



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

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

1. Welcome and Introductions (**Seth Ausubel**, *EPA Region 2*)
2. Discussion and Approval, March 13, 2014 Meeting Summary (**Seth Ausubel**)
3. Discussion: CCMP Update: Planning Timeline & Funding (**Alison Branco**, *PEP Program Director*)
 - a. See handout from Management Committee Handouts
 - b. CCMP Revision/Update must be started by September 30, 2015 and finished by September 30, 2018
 - c. Need to plan and budget for CCMP update
 - d. Opportunity to evaluate and adapt the direction of the program.

Responses:

- Kevin McDonald, CAC Chair: Five year reviews are a good thing and a matrix of current recommendations should be part of it.
- Dawn McReynolds, NYSDEC, Marine Resources: Huge time commitment based on the current LISS CCMP revision.

ACTION → Include CCMP update in FY15 budget

4. Report on May 22 Policy Committee Meeting (**Sheri Jewhurst**, *EPA Region 2*)
 - a. Long term sustainability funding options

- i. Using a portion of the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) for PEP water quality improvement projects
 - ii. Watershed Improvement Districts
- b. Action Items from the Policy Committee meeting:
 - i. Funding Request: One salary each, respectively by the state and county.
 - ii. Creation of smaller workgroup to support policymakers while they pursue long term initiatives
 - iii. Invigorating public support

Responses:

- Kevin McDonald – CPF referendum would probably take place in November 2015.
- Seth Ausubel – need a strong document (supporting buy-in) outlining what PEP would do with the money, is this document an updated CCMP?

ACTION → Send May 2014 Policy Committee Meeting summary to Management Committee.

ACTION → Forward and support funding requests made to County and State

5. Discussion: Long-term Funding Strategy (**Seth Ausubel / Alison Branco**)

- a. Handout – draft 2015 budget showing deficit
- b. EPA has requested that the state and county each pick up one salary/position immediately and use the NEP funds for projects and a sustainable budget
- c. Interim update leading to a full CCMP revision

Responses:

- Barry Paul, Suffolk County: If the county salary is considered bridge funding, PEP needs distinct goals and metrics, and an updated CCMP. August is the final budget update for Suffolk County. Project-based funding is a better request. Alison has been invited to go to a County

Executive's staff meeting by the end of the month to present this proposal.

- Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator: Need local government buy-in and need to outline relevant parts of the CCMP.
- Kevin McDonald: Summarized local government efforts, the five east end towns think PEP should be the vehicle for the implementation of the current Suffolk County water quality efforts. Interim funding should include a CCMP revision. All parts of the budget have to be on the table.
- Bill Wise, NY Seagrant: Interim funding might include reducing monitoring by 30K – 40K for 1-2 years.
- Seth Ausubel – PEP should support SC in getting one salary and have a pitch ready before August, ask for a minimum of two years. Aim for \$225K - \$235K, which is two FTE's.
- Dawn McReynolds – There is potential for EPF funding for watershed projects and WQIP. EPF discussions can begin as early as August for the next budget. Decisions can be influenced through commissioners or elected officials. Need a document/proposal outlining this to submit to commissioners.

ACTION → Prepare proposals within 7 – 10 days. Proposals will include a 2 year plan for sustainable funding, including a CCMP update project. Reviewed by MC.

ACTION → Abstract? Action Plan? Workgroup document? Reviewed by MC.

ACTION → Create a sustainable funding workgroup that includes Kevin McDonald, Fred Thiele, Jen Garvey, Laura Stephenson, PEP staff. This workgroup will support funding requests with supporting documents.

6. Update on new EPA HQ NEP guidance documents: “Program Guidance” and “Governance Principles and Policies” (**Alison Branco**)

In addition to a CCMP update, new guidance states programs should spend down there funds, especially salary, within the fiscal year awarded.

7. Program Office Updates (**Julie Nace**, *PEP NYS Coordinator*; **Alison Branco**)

- a. Eelgrass Management Plan Implementation Progress Report for 2014 is complete and will be available on the website. Biggest accomplishments are an aerial survey for eelgrass and the movement of funds from NYSDEC to ASMFC to hire a Seagrass Coordinator.
- b. RFP's: Outreach and Education, Mini-grant, Bio-optical Model for Eelgrass
- c. 10 Sub-watershed Management Plans now complete
- d. Inter-municipal Agreement is in final stages of signing and funding, hiring committee formed for Coordinator search
- e. Nitrogen Workgroup had a kick-off meeting – evaluating models for PEP
- f. Invasive plant species management taking a large part of our time

8. CAC Update (**Jen Skilbred**, *PEP Outreac*; **Kevin McDonald**, *CAC Chair*)

- a. OSSP program
- b. Peconic Family Fun Day
- c. 5th e-Newsletter
- d. Homeowner Rebate Program – two demo projects completed
- e. Contact with planning boards
- f. Leadership Council will meet in August
- g. TNC has two upcoming focus groups and a poll all dealing with water quality issues, building on the last round of focus groups and polls.

9. TAC update (**Matt Sclafani**, *PEP TAC Chair*)

- a. N Workgroup was very productive and will help move PEP forward towards its goals by analyzing various models.

10. New Business

11. Adjourn