



Peconic Estuary Program

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

November 16, 2016 10:00am

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

423 Griffing Avenue

Riverhead, NY 11901

Attendees: Sarah Schaefer, Matt Sclafani, Edward Bausman, Soren Dahl, Sean O'Neill, Cathy Haas, Mike Jensen, Jim Ammerman, Chris Schubert, Lisa Liquori (phone), Christie Pfoertner, Scott Curatolo-Wageman, Becky Wiseman, Holly Sanford, Charlie deQuillfeldt, Glynnis Berry, Lena DeSantis, Michael Collins

1. Welcome & Introductions – **Matthew Sclafani** (Chair, TAC)
2. Meetings Summaries – **Sarah Schaefer** (PEP Program Coordinator)
 - Alison is not present today because she is on jury duty.
 - Community Preservation Fund (CPF) referendum: CPF referendum voted on in east end towns on November 8th, 2016. All five East End towns voted to extend the Community Preservation Fund's 2 % real estate transfer tax for 20 years, until 2050; and to allow each town (East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton and Southold) to spend up to 20% of the revenue from the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) for water quality improvement projects. This will allow a portion of the funds to be spent on water quality improvement projects, decided upon by each East End Town and potentially open up funding source for PEP monitoring.
 - Staff changes- Julie Nace: NJ Superfund Program at EPA and Sherryll Jones: New York State Ocean Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources.
 - Website Redesign- FusionSpark Media- finishing up website discovery/ planning phase. Reviewing draft of the content strategy and corresponding site map. Reviewing website wireframe next week. Launch January 2017.
 - RFPs:
 - i. Climate Ready Assessment- \$98, 381 (FY14, FY12, FY 11, FY09). Awarded to Anchor QEA. Drafting contract now.

- ii. Conceptual Habitat Design- \$100,000 (FY10). Awarded to Land Use Ecological Services. Drafting contract now.
 - Dam Removal Workshop October 18th: Dam Removal Seminar at Hofstra University a great success! We had 55 people in attendance. We hope that the presentations will inspire attendees to consider dam removal as an option in their future projects. Presentation from Alon Dominitz (NYSDEC Dam Safety, Albany) on dam regulations and the process of dam removal. Presentation from John Waldman (Queens College) on Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration. An overview of LISS, PEP and Seatuck fish passage projects from Byron Young and Enrico Nardone (Seatuck Environmental Association). Gwen Macdonald-Save the Sound and Sally Harold- TNC-CT chapter presented on successful local urban/suburban dam removal projects. Followed by field trip to Mill River dam.
 - Visit from Carl Alderson from NOAA's Restoration Center on September 8th and 9th. Tour of Southards Pond Dam, Diadromous Fish Workgroup meeting and tour of Peconic River dams and fish passage. Helpful feedback for future NOAA grant program applications.
3. USGS Continuous Monitoring Parameter Discussion-**Matt Sclafani & Chris Schubert** (USGS)
- Chris Schubert presented benefits and costs of USGS continuous monitoring stations in the Peconic Estuary. The discussion focused on whether or not the TAC supports adding pH to the Riverhead USGS continuous monitoring station.
 - Costs:
 - Operation and Maintenance: \$6730 during FFY17 or \$6830 during NY State FY17-18.
 - Upfront installation expenses consist of purchase costs for two new sensors (one deployed and one spare), which amount to \$775 per site during FFY17 or \$785 during SFY17-18. (pH probes only last about a year and Water Quality probes can last as long as 10 years).
 - Total (annual O&M and upfront installation) costs are \$7,505 during FFY17 or \$7,615 during SFY17-18.
 - Benefits:
 - Investigate general increase in acidity with eutrophication and increased variability in acidity with productivity and compare with other USGS monitoring stations in the region and within the Peconic Estuary with pH monitoring.
 - Continuous monitoring reveals conditions and processes undetected by grab sampling
 - Data illustrate short-term variability of water quality in estuary systems
 - Daily statistics often show good to fair water quality & ecological condition near an estuary mouth, and fair to poor water quality & ecological condition at interior locations
 - Data from these monitoring stations supply information critical to related programs

- Protecting and restoring tidal wetlands, seagrass, shellfish beds, and other critical habitats
 - Establishing the foundation for climate change sentinel monitoring programs
 - The cost of adding the sensor and operation and maintenance of the pH sensor will be covered completely by the NYSDEC.
 - Adding chlorophyll-a sensor to the Orient Harbor USGS Continuous Monitoring station is a lower priority than adding pH at the Riverhead USGS station. Costs are higher to cover operation and maintenance of chlorophyll-a sensors. Future funding could be pursued through LINAP and by highlighting the benefits of adding Chlorophyll-a to Orient Harbor to investigate the water quality trends at the coastal ocean boundary and how eutrophication contributes to ocean acidification.
 - PEP TAC voted to approve adding pH sensor to Riverhead USGS Continuous Monitoring station.
 - Link to Chris Schubert's presentation- Real-time monitoring of estuary water quality Tracking ecological health and informing regulatory needs:
<http://www.peconicestuary.org/reports/4cd90c8ba742512c532d0d94383c13e876fc7307.pdf>
4. PRESENTATION: LISS Water Quality Monitoring/Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change- James W. Ammerman, Ph.D. (Long Island Sound Study Science Coordinator) - Link to presentation:
<http://www.peconicestuary.org/reports/a0a83f11d000477a0751c546f75c7d65b0f76422.pdf>
- Long Island Sound Overview
 - Information and Guidance – 2014 Synthesis Book, 2015 CCMP
 - STAC, Workgroups
 - Water Quality Monitoring Workgroup
 - Monitoring Programs – CT DEEP, LISICOS, and IEC
 - Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring Workgroup
 - Watershed & Embayment Workgroup
5. Next Steps and Meeting – **Matthew Sclafani** & **Sarah Schaefer** (PEP Program Coordinator)
- PEP should discuss how to structure workgroups designated to discuss revisions to PEP monitoring program.
6. Adjourn