



**Peconic Estuary Program (PEP)
Management Committee Meeting
June 10, 2015, 10:00am**

Cornell Cooperative Extension
423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead
Call-in: 605-475-5950; Participant Code: 4821978

Attendees: Alison Branco, Kevin McDonald, Sherryll Jones, Michael Collins, Becky Wiseman, Alix Suter, Matthew Sclafani, Christie Pfoertner, Seth Ausubel, Dawn McReynolds, Chris Scott, Julie Nace, Elyse Jay, Chris Lubicich, Bill Wise, Walter Dawydiak and Marguerite Smith

Welcome and Introductions (**Seth Ausubel**, *EPA Region 2*)

Discussion and Approval, March 26, 2015 Meeting Summary (**Seth Ausubel**) - Approved

Report on May 28 Policy Committee (PC) Meeting (**Seth Ausubel**)

- The PC approved the proposed FY15 budget.
ACTION: Provide them projects details on the State Member Item (\$200,000)
- The PC endorsed the nitrogen section of the PEP Actions Now document with the caveat that it is a living document for a path forward and that broader public input is solicited for the larger document.
ACTION: Solicit input from partners and stakeholders on full document.

Discussion: CCMP Update: Planning Timeline (**Alison Branco**, *PEP Program Director*)

- CCMP update must be complete by 2018
- Need a budgeting plan to accommodate the necessary resources to assist with writing and stakeholder involvement
- Align the Outreach and Education contract with this effort
- Schedule a webinar and/or meeting with the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) CCMP Update Team.
- Outline strategic imperatives and timelines.
ACTION: Convene PC in early fall for further CCMP update planning.
ACTION: Create strategic outline, and plan budgeting through 2018.

NYS Budget Line Item – Spending Plan (see proposals)

- Motion made, and approved, to prioritize CCMP Revision (but also including #2 - re-examination of environmental indicators), then market this project as a guide for Community Preservation Fund renewal with funding for PEP.
- A portion of the Outreach and Education funds should be diverted to this effort
ACTION: Investigate the easiest method for moving the funds out of NYSDEC. Within a week, Alison will work with Dawn, Walt and Bill to look at mechanisms for movement of funds.
ACTION: Create a one page document summarizing the project for the PC.



ACTION: Include strategic outline, building blocks and timeline for fall PC meeting.

Discussion: Proposal to re-envision the stormwater workgroup (**Julie Nace**, *NYS DEC Coordinator and Workgroup Co-chair*)

- Committee approved the proposal to reconvene the stormwater workgroup as a broader Non-Point Source workgroup to engage partners and stakeholders in PEP priorities such as groundwater issues in addition to stormwater mitigation.

ACTION: Create a mission statement and recruit Co-Chairperson.

Program Office Updates (**Julie Nace; Alison Branco**)

- Annual Eelgrass Management Plan Update (insert link): Highlights included NYSDEC hiring of Seagrass Coordinator and 2014 Aerial Survey showing 50% decline in seagrass coverage since 2000.
- PEP-organized Fish Passage Workshop on July 9 and 10 in partnership with USFWS, LISS, Sea Grant, Hofstra University, and Seatuck Environmental Association.
- NEP Reauthorization bill approved in House of Representative, now in the Senate.
- PEP Fact Sheet/Statement on the recent Menhaden die off (insert link)
- October 23, 2015: A Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary
- Eight .25% projects funded through Suffolk County with the PEP watershed.
- Mini grants have been contracted.
- Eelgrass RFP is announced, four more draft RFP's are prepared.
- Suffolk County Capital funds for subwatershed plan implementation set to expire will be spent in conjunction with SC DPW on a stormwater green infrastructure project with the impaired Hashamomuck subwatershed in Southold.
- Suffolk County aquaculture lease program had 16 applicants this year and will issue new 9 leases.

CAC Update (**Sherryll Jones**, *PEP Outreach Coordinator*; **Kevin McDonald**, *CAC Chair*)

Cornell Cooperative Extension CAC/Outreach and Education Contract Update:

- Summary of CAC meetings to date provided.
- New effort: Stormwatchers
- Next CAC Meeting in East Hampton on Monday, June 15th at 6PM
- Next newsletter will focus on CAC
- September 22, 2015: Call to Action Conference at Long Island Aquarium with field trip to Riverhead STP.
- Over 500 contacts in e-mail distribution list.
- 110% increase in social media contacts since beginning of contract with 200-500 contacts per post.
- Public survey
- Over 400 attendees at PEP events since the beginning of contract.
- Outlined and showcased Homeowner Rebate program and website (insert link)



CAC Chairperson (Kevin McDonald) Update:

- Described potential new direction of CAC to redirect funds and efforts toward purchasing media time.

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

- Eelgrass presentation at last meeting
- Nitrogen workgroup: Needs travel funds for last speaker and to wrap up work.
ACTION: Work with Kevin McDonald and TNC to establish budget for travel funds needed for him to use to ask for funding.

New Business

- Michael Collins: Discussion of aeration to meet TMDL targets, as stated in the nitrogen TMDL. Committee agreed that aeration is not a feasible option.