire region and range of projects because of this regional forum.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to foster collaboration of regional marsh restoration experts. It will ensure that the best available restoration methods and monitoring metrics will be implemented for on-the-ground projects. The RTW will also create the opportunity for a synoptic analysis of marsh response to the restoration techniques used across the region resulting in a more comprehensive approach for implementing adaptive management beyond just Long Island, NY.

For example, many current and proposed projects across the region (internally funded DOI projects and projects submitted in response to this call) are considering the beneficial use of dredge material to reestablish appropriate elevations and restore healthy functioning marsh. A synoptic analysis of responses to these restoration strategies, to provide proof of concept, will be incredibly valuable for current and future restoration projects. This may be particularly applicable for restoration of marshes that are experiencing marsh loss by expansion of unvegetated pannes (an increasingly common and widespread marsh loss phenomenon).

This is a timely and valuable effort which will have a long lasting impact on the resilience of our coastal salt marshes along with the many economic and cultural activities that depend on them.

In summary, we enthusiastically support the formation of the RTW and look forward to participating as an active member in order to produce a regional assessment of restoration success and adaptive management recommendations across the Sandy-impacted region.

# New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources

### Bureau of Marine Resources

205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1, East Setauket, New York 11733

Phone: (631) 444-0430 • Fax: (631) 444-0434

Website: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



Joe Martens  
Commissioner

January 29, 2014

Mr. Martin McHugh  
Program Coordinator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Letter of support for "Salt marsh restoration and enhancement to improve coastal resilience along the south shore of Long Island, New York".

Dear Mr. McHugh:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Marine Resources, Marine Habitat Section, strongly supports the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's application, for the 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant.

There are significant concerns with the health of estuarine marshes, not only globally but here in Suffolk County, New York. Documentation of significant losses have reduced estuarine productivity and eliminated critical feeding and nursery habitat for finfish and shellfish. Inland communities' vulnerability to risks related to storm surges, flooding, wave energy, erosion, and long-term resiliency to sea level rise have also been compromised by these degradations.

It is critical that proposed projects, such as the subject application, address restoration needs of these marshes. Of utmost importance to the success of these projects is the Regional Technical Workgroup (RTW). Restoration sites will be assessed, projects planned, designed and monitored with the expertise of the proposed group. This is an unprecedented collaboration of regional experts in the field of marsh restoration. This will make available the best restoration methods, analysis of marsh response, provide recommendations for new methods and assure adaptive management of these sensitive resources. This project will allow the County and its partners to improve water quality, living resources and community resiliency in a sound and up to date scientific manner.

We feel the proposed project in concert with RTW will make this project advance towards addressing restoration of these much needed marine resources. I look forward to working with Suffolk County and its other partners on this very important project.

Sincerely,

Dawn McReynolds

Section Head, Marine Habitat

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation





January 30, 2014

Mr. David O'Neill, Vice President  
Conservation Programs  
National Fish & Wildlife Federation  
1133 Fifteenth St., M.W. Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Support for Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program Proposal

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

On behalf of the Barnegat Bay Partnership in New Jersey, we support Suffolk County, NY's application for NFWF Hurricane Sandy funds under the proposal, **"Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York"** as proposed for the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program

The primary goal of this proposal is to restore the multiple benefits of healthy wetlands to deteriorating wetlands on the south shore of Long Island, NY; however, in addition to the local restoration benefits, this proposal also includes a very important regional component that will have significant influence on wetlands across the entire Sandy-impacted region.

The Regional Technical Workgroup (RTW) to be led by The Nature Conservancy will be composed of experts in wetland restoration from across the region (DE, NJ, CT, NY, and RI). This group will be further strengthened by including Project PI's from other Hurricane Sandy resilience projects across the region into the RTW. Any lessons learned from one project will be easily shared across the entire region and range of projects because of this regional forum.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to foster collaboration of regional marsh restoration experts and monitoring activities. Such collaboration not only promotes better science within my own marsh monitoring project but will foster partnership across the region encouraging additional research beyond this proposed work.

ONE OF 28 NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

Ocean County College | College Drive | PO Box 2001 | Toms River, NJ 08754  
phone (732) 255-0472 | fax (732) 864-3851

BBP.OCEAN.EDU

It will ensure that the best available restoration methods and monitoring metrics will be implemented for on-the-ground projects.

The RTW will also create the opportunity for a synoptic analysis of marsh response to the restoration techniques used across the region resulting in a more comprehensive approach for implementing adaptive management beyond just Long Island, NY. For example, many current and proposed projects across the region (internally funded DOI projects and projects submitted in response to this call) are considering the beneficial use of dredge material to reestablish appropriate elevations and restore healthy functioning marsh. A synoptic analysis of responses to these restoration strategies, to provide proof of concept, will be incredibly valuable for current and future restoration projects. This may be particularly applicable for restoration of marshes that are experiencing marsh loss by expansion of unvegetated as we have observed in our wetlands monitoring and assessment in Barnegat Bay.

This is a timely and important effort which will have a long lasting impact on the resilience of our coastal salt marshes along with the many economic and cultural activities that depend on them.

In summary, we enthusiastically support the formation of the RTW and look forward to participating as an active member in order to produce a regional assessment of restoration success and adaptive management recommendations across the Sandy-impacted region.

Sincerely,

*Martha Maxwell-Doyle*

Martha Maxwell-Doyle  
BBP Deputy Director



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
340 Smith Road  
Shirley, New York 11967



January 30, 2014

Mr. David O'Neill, Vice President  
Conservation Programs  
National Fish & Wildlife Federation

This letter is to confirm our support for Suffolk County, NY's application for NFWF Hurricane Sandy funds under the proposal, **"Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York"**.

The primary goal of this proposal is to enhance resiliency of coastal ecosystems, maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce inland communities' vulnerability against risks related to storm surges, flooding, wave energy, erosion, and long-term sea level rise. The expected beneficial outcomes for these tidal wetlands include: improved flood buffering, increased cover and health of native vegetation, improved nutrient fluxes buffering, enhanced natural marsh accretion, reduction in mosquito production, and enhanced use of the marsh by wildlife. As a result of improved conditions for native vegetation and increased sediment capture, the marsh is expected to become more resilient to sea level rise resulting on an improvement of marsh services to the surrounding residential areas regarding protection against storm surges and flooding, as well as maintaining these open space areas for future enjoyment.

The work proposed here dovetails perfectly with federally funded Hurricane Sandy resiliency projects on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Many of the proposed project sites in Suffolk County's proposal are immediately adjacent to National Wildlife Refuge lands. The ability to work on adjacent lands will broaden the scope and strengthen the adjacent work that has already been funded in these locations. Additionally, the creation of a Regional Technical Working Group will offer an unprecedented collaboration of regional experts and will not only bring to bear the best available restoration methods but will most likely provide the opportunity for creation of new methods, thereby advancing restoration science to meet our 21st century circumstances.

Given our long-term planning goals and documents, biological priorities for salt marsh habitats, and our excellent working relationship with Suffolk County over the years, I strongly support this project proposal. This is a timely and valuable effort which will have a long lasting impact on the resilience of our coastal salt marshes along with the many ecological benefits, economic and educational activities that depend on them.



