

Peconic Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Highlights
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Griffing Avenue, Riverhead NY
May 12, 2011

1. Welcome and Introductions (Seth Ausubel). See attendee list below. A special welcome was made to Julie Nace who has joined the Program as the State Coordinator.

2. PEP Funding

a. Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 (Budget (Rick Balla): The final Federal National Estuary Program budget target for the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) has been set at \$598,800. This represents a reduction of \$1200 from the budget that was approved by the Management Committee at the March 2011 meeting. Rick Balla suggested that we reduce the budget line for PEP Talk from \$10,000 to \$8,800. This was approved by the Management Committee and will be presented to the Policy Committee.

b. Proposed Items for FY12 Funding (Kim Shaw): PEP has \$120,000 (from SWG) for a portion of the Upper Mills Fish Passage Project; Kim Shaw suggested applying for matching funds from the Suffolk County ¼% Program. Dawn McReynolds, Julie Nace and Kim Shaw will work on proposals for ¼ % funding for Upper Mills Fish Ladder project. Other proposed ideas for the PEP include a priority habitat restoration project and expanding the homeowner pollution prevention/stormwater control rebate project. Other proposals that are being submitted address vector control topics and detecting illegal/illicit discharges in Municipal Separate Stormwater Systems (MS4). The Natural Resource Subcommittee, Stormwater Workgroup and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) should be asked for ideas for projects in upcoming years. The Peconic desired funding project list should be updated.

c. Contracts (Kim Shaw): Contracts are not moving due to administrative and staffing issues. Kim Shaw will send Len Marchese a list of priority contracts. Priority contracts include the PEP Education and Outreach contract, the Stormwater Intermunicipal Agreement contract and the Habitat Restoration Conceptual Design contract. The Education and Outreach contract expires June 30, 2011. EPA, on behalf of the Management Committee, will send an e-mail or the letter to the Program Office requesting that a sole source waiver be pursued to continue public education and outreach contract services, provided this is consistent with the County's procurement policy. An update on the CAC support contract should be provided at the June 2011 Management Committee meeting and a long term plan for this service presented at the September meeting.

d. Member Items (Aid to Localities): This funding source is from the NYS Legislature. Outreach to legislators must be initiated by December or January with a one page letter describing the top three projects and budgets. \$200,000 was made available in 2008 to support eelgrass management.

3. Strategic Plan

a. Program Director Position (Walt Dawydiak) – This position is being advertised as a Marine Biologist and the ad will be on monster.com. Resumes are due May 21, 2011. The rationale for using a marine biologist series is that it comes with a high grade of pay, it requires 6 years of experience and it is a position that already exists within Suffolk County. The position will also be posted on the PEP website.

b. Strategic Plan (Walt Dawydiak): The existing draft plan was introduced and discussed. Comments on the document should be provided by May 20. A revised document should be presented at the June 9, 2011 Management Committee Meeting. The document will also be presented to the Policy Committee on June 14. The Policy Committee will be asked to review and provide a conceptual endorsement.

4. Other Business

a. Water Quality Trends (Mike Jensen): The literature review for this project is in. It has been circulated for review. Dewitt Davies requested a copy.

b. Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP): BNL has proposed to discharge their STP effluent to ground water instead of current discharge to the surface waters of the Peconic River. This may dry up ½ mile of river. Walt Dawydiak will get information and circulate. This should be a topic for review by the Management Committee or a reconvened Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

c. Meetinghouse Creek: Suffolk County distributed a dredging feasibility report for Meetinghouse Creek. A reconvened TAC should review this report and make recommendations for Management Committee action at the September 2011 meeting. Leg. Romaine asked for recommendations to bring to the Suffolk County Legislature.

d. Dredging Workshop: A draft of the Workshop summary should be prepared by the next meeting. Julie Nace and Kim Shaw will work on this.

e. Technical Advisory Committee: A reconvened TAC should be engaged on the water quality trends report, the proposed BNL discharge relocation, Meetinghouse Creek dredging, and overall dredging meeting topics. We should plan an initial meeting in July. They will present findings at the September Management Committee Meeting.

f. Policy Committee Meeting: This will take place June 14, 2011. Proposed agenda topics include: budget approval, the strategic plan, program director status, Call to Action Conference, and dredging meeting.

Attendees:

Julie Nace, NYSDEC/PEP
Kim Shaw, SCDHS/PEP
Seth Ausubel, USEPA
Rick Balla, USEPA/PEP
Walter Dawydiak, SCHS/PEP
Pat Floria, SCDHS
Dick Mendelman, AMI
Jen Skilbred, Group for the East End
Dawn McReynolds, NYSDEC/DMR
Legislator Romaine, SC Leg.
Dale Moyer, CCE of Suffolk County
Glynis Berry, AIA
Susan Filipowich, SCPD
Dewitt Davies, SCPD
Len Marchese, SCDHS
Laura Stephenson, Office of Assemblyman Thiele
Brian Culhane, Commissioner SCDEE
Elyse O'Brien, SCDEE
Eileen Keenan, NY SeaGrant
Mike Jensen, SCDHS
Emily Fogarty, SCDHS/PEP