



**Peconic Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting
March 14th, 2013, 10:00am**
SCCC Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center
20 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY

Welcome and Introductions

Seth Ausubel, EPA Region 2

See sign-in sheet

Rick Balla is now Chief of the Watershed Management Branch at EPA Region 2. He will no longer be the Project Officer for PEP. Sheri Jewhurst will continue as the PEP Project Officer until there are more answers with regard to the federal budget.

Discussion and Approval of Summary of September Management Committee Meeting

Seth Ausubel, EPA Region 2

Program Office Update

Alison Branco, Suffolk County, PEP Program Director

1. Strategic Planning outcomes for year 1: groundwater nitrogen source modeling,
2. FY12 Funds: NEIWPC accepted in October 2013, Suffolk County accepted in March 2013.
3. New Public Education and Outreach Contract with Group for the East End. Effort will focus on reduction of nitrogen in estuary.
4. New position at the County. MOA signed between county and NEIWPC. Ready to hire.

ACTION → Postpone until budget details are available

5. Superstorm Sandy Update: Summary of meeting presented, County park clean-up to be scheduled, PEP may help coordinate towns with sea wall permits (share information and resources).
6. Atmospheric deposition station has been somewhat repaired so it is working but a new one will be installed.

CAC Update

Kevin McDonald, The Nature Conservancy

1. Request for GFEE to present their Outreach and Education workplan at the next Management Committee meeting.

2. TNC is initiated a \$400,000 study with focus groups and polling to conduct market research to determine the best message for behavioral change to improve and protect water quality on Long Island. Results will be freely shared. A facilitator will be used for more controversial topics and groups.
3. TNC has run an initial output from Ivan Valiela's model. TNC GIS staff, Stephen Lloyd, is working closely with partners to understand limits, gaps and availability of data sets. This is an institutional investment.

Discussion:

- Glynis Berry (Peconic Green Growth): Symposium on Decentralized Wastewater Systems on June 21. Topics, and current efforts include mapping indicators of failing OSDS's, encouraging public participation through data sharing and creating a tax district.
- Walter Dawydiak: Three upcoming SCDHS initiatives –
 1. Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan (May/June)
 2. HAB Workshop (Capital funding) with NYSeaGrant
 3. \$300,000 Alternative OSDS Study with a focus on small systems that meet 50% reduction (not 10mg/l) and a Source Loading Model.
- Will TNC's model have independent review? Is this model relevant and adaptable? Will data gaps be accounted for?
- A committee should be formed to create a comprehensive workplan to guide nitrogen load reduction within the estuary. Include NYSDOW. Alison will coordinate effort. Drive effort with PEP objectives.
- Lynn Mendelman states that the EH Trustees have given \$25,000 to Chris Gobler to monitor EH's inner harbors. Can this be coordinated with Suffolk County?

ACTION → Form Nitrogen Workgroup

Natural Resources & Stormwater Update

Julie Nace, NY DEC, PEP State Coordinator

1. Habitat Restoration Conceptual Designs are complete and will be presented at two separate meetings. Shell Beach and Napeague at East Hampton Town Hall on March 21 at 10AM, and all Fish Passage Projects at CCE in Riverhead on April 9 at 9AM.
2. **NRSC/TAC Update:** From the last meeting in February, two workgroups will be formed. These are an Environmental Indicators and Climate Change workgroups. Please look for an e-mail with further information shortly.
3. Inter-municipal Agreement: PEP and contractor will be visiting municipalities to garner support for the IMA and put a place-holder in their budgets for this effort.

ACTION → Send out e-mail with information for Environmental Indicators and Climate Change workgroups.

ACTION → Set up meetings for IMA visits.

FFY 2013 Budget Proposals and Contingency Planning

Alison Branco, Suffolk County, PEP Program Director

Seth Ausubel: Because of uncertainty of final budget, we should get conceptual approval for budget and plans to reduce budget with 5% cuts. There has been no feedback from the Regional Administrator on the submitted PEP plan for FY13. EPA should know more in one month. There is no FY13 budget yet. Furloughs will happen.

Alison presented budget at different levels of funding with targeted cuts and with even cuts along line items. Please see MC materials for specific charts.

Discussion Results:

- No new hire at this point
- Important to keep current staff
- Reduce funding to USGS stations, negotiate costs.
- Reduce funding to State of the Bay publication (make it all digital)
- Think about not forward funding positions
- Suffolk County and NYSDEC should consider helping to fund this program if severe cuts are realized.
- A discussion should be had about a NGO model for this program to allow for fundraising and donations.
- We will need another meeting in April when the federal budget is announced in order to make any real decisions.

ACTION → Send out a doodle poll to reserve a date in April for another MC meeting

ACTION → Reach out to USGS about monitoring costs

Local Government and Legislative Updates

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

Next meeting: TBD in April, respond to doodle poll.