Michelle Potter  
Project Leader  
Long Island NWR Complex

To Whom It May Concern:

As Co-Chair of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Village of Amityville and Copiague, I am writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a sum total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. (More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communitiesand](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communitiesand) [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).) The projects proposed in Suffolk County's grant application will leverage this investment to protect our community.

Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement (below) over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship:

- *Everett "Ken" Budd, Former Village of Amityville Trustee, Engineer*
- *Sharon Fattoruso, Copiague Chamber of Commerce*
- *Mary Cascone, Town of Babylon Historical Archivist, American Venice Resident*
- *Joan Donnison, President Bay Village Civic Association*
- *Melissa Firmes, FECS/Copiague Chamber*
- *Mary Byrnes, Licensed Professional Civil Engineer NYS DOT*
- *Corinne "Corky" Amico, Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Amityville, Member Bay Village Civic Association*
- *Terrance Doran, former ZBA member*
- *Thomas Howard, Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University*
- *Townsend Thorn, Past president of Amityville Kiwanis, Member Amityville Fire Department*
- *David Heller, Member of Amityville Chamber of Commerce and Amityville Kiwanis*
- *Michael O'Lear, Construction Consultant*
- *Vincent Ricciuti, Board of Governors; Past President Amityville Historical Society; Rotarian; VFW*
- *Mike Greb, Member of the Copiague School Board*
- *Chris Carman, Village of Amityville Resident*
- *Jerry O'Neill, Realtor*

#### ***Vision Statement for the Village of Amityville/Copiague***

*The Village of Amityville and the Hamlet of Copiague are small, historic, bayside/seaside communities located on the Great South Bay of Long Island that wish to maintain a safe, quiet and inviting character. We will work cooperatively to preserve the traditional continuity of our historic landmarks, maritime culture and suburban lifestyles and protect, maintain and enhance the quality of our natural resources, which are fundamental to our quality of life and are the basis of our local economy. We will plan for new and improved strategies which will eliminate potential loss of life and minimize damage caused by future natural disasters.*

- *Carolina Zavala-Anderson, Village of Amityville Resident*
- *Liz White, Town of Babylon, Copiague/Amity Harbor Resident*
- *Joe Guarino, Town of Babylon*
- *James Wandell, Mayor of Village of Amityville*

The specific marsh/wetland restoration projects included in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of proven Integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas along Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The intent of the County's application is to expand these benefits by replicating this successful project at other sites on Long Island's Great South Bay shoreline—nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy.

We strongly urge funding of this proposal because we are confident Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,



Everett Budd

Co-Chair, Village of Amityville/Copiague New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee

#### *Vision Statement for the Village of Amityville/Copiague*

*The Village of Amityville and the Hamlet of Copiague are small, historic, bayside/seaside communities located on the Great South Bay of Long Island that wish to maintain a safe, quiet and inviting character. We will work cooperatively to preserve the traditional continuity of our historic landmarks, maritime culture and suburban lifestyles and protect, maintain and enhance the quality of our natural resources, which are fundamental to our quality of life and are the basis of our local economy. We will plan for new and improved strategies which will eliminate potential loss of life and minimize damage caused by future natural disasters.*

January 22, 2014

To Whom It Concern:

As Co-Chairs of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for Babylon/West Babylon, we are writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

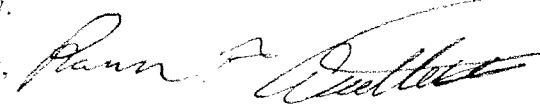
The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a sum total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. (More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities) and [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/).) The projects proposed in Suffolk County's grant application will leverage this investment to protect our community.

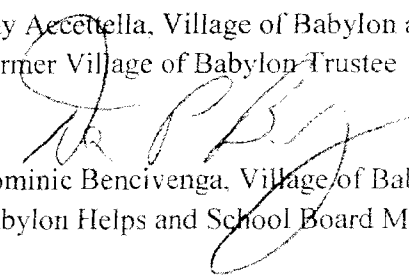
Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement (see attached) over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship. A Member of the Babylon/West Babylon Committee is also a long-time member of Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Council (SEERC); in that capacity, he will help ensure integration with that program throughout the grant administration process.

The specific marsh/wetland restoration projects included in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of proven Integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas along Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The intent of the County's application is to expand these benefits by replicating this successful project at other sites on Long Island's shoreline—nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy.

We strongly urge funding of this proposal because we are confident Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,

  
Ray Accettella, Village of Babylon and West NYRCR Committee Co-Chair  
Former Village of Babylon Trustee

  
Dominic Bencivenga, Village of Babylon and West NYRCR Committee Co-Chair  
Babylon Helps and School Board Member

## **Village of Babylon and West Babylon Committee List**

Ray Accettella, Former Village of Babylon Trustee

Dominic Bencivenga, Babylon Helps and School Board Member

Jon Taylor, President, Village of Babylon Chamber of Commerce

Scott Glenn, Fire Chief, Village of Babylon

Richard Rozakis, Superintendent of Schools, Town of Babylon

Mary Adams, Chamber of Commerce, Village of Babylon

Tony Davida, Village of Babylon Trustee

Theresa DePietto-Roesler, President of Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Babylon Inc.

Judy Skillen, Neighbors Supporting Neighbors, Inc.

Kim Skillen, Executive Director of Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Babylon Inc. and FEMA VOAD

Ellen McArdle, West Babylon Fire Department

Claire McKeon, Executive Director for Youth and Disabled Services for the Town of

Charles “Skip” Gardner, Department of Public Works, Village of Babylon

Richard Groh, Department of Environmental Control, Town of Babylon



## **Village of Babylon and West Babylon Vision Statement**

*The residents of Babylon Village, West Babylon and Venetian Shores are committed to developing stronger, more resilient communities by implementing innovative infrastructure projects, land use policies, “green” technology and emergency management procedures to better prepare for natural disasters and to preserve the region’s historic and nautical character and quality of life. We will accomplish those goals through sustained economic investment, improved communication, and strong educational outreach, which will provide an ongoing example of what can be achieved when communities come together with a common purpose.*

January 25, 2014

To Whom It Concern:

As Co-Chairs of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for Fire Island, we are writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.



The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a sum total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. (More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communitiesand](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communitiesand) [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).) The projects proposed in Suffolk County's grant application will leverage this investment to protect our community.

Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement (see attached) over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship.

The specific marsh/wetland restoration projects included in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of proven Integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas along Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The intent of the County's application is to expand these benefits by replicating this successful project at other sites on Long Island's Great South Bay shoreline—nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy.

