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**Peconic Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting  
March 26, 2015, 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, December Management Committee Meeting Summary (Seth Ausubel)

Make the following changes to the meeting summary (approved):

- Clarify “funding friendly” term
- Update decision on Homeowner Rebate expansion in this summary.

3. Update on Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan and Wastewater Plan (Sarah Lansdale, Suffolk County Director of Planning)

- Presentation will be made available.
- Executive summary is available here:  
[http://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/17/Reports/SC%20Comprehensive%20Water%20Resources%20Management%20Plan%20Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/17/Reports/SC%20Comprehensive%20Water%20Resources%20Management%20Plan%20Executive_Summary.pdf)
- Recommendations available on Suffolk County website
- Follow-up questions/concerns included:
  - Harmful Algal Bloom project – will there be an action plan developed?
  - Education and strengthening for fertilizer law – “Webisodes”
  - PEP should concentrate on HAB forum and subwatershed level management
  - Find PEP niche – piloting special scenarios.
  - SCWA involvement

4. Action Plan Update (Sheri Jewhurst, Seth Ausubel, EPA Region 2)

- The goal is to have a draft ready for the Policy Committee on May 28<sup>th</sup> but we will need feedback from the technical workgroups prior to that. Spoke about the processes and themes of the Action Plan.
  - ACTION** – Send working group schedule, deadlines and draft to technical workgroups in a memo form.
  - ACTION** – Schedule Management Committee meeting prior to Policy Committee meeting to review draft.



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5. Budget Discussion and Recommendation to Policy Committee (Alison Branco, PEP Program Director)
    - Monitoring budget discussed
      - ACTION** – Have TAC assess monitor needs (especially eelgrass)
    - Implementation Project discussed
      - ACTION** – Further detail project on Assessing Success of Water Quality Improvement Projects (nutrient and pathogen levels) in specific watersheds
    - Can older project funds be converted to salary? And newer funds be assigned to those projects? Check expiration dates on grants.
  
  6. Program Office & Habitat Updates (Alison Branco, PEP Program Director; Julie Nace, PEP NYS DEC Coordinator )
    - Program Coordinator hiring in process, position should be filled by late April or early May
    - Environmental Indicators Report about 50% complete
    - Peconic Estuary Protection Committee IMA update, Coordinator is being hired, goals for first year are a water quality assessment needs for each town, 303d list and GIS Clearinghouse/model.
  
  7. CAC Update (Sherryl Jones, PEP Outreach Coordinator; Kevin McDonald, PEP CAC Chair) – will send update. See Appendix 1.
  
  8. TAC Update (Matt Sclafani, PEP TAC Chair): NLM model sufficient for 2 year groundwater contributing area, need data that Suffolk County may already have, ready to assess last model (Solute Transport)

Adjourn



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Appendix 1

**CAC and Outreach Update:**

To PEP Management Committee March 26, 2015

Meeting held Jan 31<sup>st</sup> with 15 committee members present on a cold Saturday morning. Open forum for ideas and goals in the coming year. Positive feedback on the online presence- many found out about meeting through FB and Twitter and emails.

**CAC items of interest were:**

- PEP having a larger presence out in the community
- Increased visibility, accomplishments, and goals. What is the message?
- How can CAC members support their own township initiatives for better water quality (interest in alternative wastewater systems).

**Action Items**

Presence and Visibility:

- Many listed local events we should have outreach tables at. These have been scheduled (ie. Tall Ships, Maritime Fest, online “Days” ie. World Water Day)
- Distributed pamphlets and promotional materials for CAC members to distribute through the community (ie marinas, tackle shops, garden centers, etc)
- Having PEP CAC sponsored events (volunteers at planting events, helping with outreach, paddling and hiking events)
- Developing marketing strategy CAC “slogan” plan of action for 2015. Presenting 20 years of PEP accomplishments at Rewards Lectures.
- Joint LISS/PEP CAC meeting scheduled for 9/10 on the North Fork close to Orient

CAC Support Township with Water Quality Concerns:

- April CAC Meeting will have storm water pollution lecture
- Community Stormwater Stewardship Network (similar to NY Master Watershed Steward Program and Buzzards Bay Baywatcher’s program). Volunteer water quality testing, start small creek at SCMELC to provide data to aquaculturists.
- Continued discussion on the Southold Town Shellfish bed closures and how CAC can support town and DEC efforts.
- Lobby local officials to support new green infrastructure and rebates.



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### **Rewards Program:**

- Four lectures given: Greenport and Riverhead Libraries, SPAT lecture, and Peconic Land Trust meeting. 2 more scheduled in Cutchogue and Sag Harbor by April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Repackaged the application- posted it on partner websites
- Published in East End Beacon
- Have had 6 viable applications come in since push started in early March.
- Created fertilizer survey with Perfect Earth Project to track behaviors and attitudes toward fertilizer. Have 25+ fertilizer use surveys filled out-- Included as part of the Rewards application process.
- Rain barrel raffle for filling out survey at outreach events.

### **Future:**

- Continue media push and create press release
- Contact townships to promote on their websites
- Sell the program to Landscapers. Goal of 100 applicants by Fall.
- Radio PSA by Alison promoting the Program
- Demonstration rain gardens. PLT Bridge gardens in discussion.
- Workshops/Outreach at garden centers this spring.
- Rain barrel making workshop using Coca-cola, blue point brewery surplus barrels
- Use Survey monkey to produce an online fertilizer use survey distributed by social media and email.

### **Outreach:**

Since the start of the contract, in past 3 months:

- 10 events citizen science training, Rewards presentations, outreach tables
- 180 attendees reached
- 77 contacts added to mailing list. 20% increase since start of contract
- 421 Facebook followers. 96% increase since start of contract.
- 300 Twitter followers
- New Instagram account. Email me pictures to post.
- Winter newsletter successful. Spring newsletter released new week.



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- Heavily promoting Seatuck Alewife Monitoring Network and CCE Horseshoe Crab citizen science opportunities.

-Sherryll Jones  
PEP Outreach and Education Coordinator  
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