



**Peconic Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting
December 13, 2012, 10:00am**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY
2nd Floor Conference Room

Welcome and Introductions

Seth Ausubel, EPA Region 2

See sign-in sheet

Discussion and Approval of Summary of September Management Committee Meeting

Julie Nace, NY DEC, PEP State Coordinator

Two updates to **Action Items**

1. Slight delay in NEIWPCCC RFP and Position Description but in final draft form, and
2. Rescheduling of strategic planning to January 2013

Program Office Update

Alison Branco, Suffolk County, PEP Program Director

1. Hurricane Sandy
 - a. Alison initiated a conversation between other nearby National Estuary Programs to encourage these programs, with PEP, to be sources of information during situations like these. Response was very favorable.
 - b. PEP Staff has responded to requests for information from groups like USGS and NRSC.
 - c. PEP/TNC CLPS parcel information was submitted as candidates for protection in flood prone areas.
 - d. Coastal Bend Bays NEP in MD has a rapid assessment methodology in place for storm events. We should too. Contact John Waldman at Queens College. Discussion followed about having a punch list of needs, in response to Hurricane damage, ready to go. Having the estuary programs partner with other groups and provide immediate, cost effective ideas. The difference between recovery and long term mitigation. EPA can include specific recommendations with their emergency response.

ACTION → Doodle poll to schedule a meeting, or conference call, for next week with Chief Environmental Officers of each town to discuss mitigation funding.

- e. PEP Atmospheric Deposition Station in Southold damaged in the storm. Repairs are being done. If the repairs are not sufficient, there is funding to buy a new station.

ACTION → Find out if this expense is FEMA reimbursable.

2. EPA NEP Grant Awarded to PEP
 - a. NEIWPC received and signed
 - b. Suffolk County received and is in the process of signing, then will appropriate the funds.
3. PEP and NY Sea Grant Effort: Proposal to ¼% funding (\$100,000) to fund an updated approach for harmful algal blooms (HAB) that includes a workshop with experts, HAB monitoring and management strategy and a public document
4. Strategic Planning Meeting rescheduled for January. EPA would like early budget input for the RA based on an action oriented plan with regard to water quality.

ACTION → Doodle poll to schedule meeting for 2nd of January

Habitat Restoration Plan Implementation Progress Report

Julie Nace, NY DEC, PEP State Coordinator

Final draft of 2012 Implementation Progress Report will be available on the website shortly. Send all comments to Julie, jsnace@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Major accomplishments were 5 conceptual habitat restoration designs and a fish passage project. Next steps are to evaluate process and select 5 more sites for conceptual designs and choose one or more to begin to implement.

ACTION → Post report on website

Annual Reporting

Alison Branco & Julie Nace

Alison presented the first Annual Report. Please send all comments to Alison, Alison.branco@suffolkcountyny.gov. All reports and files within the report will have links for easy access to the documents. The report is meant to track the Annual Workplan and Strategy and to make budget planning more effective.

ACTION → Post report on website, add links

Spending decisions for previous years' grants

1. Nitrogen Assessment: Though some work has been completed by other partners, we need to clearly define the outstanding need left in this workplan task and get it done. The workplan identifies fertilizer usage as the main focal point. Efforts should be made to coordinate all current projects with our partners.

ACTION → Program Office and TAC will establish workgroup to determine the specifics of this project, in conjunction with CAC.

2. Mini-Grants: Will revert to old method of RFP
3. Electronics Recycling: Hoping to re-program into an “E-books with refurbished laptops” program for under-privileged children on the East End.

ACTION → John Botos, Executive Director of Peconic Institute will provide further information.

4. NADP: Excess funds will be redirected to “yet to be determined” monitoring.

Updates

- 1) Suffolk County Department of Health Services:

Innovative On-site Disposal Systems Project progress:

- a. Part I: nearing completion – measured nitrogen output/reduction of alternative systems.
- b. Part II: Expand effort to model what levels of nitrogen reduction will be necessary to have an impact on the estuary as a whole.

ACTION → Chris Lubicich will submit a proposal to Alison for PEP funding.

- 2) The Nature Conservancy

Nitrogen Loading Modeling effort: Work has begun on N-Load model. TNC is looking for the following data:

- a. Delineated subwatersheds (focus on TMDL areas, need groundwater delineations)
- b. Building footprints (SC?)
- c. Fertilizer and/or sprinkler usage
- d. Septic vs. cesspool (may have to estimate based on the year dwelling was built), and sewer vs. un-sewered (might be available soon from SC).

TAC Update

At the last meeting, the Water Quality Status and Trends was presented. Executive summary and draft document to be shared shortly. Glynis Berry also presented her model for decentralized wastewater systems.

CAC Update

CAC held 3 meetings this fall. Presenters were Nate Woiwode (TNC) and John Turner. CAC has begun strategic planning for January’s meeting. Last round of radio spots are airing now. Recent projects include a beach grass planting, a high school stormwater presentation and an after-school program at an elementary school. The 20th Anniversary was a very successful press event.

CAC would like EPA to help accelerate the availability of alternative septic options and conduct a financial discussion of price points and financial incentives. Peconic Institute is interested, and may fund, the same effort.

Local Government and Legislative Updates

None

Priorities for NYS funding

Please review attached list and send all comments to Alison or Julie. This list will be updated at the strategic planning meeting in January.

New Business

None

Adjourn - Next meeting: March 14, 2013