



Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2012, 10:00-12:00
Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center
20 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY

1. Introductions (Rick Balla, US EPA, acting Chair)

2. Minutes from last meeting (Rick Balla)
Approved as presented.

3. Program Office Update (Alison Branco, PEP Director)

- Provided a “look back” on her first year of work
- Summarized allocations for FY12 NEP Award
 - New eelgrass work (Bio-optical model)
 - Climate Ready Estuaries (Updating CLPS strategy to reflect climate change)
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Seagrass Monitoring
- USGS Monitoring Stations are up and running
 - Orient Harbor http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/uv/?site_no=01304200
 - Riverhead http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/uv/?site_no=01304562
- NEIWPCC will have more involvement in PEP (Outreach and Education RFP, Program Coordinator Position, Homeowner Rebate Program)

ACTION → Smaller committees will be established by the Program Office to review RFP and Position Description, and participate in interviews

- NYSERDA has offered to pay for sampling (~\$11,000/yr) if PEP pays for equipment (\$7000) to monitor for atmospheric deposition of mercury by retrofitting existing equipment that PEP currently uses to monitor for atmospheric deposition of nitrogen. We will be part of a national network.

ACTION → Program Office will report back on how data will be used.

- Agricultural Stewardship: Conference on Oct 15th
- Next TAC Meeting will focus on nitrogen (alternative on site systems, Status and Trends)
- Annual Workplan and Strategy (AWS)
 - New tasks added, completed ones removed

ACTION → Need to show track changes and need a strategy and input to decide what topics are added.

- Updated roles and responsibilities
- Covers full range of grants and contracts

DISCUSSION: Need for strategic planning (5-year plans for the whole program). Next Management Committee meeting will be dedicated to this, as a one day retreat. Need to prep workgroups for this retreat.

ACTION → Program office will prepare for a “strategy planning” retreat on December 13, location TBD

- Annual Report: Effort will be completed by November 30. This report must have metrics and will be a report card for the past year.

4. Update to “Top Priorities” and “Desired Funding” lists (Rick Balla)



ACTION → This discussion has been tabled until the December strategic planning meeting

5. Annual Reporting (Alison Branco and Matt Sclafani, TAC Chair)

- Discussed need for an Environmental Indicators Report and a Public Document. We need to work with Subcommittees and Workgroups to establish timelines and smaller workgroups.

ACTION → Establish smaller workgroups to begin this effort

6. Eelgrass IPR, Habitat and Stormwater Updates (Julie Nace, PEP State Coordinator)

- Eelgrass Management Plan: Implementation Progress Report Summarized. Follow link and provide comments (to jsnace@gw.state.dec.ny.us) by October 13, 2012. <http://www.peconicestuary.com/pep-admin/reports/c6e8f11f1935b506c7b8ff6c34337834a62332c5.pdf>
- Updates provided on Habitat Restoration Conceptual Designs and Inter-municipal Agreement

7. Climate Change Report Recommendations (Alison Branco)

- Summarized work completed by The Nature Conservancy and presented recommendations that included a Vulnerability Assessment and a Climate Adaption Plan. These initiatives will be discussed further at the upcoming strategy workshop.

8. CAC Update (Kevin McDonald, Chair CAC)

- Status of 20th Anniversary Event? In planning stages for mid-October.
- TNC is going to run a nitrogen load model for the Peconic Estuary, need GIS data from Suffolk County (<http://gis.co.suffolk.ny.us/imaphome/index.html>)
- TNC hired a new Environmental Economist, Liz Smith, who can help with a new Economic Valuation Study
- NYS may offer infrastructure bond monies

9. TAC Update (Matt Sclafani)

- Presentations on Climate Change and Pathogens Load Assessment at last meeting.
- Presentations on OSDS study, Alternative Clustered On-site disposal systems, and Water Quality Status and Trends.
- Water Quality Status and Trends Report will be shared with TAC prior to presentation

10. Rep. Bishop Update (Oliver Longwell)

- Continuing Resolution will be passed and will cover 6 months
- Bishop would like to participate in 20th Anniversary Event

11. Rep. Thiele Update (Laura Stephenson)

- Thiele would like to participate in 20th Anniversary Event
- Watershed Improvement District Legislation passed, need input from PEP on implementation
- A/K – use LGC

8. 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