



Peconic Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Summary
September 12, 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, attached.

Approval of Summary of June Management Committee Meeting

Seth Ausubel, EPA Region 2

Program Office Updates (**Alison Branco**, *PEP Program Director*)

- Annual Workplan and Strategy has been updated. Any comments should be sent to Alison by October 15th.
- Contracts Update:
 - Executed: Eelgrass Survey, NADP, USGS, Peconic Institute
 - In progress: RFP's for Mini-grant, Bio-optical Model for Eelgrass, Coastal Ready Estuaries

Habitat Restoration and Stormwater Updates (**Julie Nace**, *PEP State Coordinator*)

- Final Habitat Restoration Conceptual Designs are complete.
- PEP Habitat Restoration Plan: Town should review and submit changes to the restoration lists by November 15th. These changes will be included in the 2013 Implementation Progress Report and used towards determining the next five projects selected for conceptual designs and towards implementation.
- Final 2013 Implementation Progress Report for the PEP Eelgrass Management Plan is posted on the website.
- NYSDEC WQIP: Discussion of due date, match and potential projects
- Other Funding (DOI – NFWF): Discussion of other potential funding sources for our partners
- Homeowner Rebate Program has been initiated

Action → Prepare Habitat Restoration Plan Implementation Report with updates listed above

Action → Provide support to groups applying for WQIP funds

CAC Updates (**Emily Bird**, *NEIWPCC*)

- Social Media (Facebook and Twitter) is gaining momentum
- Newsletter is successful
- Contract is going well

CAC Updates (**Kevin McDonald**, *PEP CAC Chairperson*)

- \$80,000 was invested in a 30 second ad. This should be posted on the CAC website.
- This summer was the worst summer for HAB's according to Chris Golber.
- Discussion on HAB's:
 - Mapping HAB's,
 - Summary of summer closures,
 - Combining the Suffolk County report with DEC coliform data,
 - Costliness of upgrading septic to a traditional septic is enormous – alternatives must be even higher, and
 - CCE's traced DNA of coliform in Lake Montauk to humans, DNA of coliform in Goldsmith's inlet is traced to wildlife.

Action → Post ad on website or facebook page.

TAC and N Workgroup update (**Matt Sclafani**, *PEP TAC Chair*)

- TAC has had speakers and presentations on Nitrogen including NLoad (Stephen Lloyd, TNC), Alternative on Site Systems Research (Walter Hilbert and Chris Lubicich, Suffolk County)
- The Management Committee should review nitrogen objectives of the Nitrogen Workgroup in order to give approval for directive.
- Discussion:
 - Two year process to support OSDS study, should add Cornell model, need to revisit and create new impact assessment for surface water modeling,
 - CAC should review nitrogen objectives – Kevin McDonald
 - Will it be difficult to find the people with the right technical abilities? Long term?
 - TMDL and wastewater, 50% reduction from current level, relate to land use – Glynis Berry
 - Technology needs to meet new standard, protect current land zoning, overall max load for nutrient dep. – Kevin McDonald.
 - Comments for Nitrogen Directive – 2 weeks, also need a timeframe, interim outputs, revisit surface water component of model, review implantation plan – Seth Ausubel.

Action → Write *Nitrogen Directive*, get comments and finalize

NYS WQIP and Suffolk County WQPRP (**Alison Branco**, *PEP Program Director*)

- Two PEP projects for Suffolk County WQPRP (HAB and IMA)
- Letters of support for our partners
- Watershed Improvement Districts as match

Long-term Budget Planning (**Sheri Jewhurst**, *EPA Region 2*)

- Short term goal: Communication Tool
- Long Term Goal: Make budget more sustainable, leveraging more grant funding
- Discussion:
 - Host a Donor Conference – Kevin McDonald
 - Watershed Coalition will reduce costs – Glynis Berry
 - How do we maximize leveraging in the long term? – Seth Ausubel
 - Vision of the budget to present.

Action → Prepare Budget presentation for December Management Committee