



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor
SEAN M. WALTER

200 Howell Avenue
Riverhead, NY 11901
(631) 727-3200

www.townofriverheadny.gov

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CONTACT: Jill Lewis, Deputy Supervisor (631) 727-3200 Ext. 655

STATE AWARDS TOWN OF RIVERHEAD \$60,000 TOWARDS PURCHASE OF NEW PUMPOUT BOAT

RIVERHEAD, NY-- Supervisor Sean M. Walter announced that the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation has awarded the Town of Riverhead \$60,000 towards the purchase of a new pumpout boat.

The new 200 HP, 23 foot vessel will replace a 2004 boat, the older of the two in the town's fleet at a total cost of \$99,847.86.

Walter said, "The Town of Riverhead is appreciative of the financial assistance awarded from NYS EFC that will ensure that we protect the water quality of Long Island's largest river, the Peconic River, which is so essential to the environment and our local economy."

Police Chief David J. Hegermiller said that without New York State grant funding Riverhead would not have been able to replace the 2004 boat, which had exceeded its expected useful life. "The purchase of a new boat ensures that we will have one mobile pumpout boat available without interruption during the summer boating, thereby protecting the fragile water quality of Peconic Estuary system," he said.

Sergeant Ron Atkinson, who oversees the operation of the two mobile pumpout vessels, said that usage of the free pumpout services has increased in recent years. "The cost of maintaining the older boat was becoming cost-prohibitive," he said. "The \$60,000 grant awarded by the state will allow the town to make certain that we provide this valuable service at no-cost daily to boaters navigating our waters during the summer boating season."

The Town of Riverhead offers two stationary pumpout facilities free of charge to boaters, and has operated a seasonal pumpout vessel since 2004. From the onset the program has been immensely popular with the boating public, even those that have shore-based facilities at their own marinas. The service is provided to vessels at anchor or on a mooring. Vessels must be in either the Peconic River or the portion of the Peconic Bay Estuary system administered by the Town of Riverhead. Boaters wishing to use the services of the Town of Riverhead Mobile Pumpout Vessel may initiate radio contact on VHF Channel 73. The stationary facilities are located at East Creek Marina and the Downtown Riverhead docks. Services are available from mid-May through mid-October. Daily service begins Memorial Day weekend.

Last year the two Riverhead pumpout boats serviced 786 vessels and pumped 26,483 gallons of waste.