



Peconic Estuary Program Policy Committee Meeting Summary
SCCC Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center
20 East Main St.
Riverhead, NY 11901
October 27, 2015
1PM – 3PM

Welcome and Introductions (Joan Leary Matthews, US EPA, Policy Committee Chair)
See sign-in sheet

Discussion and approval of May 2015 Meeting Summary (Seth Ausubel, US EPA)
No comments, approved

Updates from Policy Committee Members

1. EPA (Joan Leary Matthews) provided updates on the following EPA actions:
 - Clean Water Rule (EPA/ACOE): Ensures waters protected under Clean Water Act are clearly defined.
 - Clean Power Rule: Sets first ever national rule to reduce carbon from fossil fuel plants by 30% by 2030.
 - Trash Free Waters initiative, Region 2: Goal of zero trash within ten years, focuses on sources, not clean-ups.
 - Long Island groundwater meetings: Nitrogen focused, working on quantifiable endpoints for nitrogen load reduction.
 - CCMP Update/Revision Webinar is being led by Mark Tedesco of LISS
ACTION: Sheri and/or Alison will distribute information for webinar. Webinar is open to anyone who will be involved in the CCMP update process.
2. Local Government Committee (LGC) (Laura Tooman, Assemblyman Fred Thiele's Office)
 - Alison Branco and Kevin McDonald had the opportunity to meet with the Speaker of the Assembly while on Long Island and discussed...
 - 2016 Member Item/Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) proposal could potentially bring \$200,000 - \$250,000 per year for improvement of the Peconic Estuary.
 - The Community Protection Fund (CPF) has been extended, and local municipalities will have the option of using up to 20% of these funds for



water quality improvement projects. As early as 2016, local governments will be able to create water quality improvements for voter referendum. These plans can include allocated 10% of the 20% (water quality improvement funds) towards Peconic Estuary Program projects.

- **ACTION:** By January 2015 PEP staff and the Management Committee will identify a specific project that may move forward should funds become available either through a member item or through the EPF.

3. NYSDEC (Carrie Meek-Gallagher, Region 1 Director)

- New York State Nitrogen Management Plan: A draft scope of work and structure to move forward will be presented to the public in early 2016. The scope may have potential for Peconic-specific program funding.

4. Suffolk County (Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning)

- Provided an update on projects funded by the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program (WQPRP) in the Peconic Estuary Watershed, which include:
 - Kelp aquaculture
 - Shellfish/water quality QAPP
 - Piloting advanced decentralized wastewater systems in various towns throughout Suffolk County
 - Living shoreline
 - Innovative alternative septic system (constructed wetland) on Shelter Island
 - Innovative alternative septic system at Legion Hall, Shelter Island
 - Corwin duck farm – waste containment
- Suffolk County Microbead ban signed by County Executive in December 2015
- Ninth innovative alternative septic system installed on Long Island (Mattituck)
- Suffolk County Agricultural Stewardship plan update (goals and indicators)
- Up to two “Appendix. A” wastewater systems (large) approved, retrofitting a community of approximately 30 homes.
- Meschutt County Park – installing alternative septic system as part of pilot program.
- Updating Suffolk County sanitary code to phase out cesspools and allow for leach fields/shallow narrow drainfields.

5. LGC cont’d (Anna Throne-Holst, Southampton Supervisor)



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- The Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook has opened. The Center for Clean Water Technology will focus on strategic research to inform refinements to existing technology, and develop novel approaches for nutrient and contaminant removal or reuse and develop collaborations to propel existing businesses, and inspire and support entrepreneurship
 - Chris Gobler is creating a Nitrogen footprint website/app (EPA suggests looking at “Beat the Microbead” app for an example)
 - Another round of funding for septic and cesspool upgrade for failing systems is becoming available through funding from Southampton town.
 - **ACTION**: Suggestion to wait for updated county code that would allow for innovative alternative systems before upgrading septic and cesspool systems, bring up funding for septic and cesspool upgrade and the updates to the county code at the next Mayors and Supervisors meeting.
 - Intermunicipal Agreement will be formally announced on October 28th with a press event. (Alison Branco, Peconic Estuary Protection Committee Chair)

6. Action Plan Presentation and Discussion (Alison Branco, Program Director)

- Purpose of the Action Plan: Prioritize actions for the next few years until CCMP is revised.
- PEP is described as an integrator. The Action Plan focuses on PEP’s role. It is a living document and outlines funding needs.
- Sections are similar to current CCMP and main focus is nitrogen reduction.
- Funding issues: PEP is currently funded at 50% if all priority projects are considered. Possible long term funding from Community Preservation Fund (CPF) but local governments will not support this unless there is a guarantee of no removal of state and federal funding, and there are viable local projects implemented.
- Policy Committee endorses the Action Plan.

ACTION: Draft future budgets with potential CPF funding

7. **Update: CCMP Revision schedule and funding (Alison Branco)**

- NYSDEC is using 2015 EPF funds for contractor assistance by a MOU with Stony Brook/NY Sea Grant



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- Current Education and Outreach contract will produce a timeline and strategy for CCMP revision
 - New Education and Outreach contract (2016) will provide more support to the entire CCMP update process in consultation with the selected contractor
 - At the next CAC meeting on November 18th, 2015, staff begin will roll out the Action Plan to citizens
- ACTION:** Develop outreach strategy using Action Plan as centerpiece for CCMP update. Target specific groups of stakeholders and bring them specific information to help create strategies. Begin this in early 2016.

No New Business

Adjourn