



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 25th, 2023

Renowned Clean Water Expert to Weigh in on Montauk Wastewater

Dr. Christopher Gobler, renowned for a lifetime of work assessing water quality, has been retained by the Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) to assess Montauk's longstanding wastewater issue. The announcement followed an important panel discussion at Gurney's in Montauk last Friday attended by key East Hampton Town officials, business owners, and others.

Dr. Gobler is the director of the NYS Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University and has 20 years of research focusing on how excessive nitrogen loading affects water quality. Dr. Gobler, in collaboration with CCOM's environmental team, will be investigating Montauk's wastewater issue using the best science and data currently available.

"We have been working with Dr. Gobler to monitor harmful algal blooms in Fort Pond for the past six years and we are thrilled to begin examining Montauk's wastewater issue with him," CCOM Program Specialist, Jaime LeDuc, said. "He is one of the most influential scientists in the nation for this type of work."

"CCOM has been a leader of environmental protection for Montauk for decades," Dr. Gobler noted. "The Gobler Lab has been proud to partner with CCOM to monitor Montauk waters and specifically Fort Pond. I am excited to expand this collaboration by closely examining approaches and policy options that will best protect Montauk's most precious resource, its water."

Engaging Dr. Gobler will advance CCOM's goal of obtaining more information that can help to assess whether the environmental benefits of the Town's wastewater proposal would outweigh potential harm, as outlined by CCOM's January 2023 statement, linked [HERE](#) and on CCOM's website at www.PreserveMontauk.org.

"Protecting the environment is both CCOM's goal and Montauk's future, so we take the necessary evil of wastewater very seriously. We need to get it right, not just get it done," added LeDuc.

CCOM'S MISSION is to preserve and protect the unique environment and ecology of Montauk through education, advocacy, and grassroots citizen action. Since 1970, CCOM has led the effort to protect Montauk's precious environment, successfully preserving over 70% of Montauk's land. Thanks in large part to the work of CCOM members and volunteers, we can all enjoy Montauk's trails, beaches, scenic vistas and rugged beauty. Today, however, there are new threats to Montauk's environment. CCOM is focusing our efforts on addressing three urgent priorities: cleaning up Montauk's water, protecting its beaches and coastline, and advocating for environmental sustainability. We need your help to succeed. The outcome of our joint efforts will determine what our town is going to look like for generations to come. CCOM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are 100% tax deductible. For more information visit www.preservemontauk.org.

MEDIA CONTACT: Danielle Friscia at info@preservemontauk.org

###