



PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM
SCDHS OFFICE OF ECOLOGY
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PEP Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
January 31, 2015 10:00am

Location: Town of Southampton Community Center
25 Ponquogue Avenue Hampton Bays, NY 11946

2015 Mid-Winter Agenda

- I. Introduction of PEP staff and CAC Chair
- II. CAC Mission and Function within the Peconic Bay watershed
Kevin McDonald- Committee Chair, The Nature Conservancy
- III. Program Office Updates
Alison Branco- PEP Director
Julie Nace- NYSDEC, PEP Coordinator
Sherryll Jones- PEP Outreach and Education
- IV. CAC 2015 Plan of Action
Open Forum on events, campaigns, and citizen ideas
- V. Closing Remarks
Dates and Times for Future Meetings

PEP CAC Meeting Notes 1/31/15

Introductions of meeting participants and PEP staff members. Summary of PEP actions to date, since last meeting, and in the past year- many members felt out of the loop for a while.

Committee chair, Kevin McDonald (TNC) spoke on the new direction of the CAC (varying meeting times and personnel). Stressed the goal of PEP potential how citizenry can be proactive in pollution reduction strategies and habitat restoration.

Alison Branco (program director) spoke about the highlights of what PEP has accomplished in recent years including the intermunicipal agreement between most townships within the watershed and plan for Riverhead STP to use effluent to irrigate Indian Island golf course. The conversation led to a discussion about the non-point source of nitrogen from private septic systems, alternative wastewater systems, the PEP winter newsletter article on this topic, and the county's lottery and Peconic Bay watershed recipient of the new demonstration system.

Julie Nace (NYSDEC) discussed the expansion of the homeowner's green infrastructure rewards program and spotlighted two CAC member recipients (who were motivated by the destruction of their yard by superstorm Sandy). → CAC Action Item: Sign for their yard.

Sherryll Jones (CCE) introduced planned programming for the winter and early spring including the Penguin Plunge, Alewife training, beach cleanup. Also community education projects including fertilizer, storm water, green infrastructure lectures at libraries and fertilizer surveys to landscapers and Perfect Earth Project Seminar on Feb 13th. Encouraged CAC members to nominate localities for demonstration rain gardens and suggest programs they would like to sponsor i.e. paddle sport and hiking tours. Also asked that each person become an ambassador for PEP's message within their communities (place pamphlets and educational materials at their favorite businesses (i.e. tackle shops, marinas, etc.). Also recommend how the CAC can support their own townships initiatives for improved water quality through networking. → CAC Action Item: PEP promotion within their communities

The following items were discussed and suggested by CAC members during the open forum portion of the meeting:

Improved visibility of the CAC-social networking and emails worked to get more people there. If people hear the name PEP-what is the message we are trying to convey. Radio spots- WPPB What has been accomplished and what programs/efforts are next?

→ CAC Action Item: To distribute PEP's 20-year highlight document

→ CAC Action Item: Members can participate in interviews, future media campaigns to promote PEP

Suggestions to provide a tour of STP gold course operation once construction has been completed.

Places for demo rain garden- Peconic Waterfront, Mitchell Park Greenport

→ CAC Action Item: Scout and Nominate a location within public view

Rewards Program: manage the money per town to provide measurable goals. This way nitrogen reduction can be quantified by area (sq. ft. etc.) What is incentive for people to want to do this "If you can't see it, it's not there i.e. nitrogen seeping into groundwater outflows.

PEP CAC Meeting Notes 1/31/15

Southampton Town- NY Housing Fund purchasing older homes that were damaged by Sandy (Reeves Bay, Bayview Pines area)- Can we promote this on various websites (town, CCE, Zone 2 EPA etc.).

→CAC Action Item: How can CAC support their own townships initiatives for improved water quality?

What is the financial future of alternative wastewater systems? Can funds be used for rebates or be financed on a tax bill over X years.

→CAC Action Item: Lobby local official to support new green infrastructure

Water Fire Project art installation coming to downtown riverhead in summer 2016. Bumper stickers and more visibility of merchandise around town. (Many never knew there were car stickers, magnets etc.) These things were distributed at the close of the meeting for members to take.

NYS Cleanwater Coalition Institute (April and May fair) on best new technologies.

→CAC Action Item: How can CAC be involved?

LI paddlers and Blueway Trail- some people still working on this. Who are they and what have they accomplished? Issue with public accessibility and parking v. private property a potential hurdle. Use "paddle sports" to include paddle boarding and kayaking.

→CAC Action Item: How can CAC contribute to this effort?

Overfishing of the bunker fishery for reduction industries and feed for fish farms discussed. TAC summer meeting on this topic offered as an option for members to view a presentation.

"Improve/Reduce" narrative goals only so effective. Science should be first and goal set with deadlines. It was mentioned that action before data has occurred to make changes while studies were being conducted for EPA TMDL implementation plans. Use Chatham, MA infrastructure and education programs as a blue print. (Sarah Lansdale (County planner) presentation given to CAC in the fall). Continue these discussions in the spring.

→CAC Action Item: Bring in new presenters on these topics- modeling, science, zoning, and infrastructure.

Confusion about hierarchy of PEP- presented an old flowchart off the Internet. Where was this found? What is PEP, why should a citizen care?

→CAC Action Item: Get people to care about coming to meetings.

This year's UN subject is Sustainability – tie into that theme. Have a presence at Tall Ships July 4th weekend. Maritime Festival Sept. 26-27 Post events and email information to members.

What times are good for future CAC meetings? Saturdays, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings as summer approaches.

PEP CAC Meeting Notes 1/31/15

12:00pm Meeting End

Attendees:

Liz and Charlie Northshield (Rewards recipients)

Barbara Blass

Jeff Schultz

Dan Gulizio (Peconic Bay keeper)

Frank Zappone (Southampton Town)

Ray Huntington

Victor and Christine Dortona

Sandra Ferguson

Robert Cohen

Jack Norris

Annemarie VanMemmen