



Summary of June 14, 2011 Peconic Estuary Program Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday June 14, 2011; 10:30am
H. Lee Dennison Building, Hauppauge, NY – 12th Floor Meeting Room

Attendees: Kevin Bricke, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Peter Scully, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Len Marchese, Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS);

Seth Ausubel, EPA; Rick Balla, EPA; Dawn McReynolds, NYSDEC; Julie Nace, NYSDEC; Walter Dawydiak, SCDHS; Kim Shaw, SCDHS; Christopher Lubicich, SCDHS; Mike Jensen, SCDHS, Emily Fogarty, SCDHS; Elyse O'Brien, Suffolk County Department of Environment and Energy, Kevin McDonald, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Jennifer Skilbred, Group for the East End (GFTEE), Dick Mendelman, Association of Marine Industries

- 1) The meeting opened with welcomes and introductions.
- 2) Rick Balla (EPA) reviewed staff changes over the past year (departure of Martin Trent (SCDHS), Kim Barbour (SCDHS), and Laura Stephenson (NYSDEC); addition of Julie Nace (NYSDEC))
- 3) Len Marchese, SCDHS identified himself as the County's designated representative for the Peconic Management Committee.
- 4) The summary of the April 29, 2010 Peconic Estuary Program Policy Committee was accepted as presented (with the correction to the spelling of the name "Mendelman").
- 5) Strategic Planning: Seth Ausubel (EPA) discussed the changes to the Program over the last year that had led to the Management Committee to oversee the drafting of an "Annual Workplan and Strategy" (AWS). When completed, the AWS document will serve to both describe the budget and planning process procedurally and identify specific Program commitments and goals over the year, including what was to be accomplished beyond the use of annual National Estuary Program (NEP) funding. Walter Dawydiak (SCDHS) reviewed elements of the Annual Workplan and Strategy related to the County's administration of the Program, including the role, duties, and authorities of a (new) full time Program Director.

The Policy Committee members expressed support for the preparation of an Annual Workplan and Strategy and to finalize the document. Peter Scully requested that the document be made widely available to members of the Management Conference.

Mr. Dawydiak reported that the Program Director position was currently being advertised by the County.

- 6) The budget for the use of Federal Fiscal Year 2012 National Estuary Program funding was approved was presented. The Management Committee was given the requested authority to make minor modifications to the budget should there be any changes by EPA to the funding target; the Policy Committee would be consulted if any significant changes were needed.
- 7) Kim Shaw presented a Program Office report. A focus has been the draw down of older NEP funding and the administration of numerous contracts involving both NEP and other funding. Two efforts that were highlighted were the development of conceptual designs for habitat restoration project to facilitate the securing of full funding for implementation and subwatershed management projects including ones that had previously been completed and are being implemented and new ones that are being developed, primarily to address stormwater and related pollutants.
- 8) Kevin McDonald (TNC) suggested that the Program Office have a tracking system for all completed and ongoing projects. Ms. Shaw reported that this would be addressed in a website update currently under contract.
- 9) Peter Scully (DEC) reported that DEC had convened a workgroup to review and finalize the Long Island Pesticide Use Management Plan, as called for in the Peconic Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.
- 10) Kevin McDonald discussed the September 2010 Peconic "Call to Action Conference" that was attended by over 200 stakeholders including numerous local elected officials, bringing attention to the materials and recommendations from the conference that focused on 4 topics: nitrogen management, habitat restoration, stormwater, and eelgrass.
- 11) Jennier Skilbred (GFTEE) discussed Citizens Advisory Committee meetings, initiatives and activities, including a partnership with the Children's Museum of the East End, the development of a Blueways Trail (i.e., a kayak/canoe trail system), and radio and TV spots and media advisories. A major follow up public involvement event is being planned for 2012.
- 12) Other Business:
 - The Program hosted a "Dredging Meeting" in December 2010. There was good participation of involved agencies and stakeholders. A summary of the meeting is being drafted and will be followed up with the preparation of an "Action Agenda."
 - The Program's full Technical Advisory Committee is being reconvened; a meeting has been scheduled for July 2011. An invitee list is being produced and 3 potential interim chairs have been identified to lead the group until the Committee elects its own chair. Julie Nace (DEC) will provide support to the Committee.
 - Kevin McDonald reported that the East End Supervisors and Mayors Association has identified Shelter Island Supervisor Jim Dougherty to be the local government representative to the Peconic Policy Committee and Southampton Supervisor Anna Throne Holst to be the local government representative to the Peconic Management Committee. Mr. McDonald reported that he and the Program Office would work to identify issues and topics to be addressed by local governments. Chris Lubicich (SCDHS) noted that materials from the Call to Action Conference had been used to engage local governments.
 - Rick Balla (EPA) reported that the Grangebel Park Rock Ramp Fish Passage Project team has been selected to receive a national award from the federal Coastal America consortium for their work to restore fish passage on the main stem of the Peconic River and an award ceremony was planned for June 29, 2011 in Riverhead NY.
- 13) Meeting Adjourned.