We strongly urge funding of this proposal because we are confident that Suffolk County has the expertise, resources, dedication, and, mostly importantly, a track record of success with these practices to successfully implement it. Furthermore, this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,

   
Suzy Goldhirsch Susan Barbash

Fire Island NYRCR Planning Committee Co-Chairs

Fire Island NYRCR Vision Statement:

*To preserve and strengthen Fire Island as a resilient mosaic of vibrant and unique ocean and bay-front communities located within and working together with the Fire Island National Seashore to adapt to life on a dynamic barrier island with creativity, collaboration, consensus and determination. Fire Island is a barrier island that protects Long Island from storms while providing a sustainable community and infrastructure for residents and visitors alike, contributing to the economy of Long Island.*

<b>Fire Island NYRCR Planning Committee</b>		
<b>Committee Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Co-Chair	Susan Barbash	Organizer of Protect Long Island; Dunewood
Co-Chair	Suzy Goldhirsch	President, Fire Island Association
Member	Scott Hirsch	Owner of Island Mermaid and The Pantry (Ocean Beach); Revive Fire Island
Member	Dominic Bertucci	Kismet Fire Department
Member	Patrick Macri	President of Millenium Communications; Revive FI
Member	Vern Hendrickson	Suffolk County Fire Coordinator for Fire Island; Saltaire Fire Department
Member	Tim Mooney	President, Fire Island Ferries
Member	John Lund	Board Member, Fire Island Association
Member	Mary Parker	President, Davis Park Association
Member	John Adams	Resident, Cherry Grove
Member	Steve Norring	Resident, Fire Island Pines
Member	Marsha Hunter	President, Kismet Homeowners Association
Member	Forrest Clock	Lonelyville Tax Payers
Member	Jennifer Rider	Lonelyville Property Owners
Member	Steve Placilla	Vice President, Ocean Bay Park Association
Member	Justin McCarthy	Community Manager, Point O' Woods
Member	Alan Altman	Summer Club/Corneille Estates/Robbins Rest
Member	Alan Goldberg	Resident, Water Island
Member	Judy Corcoran	Resident, Fair Harbor
Federal Representative	Chris Soller*	Superintendent, Fire Island National Seashore
Municipal Representative	Bob Cox*	Mayor, Village of Saltaire
Municipal Representative	Mario Posillico*	Village Administrator, Village of Saltaire
Municipal Representative	Tom Marquardt*	Planning and Development, Town of Islip
Municipal Representative	Harry Sundin*	Commissioner of Planning and Development, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
Municipal Representative	Tim Mazzei*	Councilman, Town of Brookhaven
Municipal Representative	Jim Mallot*	Mayor, Village of Ocean Beach
Municipal Representative	Steve Brautigam*	Village Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Ocean Beach
Municipal Representative	Paul Fusco*	Legislator Barraga's Office
Municipal Representative	Matthew Miner*	Chief of Operations, Town of Brookhaven

\*Non-voting member

January 22, 2014

To Whom It Concern:

As Co-Chairs of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for the Village of Lindenhurst, we are writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a sum total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. (More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities) and [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).) The projects proposed in Suffolk County's grant application will leverage this investment to protect our community.

Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement (see attached) over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship

The specific marsh/wetland restoration projects included in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of proven Integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas along Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The intent of the County's application is to expand these benefits by replicating this successful project at other sites on Long Island's Great South Bay shoreline—nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy.

We strongly urge funding of this proposal because we are confident Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,



Alex Keller, Committee Co-Chair



Dave Collins, Committee Co-Chair

**Village of Lindenhurst NYRCR Committee:**

Village of Lindenhurst NYRCR Committee		
Committee Role	Name	Position
Co-Chair	David Collins	Fire Department Member
Co-Chair	Alex Keller	Long-time Village Resident
Member	Amy Castiglia	Case Manager for Lindy Manpower (Branch of Adopt a House)
Member	Maryann Weckerle	Village Trustee, Business Owner, Vice-Chair
Member	MaryEllen Cunningham	Board of Education Board Member, Homeowner
Member	Gloria Sheahan	Planning Board Member, Homeowner
Member	Daniel Horn	Operation Resilient Long Island Co-Chair
Member	Jacqueline Milton	President of the Rotary Club
Member	Belinda Pagdanganan	National Grid: Manager of Governmental Relations
Municipal Representative	Shawn Cullinane	Village Clerk - Treasurer

**Village of Lindenhurst Community Vision Statement**

*The Village of Lindenhurst is a close-knit and caring community of hard-working neighbors and families who seek to protect their homes, schools, businesses, parks and waterfront resources from storms, flooding and other natural and man-made disasters. We are a coastal community and seek to improve public access to the waterfront while utilizing built and natural features to reduce flooding. We seek to encourage economic development opportunities at the waterfront as well as in our downtown. We will actively support and pursue improvements and policies that address our immediate recovery needs as well as long-term needs that lessen storm damage and improve our resiliency over time. We are strong survivors and our community will endure, prosper and be safer for all!*

To Whom It May Concern:

As Co-Chairs of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for Mastic Beach and Smith Point of Shirley, we are writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a sum total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. (More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities) and [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).) The projects proposed in Suffolk County's grant application will leverage this investment to protect our community.

Our NYRCR Committee is composed of local leaders dedicated to realizing our Vision:

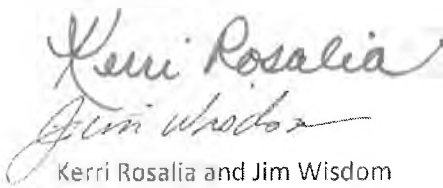
*The Mastic Beach community wishes to protect and enhance the safety and quality of life of its residents. We want to develop a sustainable local economy that is built on our natural and cultural resources. We need to protect our assets by increasing our resilience to climate change and our capacity to withstand future storms. To achieve our vision, we will:*

- Utilize our natural and cultural resources as economic assets to retain and attract young people, visitors, and appropriate businesses.*
- Revitalize our downtowns by expanding housing and retail choices and increasing its function as a village center.*
- Protect our housing stock, infrastructure, and other critical assets from future storms and the effects of climate change.*

The natural resources of Mastic Beach and Smith Point of Shirley are a central focus of our Vision. We recognize their ecological value, their role in flood mitigation, and their economic value for eco-tourism. Our community's waterfront is home to impressive tidal wetlands whose protection and enhancement is solidly supported by our NYRCR Committee.

The marsh/wetland restoration projects in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of Integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas of Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The Refuge adjoins the Mastic Beach and Smith Point of Shirley Community Reconstruction area. One of the wetlands that would be included in the proposed projects is within our community.

We strongly urge funding of this proposal because we are confident that Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.



