



Town of Brookhaven Long Island

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

STEVE FIORE-ROSENFELD
Councilman, 1st District

March 24, 2009

NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat
Restoration Project Grant Review Committee

Re: Coastal Steward's Grant Application for
NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants
FFO # NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2009-2001709

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Councilman for the 1st Council District, I am writing this letter in support of the grant application of Coastal Steward by David A. Johnson, Director of this organization.

Coastal Steward is an environmental restoration not-for-profit organization that combines both educational and shellfish restoration programs as well as beach clean-ups on Nassau and Suffolk county beaches be they privately or municipally owned. Dave Johnson has been leading his annual beach clean-ups for almost 20 years on a part-time basis and has, during that time, collected more than 180 tons of debris.

Dave Johnson's goal is to establish an "Adopt-a-Beach" program (similar to the very successful "Adopt-a-Highway" program) through which a beach would be adopted by an organization, business, etc. The fee collected from the sponsor would be used to cover costs of the clean-up and provide municipalities with a percentage of the fee. The municipality would be required to supply equipment to remove the collected debris and transport it to a landfill or similar area.

In addition to beach clean-ups, Coastal Steward has been restoring oysters, scallops, and clams to the waters of Port Jefferson and Mt. Sinai Harbors on Long Island's north shore for the past seven years. I know of no one who is no more dedicated than Dave Johnson—an individual who gives an incredible amount of his time and finances to keep Coastal Steward afloat.

Dave is totally devoted to restoring and preserving our marine environment. I whole-heartedly support Coastal Steward in its efforts to obtain this grant and hope that your program will see fit to do likewise. Please feel free to call, as I am available to answer any questions or provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld
Councilman, 1st District