

**Peconic Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting Highlights  
County Center Legislative Auditorium, Riverhead NY  
March 9, 2011**

1. **Welcome and Introductions (Seth Ausubel).** See attendee list below.
2. **The summary of the December 2010 meeting was accepted as presented.**
3. **Program Director and Program Office location:** Suffolk County (Walter Dawydiak) reported that there would be an updated approach to program office operations. First, that the County would seek to advertise and hire a full time program director, using the position description that the management conference had developed previously. The details of this revised approach would be discussed at a special Management Committee meeting that was scheduled for May 12, 2011. Walter Dawydiak stated that the program office would not be moving to Riverhead as had been announced at the previous meeting. The location of the program office would remain in Yaphank, though this arrangement would be reassessed by the County every 6 months to determine if a change was appropriate.
4. **State Coordinator:** Interviews have been conducted and an offer is being made to the most highly ranked candidate.
5. **Contracts:** There are currently 22 contracts in various stages being managed by the Peconic Estuary Program Office. In 2011, there will be 12 new or renewed contracts.
6. **FY11 Budget Proposal.** EPA (Rick Balla) presented a draft budget for \$600,000 that has been mailed out in advance of the meeting, developed in cooperation with state and county representatives and the Citizens Advisory Committee chair. The Management Committee agreed that the priorities were staff to administer the program and assist in leveraging/securing other funding sources and oversee on-the-ground projects. The County committed to continued funding for water quality monitoring efforts and since the PEP was also providing funding for monitoring, the County would also seek funding from the Long Island Sound Study and South Shore Estuarine Reserve Program to support county monitoring that benefits those programs. The County also agreed to prepare a strategic workplan which would include specifics/metrics of what was to be accomplished; with some interim conference calls, this strategic workplan would also be presented and discussed at the May 12, 2011 meeting. A revised budget was approved by the Management Committee, with the understanding that changes might be necessary based on how the federal budget is finalized.
7. **Program Office Update:** Kim Shaw provided a Program office update.
8. **Meetinghouse Creek Dredging:** The Management Committee agreed that the status of the feasibility study prepared for the environmental dredging of Meetinghouse Creek would be discussed at the next meeting, including involving representatives from SCDPW if appropriate.
9. **Citizens Advisory Committee:** The CAC reported that they just had a very successful meeting with over 40 attendees, many of whom were representatives of various environmental or special interest groups on the east end. The CAC would also be participating in an event at the Children's Museum of the East End.
10. **Dredging Meeting:** A well attended and successful Dredging Meeting was held in December 2010. The effort of Laura Stephenson in coordinating this event was recognized. The summary of this event and follow up action agenda still needs to be prepared and distributed.

- 11. Technical Advisory Committee:** A proposal for reconvening the TAC should be discussed at the next Management Committee meeting. This should include the identification of potential issues and topics for the TAC to focus on.
- 12. Local Government Committee:** Kevin McDonald, Kim Shaw, and Kim Barbour attended the last East End Supervisors and Mayors Association meeting. Jim Dougherty, Supervisor, Town of Shelter Island was identified as the Policy Committee representative. Anna Throne-Holst was identified as the Management Committee representative and Chair of the Local Governments Committee. Efforts need to be made to assist these local governments representatives in participating in management conference activities and meetings.

**Attendees:**

Pat Floria, SCDHS  
Jim Ammerman, NY Sea Grant  
Walter Dawydiak, SCHS/PEP  
Kim Shaw, SCDHS/PEP  
Seth Ausubel, USEPA  
Rick Balla, USEPA/PEP  
Becky Wiseman, CCE of Suffolk County  
Jen Skilbred, Group for the East End  
Dawn McReynolds, NYSDEC/DMR  
Elyse O'Brien, SCDEE  
Kevin McDonald, TNC  
Dick Mendelman, AMI  
Emily Fogarty, SCDHS/PEP  
Kevin McAllister, Peconic BayKeeper  
Len Marchese, SCDHS  
Susan Filipowich, SCPD