Kerri Rosalia and Jim Wisdom

Co-Chairs, Mastic Beach and Smith Point of Shirley NYRCR Committee

## Oakdale and West Sayville Community Reconstruction Committee- Membership

Co-Chair	Richard Remmer	President and CEO of the Snapper Inn on the Connetquot River, Oakdale, NY.
Co-Chair	Ron Beattie	Former Chair of the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce
Member	Jamie Flynn	Oakdale Improvement Society
Member	Carol Schwasnick	Oakdale Civic Association
Member	Mark Murray	Owner and Managing Attorney, General Counsel to Natasha Justice Project, former Housing Supervisor, Nassau County Office of Governmental Affairs, and community resident.
Member	Brian Bast	Oakdale Civic Association
Member	Monica Musetti-Carlin	President, Oakdale Chamber of Commerce
Member	Raymond Carta	Oakdale Civic Association
Member	Cathline Cohen	Idle Hour Civic Association
Member	Mark DeAngelis	Owner of West Sayville Boat Basin
Member	Brendan McCurdy	President, West Sayville Civic Association
Member	Allen Seeley	President, West Oak Recreation Club (WORC)
Member	Brian Browne	St. John's Univ., Assistant VP, Gov't Relations,
Member	Clyde Payne	Dowling College, Dean of Students
Member	George J. Munkenbeck Jr.	West Sayville Fire Department
Municipal Representative	Tom Marquardt	Islip Department of Planning
Municipal Representative	Lynda Distler	Islip Supervisor's Office Chief of Staff
Municipal Representative	Richard Zapolski	Islip Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Development

Municipal Representative	Joe Montuori	Islip Commissioner of Parks & Recreation
Municipal Representative	Tom Owens	Islip Commissioner of Public Works
Municipal Representative	Anthony D'Amico	Islip Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety
Municipal Representative	Ann Mendes	Islip Public Safety Public Relations Specialist
Municipal Representative	Bryan Bortzfield	Islip Parks & Rec./Marinas & Docks
Representative	Ben Monachino	Representative for State Senator Zeldin



# Vision Statement



## Oakdale-West Sayville

### Vision Statement

*Oakdale and West Sayville will be communities with a 'greener' and more sustainable future with hazard resistant buildings and infrastructure and well-functioning natural systems that can prevent or minimize damage to life and property and the disruption of critical services. The rich history of the communities, the spectacular public and private spaces emphasizing the importance of the health of our waterways and coastal proximity will guide future development with downtown identities which will focus on the essential character and charm of Oakdale and West Sayville.*



Richard H. Remmer, Co-Chair  
Ron Beattie, Co-Chair  
Oakdale and West Sayville  
Community Reconstruction Planning Committee  
500 Shore Drive, Oakdale, New York 11769

January 28, 2014

To Whom It Concern:

As Co-Chairs of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee for Oakdale and West Sayville, we are writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a sum total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. (More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities) and [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).) The projects proposed in Suffolk County's grant application will leverage this investment to protect our community.

Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement (see attached) over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship.

The intent of the County's application is to restore the multiple benefits of healthy wetlands to a number of deteriorating wetlands on the south shore—nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy. Some of the restoration practices that will be employed were used successfully by Suffolk County at the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge under a separate pilot program a number of years ago. Additional restoration strategies such as the beneficial application of dredge material will also be incorporated into restoration strategies that are tailored to the conditions at each of the candidate marshes. The sites under consideration include several in the Oakdale and West Sayville communities including wetlands known by the names Remmer-Pickman, Pepperidge Hall, Ludlows Creek/ Benton Bay, Indian Creek and West Oak Recreation. The Remmer-Pickman project will also provide the benefit of storm surge/ flood control while the Indian Creek and West Oak Recreation is planned to include habitat restoration. An additional candidate wetland site that provides physical protection to this community is the NY State owned Timber Point wetland complex.

An additional component of this proposal that adds value is the Regional Technical Workgroup to be led by The Nature Conservancy. This regional effort will involve marsh restoration experts and practitioners from across the Sandy-impacted region such that analysis of marsh response to similar restoration strategies can be analyzed and important regional lessons learned.

We would also like to add that the Committee is particularly interested in seeing projects that provide proof of concept for restoration of marshes that are experiencing marsh loss by expansion of unvegetated pannes.

We strongly urge funding of this proposal because we are confident Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Remmer".

Richard Remmer, Co- Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Beattie".

Ron Beattie, Co- Chair

Enclosures: Vision Statement of the Oakdale and West Sayville Community Reconstruction Planning Committee

List of Committee Membership

January 22, 2014

To Whom It Concern:

As Chair of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Planning Committee for the West Gilgo to Captree communities, I am writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

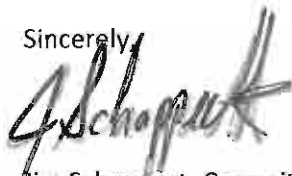
The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's NYRCR Program – a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities) and [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).

The project proposed in Suffolk County's grant application for integrated marsh management will leverage this CDBG-DR investment to protect our community. Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship. Please see attached the Community Vision Statement and Committee Member list.

The specific marsh/wetland restoration activities included in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of proven Integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas along Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The intent of the County's application is to expand these benefits by replicating this successful project at other sites on Long Island's Great South Bay shoreline – nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy.

On behalf of my Committee, I strongly urge the funding of this proposal because I am confident that Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Schappert", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Schappert, Committee Chair

West Gilgo to Captree Community Vision Statement:

*The vision for our community is to restore, preserve and protect the natural resources that serve to provide habitat to a biologically diverse coastal ecosystem as well as to fortify the barrier island shielding the south shore of Long Island against storms. The priority is to improve storm preparedness while striving to retain and protect the culture and assets that make the barrier beach communities unique and desirable to both residents and visitors.*

West Gilgo to Captree Committee:

West Gilgo to Captree NYRCR Committee		
Committee Role	Name	Position
Chair	James Schappert	Former VP of the Oak Beach Civic Association; Babylon School Teacher; Oak Beach resident
Member	Tom Cassidy	West Gilgo Beach Board Member; Gilgo resident
Member	Cindy Dale	West Gilgo Beach Board and Save the Beaches Board member; West Gilgo resident
Member	Arnie Lanzillotta	President Oak Island Beach Association
Member	Paul McDuffie	Unofficial liaison between the Gilgo community and the Town of Babylon; Gilgo resident
Member	Jed Meade	President of Oak Beach Civic Association
Member	Mark Nuccio	Oak Island resident
Member	Bert Pedersen	Greenman-Pedersen, Captree resident
Municipal Representative	Dorian Dale	Director of Sustainability for the County; West Gilgo resident
Municipal Representative	Brian Zitani	Babylon Department of Environmental Control



January 30, 2014

To Whom It Concern:

As Co-Chair of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Planning Committee for West Islip, I am writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

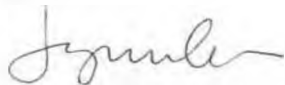
The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's NYRCR Program – a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities) and [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).

The project proposed in Suffolk County's grant application for integrated marsh management will leverage this CDBG-DR investment to protect our community. Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship. Please see attached the Community Vision Statement and Committee Member list.

The specific marsh/wetland restoration activities included in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of proven Integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas along Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The intent of the County's application is to expand these benefits by replicating this successful project at other sites on Long Island's Great South Bay shoreline – nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy.

