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## Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2012, 10:00-12:00  
Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 2nd Floor  
423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY

1. Introductions (Seth Ausubel, US EPA, Chair)

2. Minutes from last meeting and 2 Conference Calls (Seth Ausubel)  
Approved as presented.

3. Report on June 4 Policy Committee Meeting (Rick Balla, US EPA, Grant Coordinator)

Policy Committee Approved Workplan and Budget as approved by Management Committee with one change: the final workplan is amended with the statement: “Expanding the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice is incorporated into Program Office, State Coordination, and Outreach and Education tasks.”

**ACTION** → Program Office will add the above statement to the Budget Summary Table and implement it as workplan tasks are planned and carried out.

4. Discussion of PEP Input to ¼% Program (Walter Dawydiak)

For 2012, MC would draft letter stating that all of the project submitted to PEP for support are “consistent with the Peconic Estuary CCMP” where this can be documented.

A more formal process would be incorporated for the upcoming year:

Dec: Discuss Priorities for upcoming ¼% funding; communicate priorities to PEP committees and stakeholders

Jan-March: Submit ¼% proposal 1-2 pg. description to PEP by Feb.

March: Discuss and vote on PEP support of ¼% projects; draft letters of support to accompany applications

**ACTION** → 2012 General support letter to be drafted by Program Office and signed by Seth Ausubel

**ACTION** → Program Office to incorporate new ¼% schedule into AWS

5. Presentation summarizing the Program Evaluation (PE) results (Noemi Mercado, EPA Headquarters)

PEP has “passed” the Program Evaluation and is therefore eligible for continued funding under the Clean Water Act §320. A letter summarizing the results will be sent to the program office once finalized. The evaluation highlighted strengths in the areas of outreach, habitat protection and restoration, research, and financial management. The EPA-HQ representatives congratulated the program on many initiatives that have taken place since the last program evaluation, including progress made on previously noted challenges. New challenges included: State and County commitment and support, local government support, progress toward nitrogen and pathogen load reduction goals, maintaining the progress made on financial management – especially reduced delays, and adaptive management (staying relevant in the community and adapting priorities to the changing environment). PE team suggested looking at “inter-local” agreements used in Sarasota Bay and other NEPs.

**ACTION** → Program Office will forward PE results letter to Management Committee members and upload it to the PEP website when it is received

**ACTION** → Program Office will investigate “inter-local agreement” used in other NEPs as a mechanism to facilitate local government participation and stakeholder commitment



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6. Presentation and Discussion of Updates to Annual Workplan and Strategy Document (AWS), (Alison Branco, PEP Director, Suffolk County)

**ACTION** → Program Office will update AWS, in consultation with Julie Nace (DEC) and Rick Balla (EPA) and present update at September Management Committee.

Updates to include:

- Climate Ready Estuaries
- Eelgrass Bio-optical Model Project
- Incorporate Environmental Justice
- ¼% Procedures and Interim Milestones
- Describe new staff roles & redistribution of land use coordination tasks
- Incorporate new contracts and grants
- Delete completed tasks
- Update Project Wish List & Contracts Status List

7. Next Meeting

**December 13, 2012**

**Future Management Committee Meetings (Please mark your calendars and notify program office of any conflicts):**

December 13, 2012  
March 14, 2013  
June 13, 2013  
September 12, 2013  
December 12, 2013