



PEP CAC Spring Meeting Agenda and Notes

Saturday April 18th, 2015 10:00am-12:00pm

Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center 3690 Cedar Beach Rd, Southold NY

TOPIC: Water Quality

- 1) PEP Program Office and 2015 State Budget Update – Dr. Alison Branco, PEP Program Director
- 2) PEP CAC Identity and Visibility in our Community:
 - CAC goals for 2015, CAC slogan
 - CAC public thank you to ANEP on social media for budget approval.
 - CAC sponsored events, LISS joint meeting in the fall
- 3) Alewife Monitoring Network Update on Diadromous Fishery
- 4) Presentation on Stormwater Pollution- Mark Cappellino, CCE Stormwater
- 5) CAC Action Discussion: Stormwater Community Stewardship Network
DEC/Southold Town shellfish closures
Outreach for 477 Fund Water Quality Projects

To follow at 12:00pm

- Tour of Suffolk County's Atmospheric Monitoring Equipment
- Cedar Beach Clean-up and Ecology Walk
- Tour of SCMELC/CCE facility and ongoing projects in aquaculture, Stormwater lab, greenhouse, education, etc.

REMAINING CAC MEETING DATES:

✓Monday June 15, 2015 6:00-8:00pm
East Hampton Town 159 Pantigo Rd. East Hampton, NY

✓Wednesday November 18 1:00-3:00pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension 423 Griffing Ave. Riverhead, NY 11901

CONTACT:

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PEP CAC Meeting Summary
April 18, 2015 10am-12pm
Suffolk County Marine Learning Center (SCMELC)

PROGRAM UPDATE- Alison Branco

Congressional approval to continue funding for the ANEP. Congressman Lee Zeldin on the committee. Guarantees \$600K offers 925K- more than just the base program. ANEP bill passed through the committee. Senate needs to still have their committee meetings. Sept 2015 federal fiscal cycle end.

Past letters from PEP CAC to state and county officials to continue funding to the program with 50 signatures- it is working more than just \$125K for the next two years.

CAC Action: Pen a letter to Zeldin so the CAC can sign it. Social media to follow. Click and forward email to ask for support. Omnibus letter to all the leaders.

¼ percent state fund. 17 projects approved- 9 in the Peconic Estuary (native plants, grow kelp, shellfish beds, EH Stormwater, move STP out of estuary).

PEP Mini-grants A Day in the Life of the Peconic, Conscious Point Shellfish Hatchery, Quality Parks master gardener program, Peconic green growth- East Marion public education for clustered wastewater treatment.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE- Sherryll Jones

How can the CAC be involved in town control over land use (wastewater). Adding a buffer between asphalt and new bike paths. American planning associate conference in June- water quality discussion.

Emulate “best practice” examples of estuary programs (Chesapeake, Tampa Bay). What does this look like and how does it get accomplished (Oxford, St. Johns- lots of action)

CAC Action: Circulate the agenda. SEND OUT AN INVITATION TO CAC for this and other conferences. Research other estuary program’s citizenry involvement.

CAC visibility- Create a slogan and list of goals for 2015 to “brand” the Committee.

Suggestions from member to improve the face of the CAC:

- Newsletter articles of interest (Sag Harbor Wetland Law, Pools salt water vs. chlorinated pool, CAC article for June newsletter).
- Presence at farmers market and maritime museum. Have a laptop/rain gardens presentation playing at all events.
- More notice on the events.
- Train the CAC to volunteer at PEP tabling events, citizen science events, etc.
- More Spanish brochures- cleaning products and their effect on the bay!
- Special presentations to community organizations and town groups (Peconic Land Trust).

- Have a point person in each east end association/environmental group.

CAC Action: Continue to plan and promote events and publish articles in PEP newsletter on important water quality issues. Many of these items have happened or are happening- create a CAC monthly update for things the E&O group is working on.

FISHERIES UPDATE IN THE ESTUARY- Ray Huntington, Southold Town Shellfish Advisory Comm.

Alewife and Menhaden Fishery update provided by CAC member, Mr. Huntington. What can PEPs involvement be as advocate for these filter feeders? What is their population affect on local water quality? Refer to the DEC on fish related issues as well as CCE and Emerson Hasbrouck. Populations to be larger and management with that in mind.

CAC Action: Alison can talk to Emerson and the DEC to answer the filter-feeding question. Ask what has been considered and let CAC members know and see if we can make a statement.

STORMWATER MITIGATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION- Mark Cappellino Cornell Cooperative Extension

DEC water sampling in PEP impaired water bodies- 12 consultants suggests/talks to municipalities town, village to seek grants to upgrade infrastructure. Analysis of Stormwater by town/CCE bacteria enumeration and county consultants. Sampling plan- quality assurance plan through the ¼ percent plan- DEC and Southold town.

Stewardship Network- Because of unreliable or no DEC water sampling, training CAC and other volunteers to collect data on estuary water quality may help to have better water quality testing estuary-wide. Get civic groups involved (such as Orient and New Suffolk). Volunteer networks on education for Stormwater, yellow flags in yards after pesticide or fertilizer application. Trustees trained to take water quality samples. Network would need 10-12 people min. and training. Start small at SCMELC and grow the network- useful data for aquaculturist and SPAT members. What frequency and best times of the year to sample? June, July, Aug students to take be involved- "Intergenerational project". Is any PEP mini-grant money available for this use?

Education for the community is the purpose (not forcing DEC's hand)- comparing citizen science to formal science. CCE training gives it teeth. Get civic groups and Peconic Baykeeper interested. Model it after Buzzards Bay Estuary Program Baywatchers group.

CAC Action: Start a buzz about the Stormwater Network. Schedule a training day for the CAC and volunteers to learn proper water sampling techniques and methodology

CAC Action: Volunteer action day to go out stencil PEP logo or outlet locations on storm drains. Print posters for the PEP display board.

12pm adjourn

Meeting followed by a field trip to the PEP atmospheric monitoring equipment on Cedar Beach Point and Coastal Cleanup Event. CCE open house to tour the SCMELC facilities.

PEP CAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin McDonald (chair)

Alison Branco (PEP)

Sherryll Jones (PEP)

Mike Domino (Southold Town Trustee)

Ray Huntington (FNPOA)

Drienne Benner (Peconic Green Growth)

John Klonowki

Annemarie Van Hemmen