On behalf of our Committee, I strongly urge the funding of this proposal because I am confident that Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,



Joseph DeCarlo, Committee Co-Chair

West Islip Community Vision Statement:

*The vision for West Islip is a tight-knit community where multiple generations of families reside amongst a protected and resilient coastal environment. The community enjoys the active and thriving waterfront amenities for recreation and tourism, which are healthy and robust due to a longtime commitment to careful study and maintenance of the natural resources and manmade shoreline structures. The investment in a well-defined commercial corridor sustains an array of businesses that are supported by proud local residents and visitors alike.*

West Islip NYRCR Committee:

West Islip NYRCR Committee		
Committee Role	Name	Position
Co-Chair	Joseph DeCarlo	Chairman West Islip Association
Co-Chair	Lawrence Donohue	West Islip Chamber of Commerce
Member	Maria Figalora	West Islip Chamber of Commerce
Member	Sandra Galian	VP of Sequams Neighborhood Resident
Member	Steve Gellar	West Islip Summit Coalition
Member	Bruce Lorenz	Long-time Resident
Member	Lynn Luttenberger	West Islip Association
Member	Joseph Palmisano	West Islip Fire Department
Member	Michael Sacca	Southside Hospital
Member	Jay Van Cott	Sequams Property Owner Association
Municipal Representative	John Carney	Commissioner of Public Safety
Municipal Representative	Bill Clifton	Deputy Commissioner of DPW
Municipal Representative	Lynda Distler	Chief of Staff
Municipal Representative	Paul J. Fusco Jr.	Legislative Aide
Municipal Representative	Dave Genaway	Commissioner of Planning & Development
Municipal Representative	Anne Mendes	Secretary to the Commissioner – Public Safety Enforcement
Municipal Representative	Harry Sundin	Parks and Recreation/Marinas and Docks

January 22, 2014

To Whom It Concern:

As Co-Chairs of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Planning Committee for West Islip, we are writing in support of Suffolk County's application for a grant under the 2014 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant Program.

The Committee is part of New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's NYRCR Program – a grassroots planning process that is designed to empower local residents and community leaders to create stronger, more resilient places to live and work. We are one of nine NYRCR Communities in Suffolk County, where a total of \$48.5 million in Community Block Development Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds have been allocated. More information about the program can be found at [www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities](http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07182013-ny-rising-communities) and [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr).

The project proposed in Suffolk County's grant application for integrated marsh management will leverage this CDBG-DR investment to protect our community. Furthermore, our Committee is composed of local leaders who are dedicated to realizing our community's Vision Statement over the long-term and have a demonstrated commitment to stewardship. Please see attached the Community Vision Statement and Committee Member list.

The specific marsh/wetland restoration activities included in Suffolk County's application will result in the installation of proven integrated Marsh Management practices in key areas along Suffolk County's shoreline. These practices, which the County has successfully put into place within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge under a separate pilot program, have already demonstrated multiple benefits and co-benefits to the Refuge in the form of wave attenuation, flood resilience, habitat restoration, mosquito control, improved natural hydrologic functions and the introduction of green infrastructure, among others. The intent of the County's application is to expand these benefits by replicating this successful project at other sites on Long Island's Great South Bay shoreline – nearly all of which sustained some degree of significant damage during Hurricane Sandy.

On behalf of our Committee, we strongly urge the funding of this proposal because we are confident that Suffolk County has the resources and dedication to implement it, and, furthermore, that this project will provide widespread and important regional benefits, all of which will enhance Long Island's coastal resiliency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Donohue", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lawrence Donohue, Committee Co-Chair



West Islip Community Vision Statement:

*The vision for West Islip is a tight-knit community where multiple generations of families reside amongst a protected and resilient coastal environment. The community enjoys the active and thriving waterfront amenities for recreation and tourism, which are healthy and robust due to a longtime commitment to careful study and maintenance of the natural resources and manmade shoreline structures. The investment in a well-defined commercial corridor sustains an array of businesses that are supported by proud local residents and visitors alike.*

West Islip NYRCR Committee:

West Islip NYRCR Committee		
Committee Role	Name	Position
Co-Chair	Joseph DeCarlo	Chairman West Islip Association
Co-Chair	Lawrence Donohue	West Islip Chamber of Commerce
Member	Maria Figalora	West Islip Chamber of Commerce
Member	Sandra Galian	VP of Sequams Neighborhood Resident
Member	Steve Gellar	West Islip Summit Coalition
Member	Bruce Lorenz	Long-time Resident
Member	Lynn Luttenberger	West Islip Association
Member	Joseph Palmisano	West Islip Fire Department
Member	Michael Sacca	Southside Hospital
Member	Jay Van Cott	Sequams Property Owner Association
Municipal Representative	John Carney	Commissioner of Public Safety
Municipal Representative	Bill Clifton	Deputy Commissioner of DPW
Municipal Representative	Lynda Distler	Chief of Staff
Municipal Representative	Paul J. Fusco Jr.	Legislative Aide
Municipal Representative	Dave Genaway	Commissioner of Planning & Development
Municipal Representative	Anne Mendes	Secretary to the Commissioner – Public Safety Enforcement
Municipal Representative	Harry Sundin	Parks and Recreation/Marinas and Docks



January 30, 2014

Mr. Martin McHugh  
Program Coordinator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Letter of support for “Salt marsh restoration and enhancement to improve coastal resilience along the south shore of Long Island, New York”.

Dear Mr. McHugh:

I am writing to express Seatuck Environmental Association’s support for the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning’s application for the 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant. Seatuck is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to conserving Long Island wildlife and the environment. Among other conservation and education work, Seatuck manages and operates the Suffolk County Environmental Center, a public nature center at the Scully Estate in Islip, NY, through a long-term contract with Suffolk County.

Seatuck supports the proposed project’s goals of improving and strengthening Great South Bay estuarine-salt marsh coastal habitats, enhancing the resiliency of coastal ecosystems and furthering the restoration goals identified by the New York State South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan. Seatuck is particularly supportive of the proposed project’s potential to conduct restoration work on the 30 acres of estuarine-salt marsh at the Scully Estate. These wetlands are adjacent to and hydrologically connected to wetlands on the Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge, which will be the subject of a U.S. Department of the Interior restoration project through the Hurricane Sandy Mitigation Funding program.

With our full-time presence on the Scully Estate, our expertise in environmental education and our experience in managing large-scale volunteer and citizen-science projects, we are poised to assist Suffolk County and help ensure the project’s success.

We consider this to be an excellent proposal to restore the critically important wetlands that remain on the south shore of Long Island. Enhancing these wetlands will protect our communities and benefit our coastal ecosystem. We look forward to working with Suffolk County on this important project.

Sincerely,

Enrico Nardone, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Seatuck Environmental Association

LONG ISLAND  
**SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE OFFICE**

New York State Department of State ♦ 250 Veterans Memorial Highway ♦ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room 2A15  
Hauppauge, New York 11788-5519

Main Telephone: (516) 470-BAYS ♦ Fax: (631) 952-7902 ♦ [www.LISSER.us](http://www.LISSER.us)

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Mr. Martin McHugh  
Program Coordinator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

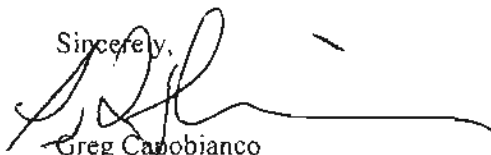
January 17, 2014

Dear Mr. McHugh:

The Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Council (SSERC) is pleased to inform the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's application to the 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program is consistent with recommendations made in the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER) Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). In addition, the proposed project will further the progress of the Governor's New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program.

