

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

The Long Island Sound Office

of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Website: <http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net>

January 20, 2010

Honorable Edward Meyer
Legislative Office Bldg., Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Meyer,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding potential resources available to assist with the purchase, restoration and/or management of the Griswold Airport property in Madison, CT, adjacent to the Hammonasset Beach State Park and Natural Area Preserve.

Hammonasset Beach has been recognized by the Long Island Sound Study's Stewardship Initiative as one of 33 inaugural Stewardship Areas. The inaugural areas were chosen for the ecological and/or recreational values that they support. While anchored by publicly-owned sites, such as Hammonasset Beach State Park, Stewardship Areas are complexes made up of individual sites, providing opportunities for a variety of partners to participate in this voluntary program. Numerous partnerships have coalesced around the inaugural areas in the past few years to undertake planning, restoration, and protection activities.

This year we were gratified that funding from the Long Island Sound Study contributed to the acquisition of a property adjacent to the Barn Island Wildlife Management Area (the 48-acre "Crowley 1" property) in eastern Connecticut, as well as two smaller parcels in New York. In the past two years, Long Island Sound Study funding has contributed to the permanent protection of 78 acres of open space in the Long Island Sound coastal area. These acquisitions afford the region benefits in water quality, habitat protection, climate change adaptability, carbon sequestration, recreational access to navigable waters, environmental education, and prevention of new nonpoint-source pollution. Intangible benefits resulting from these acquisitions may include fostering interest in and future stewardship of Long Island Sound's valuable resources.

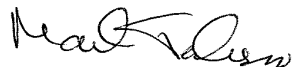
An acquisition that adds to the body of protected land at the Hammonasset Beach State Park, such as the Griswold Airport property currently being considered by the Town of Madison, would be eligible to compete for stewardship funding through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. This fund is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We expect a request for proposals



(RFP) to be released in early February. We will ensure that you receive notice of this funding opportunity when it becomes available. At any time you may visit www.nfwf.org/lisff to get the latest information on the program and the status of the RFP.

Thank you for your interest in the protection of natural environments in the Long Island Sound coastal area. Please feel free to contact Louise Harrison in our office for additional information and assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Tedesco".

Mark Tedesco, Director
Long Island Sound Office

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