



Peconic Estuary Program

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

November 18, 2015, 10:00am

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

423 Griffing Avenue

Riverhead, NY 11901

- Attendees: Becky Wiseman, Ed Bausmann, Soren Dahl, Sarah Schaefer, Alison Branco, Julie Nace, Matt Sclafani, Michael Collins, Chris Schubert, Sherryll Jones, Scott Curatolo-Wagemann, Cathy Haas, Ray Huntington, Charlie DeQuillfeldt and Tim Greene.
- Welcome & Introductions – Matthew Sclafani (Chair, TAC)
- Meetings Summaries – Alison Branco (PEP Director)
 - No meeting summary document.
 - PEP Program Updates:
 - Alison attended NYSDEC Long Island Nitrogen Kickoff meeting on 10/13/15, will provide a document of Alison's talking points (document attached).
 - DEC funded USGS Groundwater Subwatersheds Delineation Project- preliminary results expected to be available in Spring 2016. Final results for Long Island will be available within 12 to 18 months, include age of groundwater at each site. USGS Priority Waterbodies list is a starting point to delineate subwatershed waterbodies. Important in PEP watershed: currently western estuary is only shallow groundwater contributing area, needs to be expanded to match the eastern section; LISS and PEP boundaries criss-cross and some land is not included in either due to different delineation methods.
 - 2015 Long Island Tidal Wetlands Trends Analysis presented at the NYSDEC. Report is available here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5113.html>
- PEP Nitrogen Workgroup Preliminary Findings- Presentation by Matt Sclafani, (Nitrogen workgroup chair)
 - Open discussion (Nitrogen workgroup summary document attached): First steps are to understand the scope and vision of estuary health with measurable endpoints and goals. Solute transport model will be necessary to predict accurate loads. Final recommendations to be complete by next meeting for approval.

Comments:

- Ray Huntington – Need a plan for monitoring so good data is available for models.
- Michael Collins – Public access for all information.
- Q1: Should we take temperatures to compare results?
- A1: a) Chris Schubert- Field data will be collected to see how accurate model results are.
b) Alison: Temperature is being looked at for seagrass restoration efforts- which is a separate but related issue to nitrogen impacts.
- Chris Shubert: USGS will produce updated groundwater travel times from within 6-18 months (which can refine TNC NLM model). Can be used to show 0-2 year groundwater travel times- NLM modeling can be done with confidence in these areas before a solute transport model is complete. Suggested further study to test data modeling results. For now best investment: We need good data for what concentrations are flowing out of the aquifer to the estuary. Also collection of data in historically high nitrogen loading areas of the estuary to reconstruct loadings still moving through system (can be a future project)- need to stress importance to the MC.
- Private and public supply well data from SCWA and SCDHS will be needed.
- Atmospheric deposition- can be looked at through NLM model- will be a little inaccurate in eastern estuary because there is not hard boundary- TNC did not use atmospheric deposition in their model because it is so tricky.
- PEP Action Plan- Discussion and comments- Alison Branco
 - Drafted and endorsed by the MC and PC at the September 9th MC meeting and October 27th PC meeting.
 - Document provides a framework for a CCMP revision.
 - Alison welcomes input on Action Plan and CCMP actions via email or at TAC meeting (<http://bit.ly/1itnxXy>).
 - All PEP committees need to keep in mind PEP's science synthesis role to inform management actions.
 - 2 steps for CCMP revision:
 - Identify scope- limit CCMP actions early on in the process
 - Identify a what we are aiming for
 - **Action:** Present old CCMP topics, PEP Action Plan topics and topics we will not be addressing to MC at next meeting.
 - **Action:** Present current PEP monitoring programs and open discussion for changes, TAC can inform PEP of other data sets being collected (e.g. towns).

Comments: Need to refocus monitoring to be more efficient and new monitoring plans will be a part of the revised CCMP. TAC stresses the need for efficient and revised data collection plan to address data sets we need. Need nitrogen models based on specific

management practices to see the impact of each. Need public access to model, maps and source data.

- Environmental Indicators Report and State of the Bays Roll-out- Julie Nace (PEP State Coordinator)
 - Will be a follow up to the Environmental Indicator Report completed in 2005
 - State of the Bays Roll-out is more digestible document for the public
 - 2015 Environmental Indicators Report will be sent out/presented to the TAC for review.

- Update on progress of RFPs – Sarah Schaefer (PEP Program Coordinator)
 - Awarded:
 - Peconic Estuary Eelgrass Assessment Services (Suffolk County) - SBU Bradley Peterson- awaiting approval by Suffolk County on Dec 1st.

 - Advertised:
 - 2016 Education and Outreach Services (NEIWPC)- bids due 11/24/15
 - RFB- Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Suffolk County) - bids due 10/30/15- all 3 bids over funding limit- will need to re-advertise

 - Awaiting advertisement:
 - Upper Mills Fish Passage (Suffolk County)
 - Critical Lands Protection Strategy (Suffolk County)

 - Draft stages:
 - Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design (Suffolk County)

- Next Steps and Meeting- Matthew Sclafani & Alison Branco
 - CCMP revision

- Adjourn