



Summary Peconic Estuary Program Policy Committee Meeting

May 6, 2013

2:00 PM

NYSDEC Bureau of Marine Resources

205 N. Belle Meade Rd, E. Setauket, NY

Attendees:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Joan Leary Matthews, Seth Ausubel, Sheri Jewhurst

Suffolk County (SC): Thomas Melito, Barry Paul, Walter Dawydiak, Alison Branco, Frank Castelli

NYS Department of Environmental Protection (DEC): Peter Scully, Dawn McReynolds, Julie Nace

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Matt Sclafani (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Jim Ammerman (NY Sea Grant)

Local Government Committee (LGC): Anna Throne-Holst (Southampton Town Supervisor), Jodi Giglio (Riverhead Town Board), Laura Stephenson (Assemblyman Thiele)

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC): Jen Skilbred, Group for the East End (GFTEE), Larry Penny, Peconic Institute

- 1) The meeting opened with welcomes and introductions.
- 2) The summary of the June 4, 2012 Peconic Estuary Program Policy Committee was accepted as presented.
- 3) Julie Nace provided a summary of the PEP Annual Report.
<http://www.peconicestuary.org/pep-admin/reports/74eeb1c5a322ad5f7c1d5e7056b279afdedb71c6.pdf>
- 4) Alison Branco provided a summary of last year's EPA Program Evaluation (<http://www.peconicestuary.org/pep-admin/reports/17df6f005fe848c81ec05c07f6eeef334325410.pdf>).
 - a. Strengths: Monitoring program, ecosystem restoration, funding, outreach.
 - b. Challenges: Travel restrictions, local government participation, no dedicated source of funding from state or county, environmental justice issues, slow implementation of TMDL.

- c. Discussion: Can the state provide funding from EPF? Can the county provide funding from the ¼% funds?
- 5) Alison Branco provided a summary of the Strategic Planning Meeting.
- a. History, SC Water Quality and Trends Analysis (e-mail for a copy), TMDL Assessment (<http://www.peconicestuary.org/pep-admin/reports/9e7c101268e789c1758587f8b59a48d88ae09549.pdf>).
 - b. NEED – a focus on Nitrogen, a clear quantification of groundwater loads (nitrogen), a planning document, a sub-workgroup (TAC) to move these initiatives forward.
- 6) Sheri Jewhurst provided an overview of the FY13 proposed budget.
- a. How does federal sequestration affect budget? Estimate a 5% to 15% cut.
 - b. Discussion: What to cut?
 - i. State of the Bay (printed, ~\$30,000)
 - ii. USGS will cost share monitoring stations (\$25,000)
 - iii. Salaries?
 - iv. Use old money? No new hires.
- 7) Jen Skilbred (CAC, GFEE) provided general updates to the Outreach and Education contract. An emphasis on bridging the gap between behavior change and actions. New plan for CAC (two groups – leadership council and action group). PEP will now have social media (Facebook, Constant Contact and Twitter). Peconic Family Fun Day was very successful. Homeowner Rebate program will be initiated. Partner with Peconic Institute on projects.
- 8) Matt Sclafani (CCE) provided a TAC update. TAC will focus on nitrogen and groundwater. Another priority is to produce an Environmental Indicators Report. An important role was to gather post-Sandy updates and share information.
- 9) Anna Throne-Holst (LGC) stated that there is an East End Mayors and Supervisors Meeting in June 2013 and gave support to the development of a Peconic Estuary IMA. Alison Branco summarized the renewed interest in PEP from many local government representatives and how PEP is maintaining that interest.
- 10) Meeting Adjourned.