



**Peconic Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting  
March 13, 2014, 10:00am**

Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center  
20 East Main Street, Riverhead, NY

Meeting Summary

- **Attendees:** see sign-in sheet
- **Welcome and Introductions** (Seth Ausubel, *EPA Region 2*)
- **Discussion and Approval**, December Management Committee Meeting Summary (Seth Ausubel)

Meeting summary approved with following change: Make clear the that Management Committee recommended that USGS monitoring be cut in order to balance the budget, with exact details to be determined by the PEP Technical Advisory Committee.

- **Program Office & Habitat Updates** (Alison Branco, *PEP Program Director*; Julie Nace, *PEP NYS DEC Coordinator* )

Habitat Restoration (Fish passage):

1. Upper Mills: LIPA reviewing plans
2. Forge Road: Town of Brookhaven applied for WQIP funds, SC capital request approved, PEP implementation funds recommended by NRSC
3. Edwards Ave: NYSDEC construction this year
4. Woodhull: Assisting SC parks with RFP

Stormwater:

IMA: In final stages, waiting for Suffolk County and NYSDOT

### Other projects:

1. Volunteer Alewife Monitor Program: Long Island wide, over 50 volunteers, great outreach opportunity, picked up by EPA Greening the Apple blog
2. World Fish Migration Day: Part of a Global event, partnering with LI Science Center
3. A Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary: Coordination, planning and funding with outreach contract re-budget
4. Indian Island: Contract and permitting stage
5. NOAA Trainings: Co-hosted with Peconic Institute
6. Investigated Partnership Options and other NEP Programs models
7. EPA HQ/ANEP TMDL workgroup

### Search for Funding:

1. NEP NPS Funds (\$100,000)
2. DOI NFWF Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Grant (\$250,000)
3. EPA Educational Grant (Pine Barrens Commission lead) (\$88,000)
4. Climate Ready Estuaries Funds (\$30,000)
5. Member Item Request for Economic Valuation (\$100,000)
6. SC Capital for Fish Passage: Forge and/or Upper Mills design (\$200,000)
7. SC ¼% Results: Glynis Berry's project (80K), HAB plan (100K), IMA (25K)
8. Match is an obstacle for outside grant applications – 320 funds cannot be used

### Letters of Supports for Partners (projects within the Peconic Estuary Watershed)

1. Town of Brookhaven WQIP: Forge Road
2. Town of East Hampton NFWF: Coastal Resiliency
3. CCE Marine Meadows NFWF: Wetland and eelgrass restoration
4. Shinnecock Nation: NFWF Comprehensive Coastal Resiliency Plan
5. USGS/NYS DEC/NEIWPC NFWF: LI Sediment and Groundwater Investigation

### Participating in Suffolk County Activities

1. New Water Quality Focus, Release of Comp Plan, On-site system evaluations
  2. Legislature: Grant appropriation, Capital Funding, ¼% appropriations
  3. Reviews of CCE programs
  4. Grumman Calverton Plume
  5. Contracting and RFPs (mini-grants, NADP renewal, USGS renewal, budgeting and appropriation requests. next: seagrass RFP, Ed & outreach RFP, )
- **CAC Update** (Jen Skilbred and Aaron Virgin, *PEP Outreach Coordinator*; Kevin McDonald, *PEP CAC Chair*)
    1. Update on staffing changes
    2. Community Water Quality Workshop
    3. 4<sup>th</sup> E-newsletter
    4. Social media: 3-4 posts per week, 200 followers

5. Homeowner rebate demonstration projects
  6. Municipal involvement
  7. A Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary
  8. Open Space Stewardship Professional Development
  9. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Peconic Family Fun Day
- **TAC Update** (Matt Sclafani, *PEP TAC Chair*)  
Summary of last meeting, joint session of TAC and NRSC  
Glynis Berry presentation  
Nitrogen Workgroup
  - **FY 2014 Budget Discussion and Recommendation to Policy Committee** (Alison Branco, *PEP Program Director*)

GOAL: Short term approval and long term sustainability

Three budget options presented and discussed. Option A was unanimously chosen. This option does use any old funds to bolster budget but incorporates some cuts and cost savings due to delayed contractual issues.

Effectiveness of each program item needs to be evaluated (for example, water quality monitoring and outreach)

- **Long-term Finance Planning** (Sheri Jewhurst, Seth Ausubel, *EPA Region 2*)

GOAL: Find sustained funding to support core program (Program Office, Monitoring, Outreach) so NEP funds can be used for projects like implementation.

Action items for Policy Committee: Plan to build program, contingency plan

Investigate:

1. Partner with, or become, an organization that is capable of fundraising.
2. Legislative solution (state support).
3. Executive option at the county level, or municipal level, that would support salaried costs.