

Peconic Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting Highlights  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Griffing Avenue, Riverhead NY  
June 9, 2011

**1. Opening:** Seth Ausubel opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. The summary of the previous two meetings (March/May) were approved.

**2. Water Quality Applications Summary (Kim Shaw and Walter Dawydiak):** Listed below is an overview of the four applications that were submitted by the Health Department to the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Committee. The Committee to review proposed projects submitted and make recommendations to the County Executive and the Suffolk County Legislature. All projects are subject to the approval of the Suffolk County Legislature. The committee will meet on June 16 and review 12 applications totaling \$3,995,279.

- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Continued Monitoring of Mosquito Control Insecticides: Since 2002, the USGS has partnered with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) to monitor mosquito-control insecticides in water and bottom-sediments following vector control mosquito spray events. This \$150,000 proposal will be funded for two years. This proposal was endorsed by the Vector Control Pesticide Management Committee and the data will serve as the foundation for an Environmental Risk Assessment the committee is preparing. This project will measure, for the first time, the presence of Etofenprox. Etofenprox is the most likely replacement for Resmethrin that may not be commercially available in 2012.
- Equipment to analyze Hexavalent Chromium in drinking water: Funds will be used by the SCDHS Public and Environmental Health Laboratory (PEHL) to purchase the necessary equipment to analyze for Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium-6) in samples collected from public and private drinking water supplies, as well as from samples collected from our groundwater and surface water resources. SCDHS records indicate this compound is ubiquitous and is used in a variety of industries some of which are listed in the New York State's Superfund Registry. PEHL has estimated the cost for purchasing this equipment is approximately \$50,000.
- Environmental Impacts of Coal Tar Derived Contamination on Suffolk County Water Sources: SCDHS Division of Environmental Quality proposes to enhance the investigative capabilities of the Office of Water Resources and partner with the USGS in evaluating the use of these new and innovative in-situ groundwater treatments. Contaminant plumes found at manufactured gas plants (MGPs) threaten the sole-source aquifer of Suffolk County. One component of the plumes are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are known carcinogens have been detected at high concentrations in the surficial, upper glacial aquifer at some sites. Oxygen-gas injection (OGI) systems and in-situ chemical oxidation treatments (ISCO) were installed to intercept the plume and degrade MGP-related contaminants by spurring microbial activity.

- Evaluation of Innovative/Alternative Sewage Disposal Systems to Remediate Water Quality in Suffolk County: Evaluation of systems that significantly reduce nitrogen, as compared with septic tanks and leaching pools. The study will be limited to “small” systems that serve individual residences (300 gallons per day), or their commercial equivalents. Treatment to 20 or 25 mg/l discharge, as compared with 50 mg/l for conventional septic tanks and leaching pools and 10 mg/l for SPDES-permitted systems. A cost/benefit analysis will be prepared which includes the entire Peconic Estuary watershed.

All applications were well received by MC. Glynis Berry summarized her letters (AIA, Peconic Green Growth, and South Hampton) of endorsement for the Alternative Sewage Disposal proposal but wanted a stronger master plan, that addressed environmental quality not just drinking water, for decentralized wastewater. Ms. Berry expressed that perhaps her ideas/concerns could be addressed in the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Needs Study. Rick Balla further explained the EPA Needs Study as it applies not only to wastewater but also agriculture, land acquisition, etc. Walter Dawydiak said that if the Alternative Sewage Disposal proposal was funded, a workgroup would be formed to address these concerns.

Becky Wiseman asked the committee to refocus funding on agriculture stewardship. It was suggested that agricultural stewardship be proposed for Aid to Localities in the December January timeframe and be put on the next Management Committee Meeting’s agenda. Lynn Mendelman said she would like the proposal to be more focused on the Peconics.

**4. Annual Workplan and Strategy (Walter Dawydiak):** Dawydiak summarized the process and status of the Workplan. The process has expanded from creating a short document outlining the changes in staffing in the county to include more details, metrics, all agency roles, a holistic strategy and appendices. Appendix G now includes water quality monitoring as per New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) concerns. A final document should be ready by September 30

## 5. Other Business

- Grant Applications: Kim Shaw is working on the workplan and budget for the federal Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) grant. The application will be submitted on June 10, 2011. Julie Nace has provided the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) with a workplan and budget for their submittal for the federal grant application. She is still waiting for state match certification.
- Public Education and Outreach (PEO) Waiver (Kim Shaw, Len Marchese, and Kevin McDonald): The PEO proposal is subject to a waiver committee vote today. Monies should be drawn down by June. The contract is for \$100,000, 1-year extension. If this is not approved, we will go to a request for proposals (RFP) with up to \$200,000 available. Kevin McDonald said the waiver is needed to maintain stability.
- Policy Committee Meeting and discussion (Rick Balla, Kevin McDonald): Rick Balla summarized the packet provided to the committee members. Suggestions were made about presenting a one-page document summarizing the Call To Action Conference, in addition to what was already in the packet. Parts of the Strategic Workplan to be including are Appendices A, B, C and D. We need to make sure the budget is approved.

We will provide an update on Suffolk County plan, position and organization. Draft summary of Dredging Workshop should be provided via e-mail by Tuesday.

- TAC (Mike Jenson): The priority issues the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) should address include the Meetinghouse Creek Dredge Feasibility Report, the Suffolk County Water Quality Trends and Analysis proposal and Long Island Tidal Wetlands Trends. Water Quality Trends Analysis. An Updated TAC membership list has been prepared though comments on additions are needed. The plan is to reconvene the TAC in July.
- LGC: The Local Government Committee (LGC) representatives were selected at the East End Mayors and Supervisors Meeting in December 2010. Jim Dougherty, Supervisor of Shelter Island is the PEP Policy Committee representative and Anna Throne-Holst, Supervisor, Town of Southampton is the PEP Management Committee representative and chair of the LGC.
- Program Director/Marine Biologist Position (Walter Dawydiak): Suffolk County to date has only received two resumes for the marine biologist position. The county's account with monster.com had expired and the job was not posted. The contract is now renewed and the job should be posted shortly. It has no end date for submitting resumes but Dawydiak hopes that interviews will be in July with a start date in August.
- Pump-out Press Conference (Kim Shaw): Very successful and well attended by local officials and press.
- Website (Kim Shaw): website upgrades are being made with contractor assistance; Program Office staff will be trained on managing the new website.

Attendees:

Julie Nace NYSDEC/PEP  
Dawn McReynolds NYSDEC/BMR  
Elyse O'Brien SCDEE  
Seth Ausubel EPA  
Rick Balla EPA  
Lynn Mendelman East Hampton Trustee  
Glynis Berry AIA Peconic and PGG  
Becky Wiseman CCE  
Jim Ammerman NYSG  
Emerson Hasbrouck CCE-Marine  
Len Marchese SCDHS  
Mike Jensen SCDHS  
Emily A. Fogarty SCDHS/PEP  
Walt Dawydiak SCDHS  
Kim Shaw SCDHS/PEP  
Kevin McDonald CAC