Suffolk County, through this proposed project, seeks to improve and strengthen Great South Bay estuarine-salt marsh coastal habitats to enhance resiliency of coastal ecosystems, fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce the inland communities' vulnerability against risks related to storm surges, flooding, wave energy, erosion, and long-term resiliency to sea level rise. The SSERC is encouraged by the potential positive environmental impacts that these proposed marsh restorations could produce.

Sincerely,



Greg Capobianco  
NYS Department of State  
Office of Planning and Development

C: Frank Castelli, Suffolk County  
Paul Beyer, NYS DOS

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**SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE COUNCIL:** Cesar A. Perales, New York State Secretary of State / Chair ♦ Edward P. Mangano, Nassau County Executive ♦ Steven Bellone, Suffolk County Executive ♦ Jack Schnirman, City Manager, City of Long Beach ♦ Kate Murray, Supervisor, Town of Hempstead ♦ John Venditto, Supervisor, Town of Oyster Bay ♦ Richard H. Schaffer, Supervisor, Town of Babylon ♦ Thomas D. Croci, Supervisor, Town of Islip ♦ Edward P. Romaine, Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven ♦ Anna Throne-Holst, Supervisor, Town of Southampton ♦ Vacant, New York Conference of Mayors ♦ Maureen Dolan Murphy, Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee ♦ Cornelia Schlenk, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee ♦ Robert Grover, Great South Bay Audubon Society ♦ Dr. Minghua Zhang, Interim Dean, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University ♦ Jim Hutchinson, New York Sportfishing Federation ♦ Matthew Cohen, Long Island Association ♦ Mitch Pally, Long Island Builders Institute, Inc. ♦ Vacant, Property Owners Association ♦ Christopher Squeri, New York Marine Trades Association ♦ Carl LoBue, Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy ♦ Ken Buday, Brookhaven Baymen's Association ♦ Michael Eagan, Captree Boatman's Association ♦ **COUNCIL ADVISORS:** Joseph Martens, Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ♦ Rose Harvey, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ♦ Joan McDonald, Commissioner, New York State Department of Transportation

*The South Shore Estuary Reserve Council and The South Shore Estuary Reserve Office receive technical and financial assistance through the  
New York State Department of State*

30 January 2014

Mr. David O'Neill, Vice President  
Conservation Programs  
National Fish & Wildlife Federation

Re: Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Competitive Grant Program

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

The Nature Conservancy on Long Island enthusiastically supports Suffolk County, NY's application for NFWF Hurricane Sandy funds under the proposal, **"Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York"**.

The primary goal of this proposal is to restore the multiple benefits of healthy wetlands to deteriorating wetlands on the south shore of Long Island, NY. Many of Long Island's south shore marshes are losing acreage (particularly through the expansion of unvegetated pannes) and require intervention so that they can become resilient and self-sustaining into the future so that they can continue to provide multiple benefits to both natural and human communities along our coasts.

However, in addition to the tangible restoration benefits locally, this proposal also includes a very important regional component that will have significant influence on wetlands across the entire Sandy-impacted region.

TNC will assemble and lead a multi-state Regional Technical Workgroup (RTW) to provide a forum to improve the exchange of ideas and information among practitioners across the region working to improve the resiliency of our coastal wetlands. This RTW will be composed of experts in wetland restoration from across the region (DE, NJ, CT, NY, and RI) including Project PI's from other Hurricane Sandy resilience projects across the region. Our findings will help practitioners maximize their likelihood of success by improving the design, implementation, and monitoring of salt marsh restoration projects and disseminating the "lessons learned" across the region.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to foster collaboration of regional marsh restoration experts and advance restoration science to meet our 21st Century needs. It will ensure that the best available restoration methods and monitoring metrics will be implemented for on-the-ground projects. The RTW will also create the opportunity for a synoptic analysis of marsh response to the restoration techniques used across the region resulting in a more comprehensive approach for implementing adaptive management beyond just Long Island, NY. This 2-year grant will enable this RTW to have a long lasting impact because it will connect the practitioners across the region and form the basis for a long-term wetland restoration study.

For example, many current and proposed projects across the region (internally funded DOI projects and projects submitted in response to this call) are considering the beneficial use of dredge material to reestablish appropriate elevations and restore healthy functioning marsh. A synoptic analysis of responses to these restoration strategies, to provide proof of concept, will be incredibly valuable for current and future restoration projects.

This is a timely and valuable effort which will have a long lasting impact on the resilience of our coastal salt marshes along with the many economic and cultural activities that depend on them.

In summary, we enthusiastically support this entire proposal including the formation of the RTW. We look forward to leading the Regional Technical Workgroup component of the Suffolk County proposal in order to produce a regional assessment of restoration

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P.O. Box 5125  
East Hampton, NY 11973  
Tel (631) 329-7689  
Fax (631) 329-0215  
[www.nature.org/longisland](http://www.nature.org/longisland)

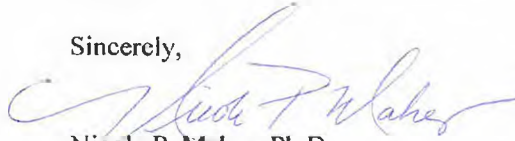
Uplands Farm Sanctuary  
250 Lawrence Hill Road  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724  
Tel (631) 367-3225  
Fax (631) 367-4715  
[www.nature.org/longisland](http://www.nature.org/longisland)

Mashomack Preserve  
P.O. Box 850  
Shelter Island, NY 11964  
Tel (631) 749-1001  
Fax (631) 749-1480

Worldwide Office  
4245 North Fairfax Street  
Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Tel (703) 841-5300  
[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

success and adaptive management recommendations across the wider Sandy-impacted region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole P. Maher".

Nicole P. Maher, Ph.D.  
Senior Coastal Scientist  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724  
(631) 367-3225

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diana Albie", followed by the date "1/30/14".

Diana Albie  
Finance Manager Long Island

Anne E. McElroy, Ph.D.  
Professor & Graduate Program Director  
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5000

T: 631-632-8488  
F: 631-632-3072  
Anne.McElroy@Stonybrook.edu

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Mr. Martin McHugh  
Program Coordinator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Letter of support for "Coastal resiliency via integrated salt marsh management".

Dear Mr. McHugh:

I am writing to make you aware of my support for the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's application to the 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant. Over the course of the last 10 years I have been involved in several projects dealing with environmental conditions in Great South Bay and the marshes surrounding it. There is a pressing need to support restoration and resiliency and community awareness and support for these important coastal ecosystems.

Loss of tidal marshes and other coastal habitats, is an area of scientific concern for Suffolk County and the Nation. Degradation of these ecosystems reduces estuarine productivity and eliminates critical feeding and nursery habitat for finfish and shellfish, as well as reducing their role as an important buffer for upland infrastructure such as homes and roads. The subject application addresses restoration needs identified by the New York State South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan to improve water quality and living resources. As such it is deserving of support. I will be pleased to support this effort in any way that I can. In addition, both graduate and undergraduate students in our programs could also be effectively engaged to help in Suffolk County's efforts on this project. I look forward to supporting Suffolk County and in this important project.

Sincerely,



Anne E. McElroy, Ph.D.  
Professor and Graduate Program Director  
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences





# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
New York Water Science Center  
425 Jordan Road  
Troy, New York 12180  
(518) 285-5665

January 31, 2014

Mr. Martin McHugh  
Program Coordinator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Letter of support for "Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York"

Dear Mr. McHugh:

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) New York Water Science Center strongly supports the application being submitted by Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning for the 2013 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant.

This proposed project to improve and strengthen Great South Bay estuarine-salt marsh coastal habitats to enhance resiliency of coastal ecosystems, fish and wildlife, and reduce the vulnerability of coastal and inland communities against risks related to storm surges, flooding, wave energy, erosion, and improve long-term resiliency to sea-level rise is a goal we want to succeed. Implementation of this project will help to restore currently degraded salt marsh areas affected by large areas of invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*), waterlogging, extensive mudflat and panne formations, shoreline erosion and high mosquito production, and impaired by Hurricane Sandy. In addition, we would be interested in assisting with pre- and post-project monitoring of water quality, water-table altitude, and estuary water-surface elevation, as appropriate. This work with the County will supplement, and be supplemented by, our current USGS Hurricane Sandy Supplemental: Theme 3 funded projects, in which we will be developing transects at strategic locations near restoration sites to collect linear data to measure success in restoration activities.

There are many areas of scientific concern for Suffolk County and the Nation, including the loss of tidal marshes and other coastal habitats that have reduced estuarine productivity and eliminated critical feeding and nursery habitat for finfish and shellfish. It is critical that restoration projects such as those being proposed by Suffolk County, which are also identified by the New York State South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan to improve water quality and living resources, be supported and funded. We feel the proposed project goes a long way towards addressing those restoration plans and does it in a sound scientific manner.

We consider this to be an excellent proposal to enhance our south shore of Long Island wetlands to better protect our communities and to also strengthen our natural ecosystems to benefit fish and wildlife. We look forward to supporting Suffolk County and in this important project.

Sincerely,



---

Ward O. Freeman      1/31/2014  
Director, New York Water Science Center





January 31, 2014

David O'Neil  
Vice President  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Dear Mr. O'Neil

Save The Bay in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts supports the Suffolk County, NY's application for NFWF Hurricane Sandy funds under the proposal, **"Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York"**.

Save The Bay looks forward to the opportunity to be a member of the Regional Technical Workgroup to be led by The Nature Conservancy. Save The Bay has coordinated a number of salt marsh adaptation projects in Narragansett Bay to address the expansion of unvegetated panes and impounded water conditions. Through established protocols, Save The Bay is monitoring the effects of these projects on the vegetation community. We have been sharing this data with colleagues including USFWS, NOAA and other non-profit restoration practitioners in the region as we assess the effectiveness of these types of adaptation techniques on restoring salt marsh function.

Save The Bay is working with USFWS staff on an internally funded DOI project on the Narrow River that is considering the use of thin layer of dredge material to elevate the marsh surface to appropriate elevations to restore marsh function. Additionally, Save The Bay is partnering with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council on a similar project that is seeking DOI funding to use thin layer deposition of dredge material on degraded marshes in southern Rhode Island. We are proposing to follow established monitoring protocols by the National Park Service so that the marsh response from each of these restoration efforts can be compared throughout the southern New England and mid-Atlantic region.

We look forward to being part of the Regional Technical Workgroup to compare and assess salt marsh adaptation management projects across the Sandy-impacted region.

Sincerely,

Wenley Ferguson  
Restoration Coordinator

THE BAY CENTER  
100 Save The Bay Drive  
Providence, RI 02905  
phone: 401-272-3540  
fax: 401-273-7153

EXPLORATION CENTER  
Easton's Beach  
P.O. Box 851  
Newport, RI 02840  
phone: 401-324-6020  
fax: 401-324-6022

SOUTH COUNTY  
COAST OFFICE  
Riverside Building  
12 Broad Street, Suite 6  
Westerly, RI 02891  
phone/fax: 401-315-2709

[savebay@savebay.org](mailto:savebay@savebay.org)  
[www.savebay.org](http://www.savebay.org)

**RESOLUTION NO.                      JANUARY 21, 2014**  
**AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN BOARD TO URGE SUFFOLK COUNTY, THE**  
**NATURE CONSERVATORY, BABYLON VILLAGE AND THE BARRIER BEACHES**  
**TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO MANAGE THE PANNES IN THE TOWN OF**  
**BABYLON NEW YORK RISING COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**  
**(NYRCR) ZONES; VILLAGE OF AMITYVILLE/COPIAGUE, VILLAGE OF**  
**LINDENHURST, VILLAGE OF BABYLON/WEST BABYLON/VENETIAN SHORES**  
**AND WEST GILGO TO CAPTREE ISLAND**

The following resolution was offered by  
seconded by                      :

**WHEREAS**, salt pannes and pools are water retaining depressions located within salt and brackish marshes. The pools tend to retain water during the summer months between high tides, whereas pannes generally do not. Salt pannes generally start when a mat of organic debris known as wrack, is deposited upon existing vegetation killing it; and

**WHEREAS**, salt marshes are a critical interface between the land and sea. They provide habitat for fish, birds, and shellfish, protect coastal communities from storms, and remove polluting nutrients brought into the bays by surface water run-off; and

**WHEREAS**, losses of healthy salt marshes has accelerated in recent decades, with some losses due to sea-level rise and development. In particular, marsh loss through expansion of unvegetated pannes is especially widespread in areas that are heavily grid-ditched for vector control; and

**WHEREAS**, the remedy for this marsh loss mechanism could be a minimally invasive restoration manipulation to minimize the impact that historic mosquito ditching has had on the hydrology in these systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Captree Island, with its 47 pannes, is an ideal candidate for restoration.

**WHEREAS**, failure to maintain the pannes on Captree Island will likely produce negative effects on the environment and negatively impact local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Babylon recognizes the need to address the potential impact on the Town and other Suffolk County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, The Nature Conservancy has identified four restoration strategies to minimize the historic mosquito ditching has had on the hydrology in these systems. Suffolk County proposes to team up with The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Babylon and the four NY Rising Reconstruction Communities in the Town of Babylon; Village of

Amityville/Copiague, Village of Lindenhurst, Village of Babylon/West Babylon and the West Gilgo to Captree Islands, all in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Control (NYSDEC) to manage the pannes on Captree Island and other potential wetland locations in the Town of Babylon. To fund this project, the Captree Pannes team will apply to the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program from the US Department of Interior and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for a Restoration Project that is eligible for between \$250,000 to \$5 million due January 31, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Babylon desires to work in partnership with Suffolk County, The Nature Conservancy, and the four NY Rising Reconstruction Communities in the Town of Babylon; Village of Amityville/Copiague, Village of Lindenhurst, Village of Babylon/West Babylon and the West Gilgo to Captree Islands, all in consultation with NYSDEC to manage the pannes on Captree Island and other potential wetland locations in the Town of Babylon.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Babylon hereby respectfully urges Suffolk County, The Nature Conservancy, and the four NY Rising Reconstruction Communities in the Town of Babylon; Village of Amityville/Copiague, Village of Lindenhurst, Village of Babylon/West Babylon and the West Gilgo to Captree Islands, all in consultation with NYSDEC to manage the pannes on Captree Island and other potential wetland locations in the Town of Babylon and apply to the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program from the US Department of Interior and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Babylon authorizes the Supervisor to sign any and all necessary documents, including but not limited to, an application to the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program from the US Department of Interior and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Memorandums of Agreement or Understanding with Suffolk County, The Nature Conservancy, and the four NY Rising Reconstruction Communities in the Town of Babylon; Village of Amityville/Copiague, Village of Lindenhurst, Village of Babylon/West Babylon and the West Gilgo to Captree Islands, all in consultation with NYSDEC to manage the pannes on Captree Island and other potential wetland locations in the Town of Babylon.

**VOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **YEAS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NAYS:** \_\_\_\_\_





State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**Coastal Resources Management Council**  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370  
Fax (401) 783-3767

David O'Neil  
Vice President, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

January 31, 2014

Dear Mr. O'Neil,

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council would like to express support for Suffolk County, NY's application for NFWF Hurricane Sandy funds under the proposal, **"Enhancing coastal resiliency through integrated salt marsh management along the south shore of Long Island, New York"**.

The primary goal of this proposal is to restore the multiple benefits of healthy wetlands to deteriorating wetlands on the south shore of Long Island, NY; however, in addition to the local restoration benefits, this proposal also includes a very important regional component that will have significant influence on wetlands across the entire Sandy-impacted region.

The Regional Technical Workgroup (RTW) to be led by The Nature Conservancy will be composed of experts in wetland restoration from across the region (DE, NJ, CT, NY, and RI). This group will be further strengthened by including Project PI's from other Hurricane Sandy resilience projects across the region into the RTW. Any lessons learned from one project will be easily shared across the entire region and range of projects because of this regional forum.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to foster collaboration of regional marsh restoration experts. It will ensure that the best available restoration methods and monitoring metrics will be implemented for on-the-ground projects. The RTW will also create the opportunity for a synoptic analysis of marsh response to the restoration techniques used across the region resulting in a more comprehensive approach for implementing adaptive management beyond just Long Island, NY.

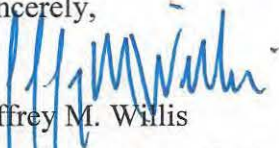
For example, many current and proposed projects across the region (internally funded DOI projects and projects submitted in response to this call) are considering the beneficial use of dredge material to reestablish appropriate elevations and restore healthy functioning marsh. A synoptic analysis of responses to these restoration strategies, to provide proof of concept, will be incredibly valuable for current and future restoration projects. This may be particularly applicable for restoration of marshes that are experiencing marsh loss by expansion of unvegetated pannes (an increasingly common and widespread marsh loss phenomenon).

The CRMC is currently involved in an internally funded DOI project on the Narrow River that is considering the use of thin layer of dredge material to elevate the marsh surface to appropriate elevations to restore marsh function. Additionally, we are applying for DOI funding for a similar project to use thin layer deposition of dredge material on degraded marshes in southern Rhode Island. We are proposing to follow established monitoring protocols by the National Park Service so that the marsh response from each of these restoration efforts can be compared throughout the southern New England and mid-Atlantic region.

This is a timely and valuable effort which will have a long lasting impact on the resilience of our coastal salt marshes along with the many economic and cultural activities that depend on them.

In summary, we enthusiastically support the formation of the RTW and look forward to participating as an active member in order to produce a regional assessment of restoration success and adaptive management recommendations across the Sandy-impacted region.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Willis

Deputy Director, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council



January 31, 2014

Frank Castelli  
Environmental Projects Coordinator  
Suffolk County  
Dept. of Economic Development and Planning  
100 Veterans Memorial Highway, 4th Floor  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Mr. Castelli:

Please accept this letter of commitment for the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning NFWF Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program application. The Corps Network is excited about our partnership on this project and is prepared to provide Conservation Corps Crews to work with the department on the restoration of the south shore Suffolk County marshes.

Founded in 1985, The Corps Network (TCN) represents approximately 130 state, local, and non-profit organizations, many of which have been in existence and changing lives and communities through service for several decades. Since it was established, TCN member Corps have engaged more than 750,000 young people in service. At present, TCN member Corps enroll almost 30,000 Corpsmembers a year, the majority of whom come from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, many of whom are looking for a second chance to succeed in life.

The founders of what is now TCN (formerly the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps) drew their inspiration from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Depression-era program that engaged and supported three and a half million young men in natural resource conservation and development. Similarly, today's Service and Conservation Corps – the heirs of the CCC – engage youth and young adults in conservation-related community service and service learning; provide training, education, and full scope of supportive services; and set young people on a defined pathway leading to post-secondary education, sustainable employment, and a lifetime of civic engagement.

The Corps Network will oversee the conservation crews working with the Suffolk County Department of Economic and Planning. This department will provide project oversight and management of project work and The Corps Network will oversee the administrative functions of the crews. The crew size and length of service will be determined. The Corps Network and selected member organization will plan to recruit local and regional Corpsmembers with proper education and / or work experience. The Corps Network will provide training and technical assistance and subgrant the Corps management to a TCN member organization.

The Conservation Corps crews will work with the county on its project objectives. The primary objective of this project is to apply marsh management techniques to approximately 400 acres of estuarine-salt marsh coastal habitat. On-going stewardship will reverse degradation of salt marsh areas impacted by large areas of invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*), waterlogging, extensive mudflat and panne formation, and shoreline erosion. Besides providing buffers to minimize loss of property, wetlands are valuable open spaces that accommodate outdoor recreation and educational experiences. Physical and biological control of mosquitoes will be incorporated to ensure that the restored areas do not become mosquito habitats that pose a threat public health. In addition, this project will provide volunteer and educational opportunities, as well as research opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students in terms of integrating structural and functional ecosystem indicators into pre and post project monitoring activities.

The Suffolk County partnership with The Corps Network will result in employment, service, training, and education opportunities for young Americans, and significant work accomplishments that preserve, protect, and promote America's greatest natural and cultural treasures. The project will help develop skilled workers, educated and active citizens, future leaders, and stewards of natural resources.

A TCN member Conservation Corps will handle recruiting, engaging diverse and local youth, and provide environmental education and safety training. They employ skilled and experienced crew leaders and project directors to supervise the youth and oversee the work. TCN Conservation Corps follow stringent risk management procedures and constantly re-evaluate their policies and practices to ensure that they are in line with the latest developments and requirements.

If you or your staff have any additional questions, please contact Joe Gersen, Director of Government Relations, Public Lands Service Coalition, at [jgersen@corpsnetwork.org](mailto:jgersen@corpsnetwork.org) or (202) 737-6272.

TCN wholly supports this application for grant funding.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Ardouny  
President and CEO