



**Peconic Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Summary**

December 7th, 2016, 10:00 am

Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts & Hospitality Center
20 East Main Street
Riverhead, NY 11901

Attendees: Holly Sanford, Dawn McReynolds, Shannon Moran, Becky Wiseman, Elizabeth Sutton, Elyse Jay, Christie Pfoertner, Matt Sclafani, Rachel Gruzen, Mark Woolley, Dan Gulizio, Sean O'Neill, Seth Ausubel, Alison Branco, Sarah Schaefer, , Jeremy Samuelson, Caroline Burghardt, Sheri Jewhurst (phone).

1. Welcome & Introductions- **Seth Ausubel** (Management Committee Chair, USEPA, Region 2)
Seth Ausubel will be retiring in March 2017, not February 2017 as stated at September MC meeting.

2. Discussion and Approval of September Meeting Summary

Approved by the committee.

3. Budget Discussion- **Alison Branco** (PEP Director)
 - The 2017 budget is very similar to the 2016 budget, expecting \$600,000 in §320 Funds (2017 Budget Proposal attached).
 - Adding pH to the Riverhead USGS Continuous Monitoring Station will cost \$7,505 for Operation and Maintenance in 2017 and around \$2,000 yearly after that (NYSDEC will pay for adding the pH sensor). Management Committee approves the USGS adding pH as a parameter to the Riverhead USGS Continuous Monitoring site following the recommendations of the PEP Technical Advisory Committee discussion on November 16th, 2016.
 - The program office is using supply money to purchase new laptops for the two PEP employees in the Suffolk County Department of Health Services Office.
 - Expected EPA 2017 budget funding breakdown: 80% to NEPs (~\$757,000), 5% to EPA, %15 to Competitive Fund (addressing priority issues in coastal areas, unclear if funding will only be available within NEP watersheds).
 - Letters to DEC and SC requesting renewed and direct support.

- In 2014, Joan Leary (PEP PC Chair) and the PEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and local government had sent letters requesting direct support from SC and DEC.
 - Having dedicated funds from DEC and SC would alleviate budget process for PEP in the future.
 - Community Preservation Fund:
 - All five East End towns voted to extend the Community Preservation Fund's 2 % real estate transfer tax for 20 years, until 2050; and whether or not to allow each town (East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton and Southold) to spend up to 20% of the revenue from the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) for water quality improvement projects.
 - Proposition One will allow a portion of the funds to be spent on water quality improvement projects, decided upon by each East End Town.
 - Letter to the town supervisors was sent out on 12/5/16 setting the stage for a meeting in the near future with the East End Supervisors to discuss the CPF and the ways the Peconic Estuary Program and the towns can partner together and how both the PEP and the towns can benefit from the 10% allocation. Ex offered: Funds make PEP available to expand future efforts, assist towns to plan or administer CPF water quality projects or obtain outside funding to augment CPF water quality programs.
 - PEP and Management Committee attend East End Mayors and Supervisors meeting to restate points in the above referenced letter and request the town's partnership.
4. CCMP Revision- Outreach Updates and Schedule- **Sarah Schaefer** (PEP Program Coordinator)
- CCMP Revision Writing Support Services- Waterview Consulting was selected. CCMP Revision Facilitation Support Services- only two out of the three required bids were received and no selection can be made at this time.
 - **ACTION:** Send CCMP Revision Support Facilitation Support bid to MC email list.
5. PEP Grant Progress Tracking- **Sarah Schaefer**
- On March 30, 2016, Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) requested a No Cost Time Extension in order to complete work under cooperative agreement number CE99200217. The extension was granted on July 18th by USEPA Office of Grants and Debarment. A revised workplan was developed by PEP for FY2016-2019 revised timeline with milestones and submitted with the Grant Waiver Request. The progress of the grant drawdown will be tracked at all future MC meetings using the attached Grant Progress Tracking Table.

- Progress on each of the projects is sufficient so far to keep on track with target milestones.
6. PEP Program Office Updates- **Sarah Schaefer**
- Staff changes- Julie Nace: NJ Superfund Program at EPA and Sherrill Jones: New York State Ocean Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources.: Interviewing candidates tomorrow 12/8/16.
 - PEP Program Evaluation- to be completed in February 2017- continuing progress with PEP/EPA/NEIWPC staff collaboration.
 - Website Redesign- FusionSpark Media- developing content according to strategy and finalizing wireframes. Launch January 2017.
 - RFPs:
 - Climate Ready Assessment- Awarded to Anchor QEA. Drafting contract now.
 - Conceptual Habitat Design- Awarded to Land Use Ecological Services. Drafting contract now.
 - PEP staff will be attending 2016 Association of National Estuaries Program Fall Tech Transfer Meeting (12/9-12/11) and Restore America's Estuaries Conference (8th Annual National Summit on Coastal and estuarine Restoration and 25th Biennial Meeting of the Coastal Society) (12/10-12/15). Two posters in Poster Session: 1) PEP Fish Passage Lessons Learned and 2) PEP Citizen Science. Alison will be presenting on PEP Nitrogen TMDL and doing a short presentation on the PEP Monofilament Receptacle event. PEP is contributing a couple of videos that E&O has made to present in an ANEP booth during the RAE conference.
7. Habitat Restoration and Stormwater Updates- **Sarah Schaefer**
- Dam Removal Workshop October 18th: Dam Removal Seminar at Hofstra University a great success! We had 55 people in attendance. We hope that the presentations will inspire attendees to consider dam removal as an option in their future projects. Presentation from Alon Dominitz (NYSDEC Dam Safety, Albany) on dam regulations and the process of dam removal. Presentation from John Waldman (Queens College) on Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration; an overview of LISS, PEP and Seatuck fish passage projects from Byron Young and Enrico Nardone (Seatuck Environmental Association). Gwen Macdonald-Save the Sound. Sally Harold- TNC-CT chapter presented on successful local urban/suburban dam removal projects. Field trip to Mill River dam.
8. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Updates- **Christie Pfoertner** (PEP E&O Coordinator)
- CAC meeting- November 16th 6-8 pm at Floyd Memorial Library, Greenport. William Wise gave a presentation on Menhaden and this drew

in many new members. Zoom meeting software was used to allow attendees to call in and view meeting online.

9. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Updates- **Matt Sclafani** (PEP TAC Chair)

- Jim Ammerman, Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Science Coordinator, presented at November 16th TAC meeting on LISS water quality monitoring and sentinel monitoring for climate change to start a discussion within the TAC about PEP monitoring program. A revision of the PEP monitoring program will happen in parallel with the CCMP Revision.
- PEP TAC intends to form workgroups to discuss the monitoring plan revision to make Peconic Estuary monitoring more cost effective and effective.

10. New Business, Next Steps and 2017 Meeting Dates- **Seth Ausubel**

- Dawn: Sign up through the NYSDEC website for Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) updates to your email.
- Christie:
 - Day in the Life of the Peconic River on October 21st, 2016- over 900 students and 18 schools participated.
 - Monofilament Receptacle Workshop- December 5th 1-3pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Riverhead. Made 16 receptacles with group of volunteers to be installed at various popular fishing access sites around the watershed. Educational workshop was included too. Attendees and towns have provided suggestions for locations for receptacles to be installed (e.g. NYSDEC has a new fishing access site at the Port of Egypt).
- 2017 PEP Management Committee Meeting Dates:
 - March 8th, 2017
 - June 7th, 2017
 - September 13th, 2017
 - December 13th, 2017

11. Adjourn

PEP FFY 2017 Budget Proposal			
Balance	2017 US EPA \$320 Funds	2016 US EPA \$320 Funds	2015 US EPA \$320 Funds
Desc.			
Program Office	\$373,000	\$380,000	\$358,000
Monitoring	\$127,000	\$120,000	\$110,000
			\$45,000 (due to forward funding)
Education & Outreach	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Minigrants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Implementation	\$0	\$0	\$87,000
Total	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000

PEP FFY 2017 Budget Proposal									
BALANCE	COST	US EPA \$320 funds	NYS DEC (OGL)	Suffolk County	NYS Budget Line Item	USGS Cost Share	NYS Other	CPF	TOTAL
Desc.									
Program Office	\$373,000	\$373,000							\$373,000
Staff									
Program Director	\$143,000	\$143,000							\$143,000
State Coordinator	\$96,000	\$96,000							\$96,000
Program Coordinator	\$108,000	\$108,000							\$108,000
Supplies	\$6,000	\$6,000							\$6,000
Travel	\$10,000	\$10,000							\$10,000
NEIWPC Prog. Man.	\$10,000	\$10,000							\$10,000
Monitoring	\$375,000	\$127,000	** \$200,000	\$125,000		\$50,000		???	\$375,000
Monitoring - County	\$207,000	\$82,000		\$125,000					\$207,000
Monitoring - USGS	\$123,000	\$0	** \$200,000			\$50,000			\$123,000
Seagrass Monitoring	\$30,000	\$30,000							\$30,000
NADP Monitoring	\$15,000	\$15,000							\$15,000
Education & Outreach	\$100,000	\$100,000							\$100,000
Mini-grants	\$0	\$0							\$0
Implementation	\$0	\$0							\$0
TOTAL	\$848,000	\$600,000	\$200,000	\$125,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	???	\$848,000

*Continues new Program Coordinator position for another year

** NYS DEC funding will provide USGS Water Quality Monitoring funding for multiple years and full amount is not reflected in 2017 budget total

*** Annual seagrass & atmospheric deposition monitoring have been an ongoing part of the PEP's base program for many years. It was not included in the 2013 and 2014 budget tables because this monitoring had been forward-funded for those years.



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

December 5, 2016

The Honorable Larry Cantwell
Town of East Hampton
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

Dear Supervisor Cantwell:

In March 2014, elected officials representing municipalities and legislative districts within the Peconic Estuary Program's Study Area met to discuss government involvement in the Peconic Estuary Program, one of twenty-eight estuaries of national significance as designated under the federal National Estuary Program. Since then, significant progress has been made to increase direct funding contributions from New York State and Suffolk County. It was at this meeting that we first discussed the creation of a local sustainable funding source for the Program.

As you are aware, Chapter 551 of the Laws of 2015 extended the Peconic Bay Community Preservation Fund's expiration date 20 years, from 2030 to 2050, and added in a municipal option to use up to 20 percent of annual revenues on water quality improvement projects. In November 2016, public referendums in each of the five East End Towns overwhelmingly supported the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) extension and water quality modification.

As 2016 comes to a close and implementation of municipal CPF Water Quality Improvement Plans draw nearer, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our State legislation allows for 10 percent of the annual amount appropriated for water quality improvement projects, essentially 10 percent of the 20 percent noted above, be utilized for the operation of the Peconic Bay National Estuary Program.

The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) is a watershed-based, non-regulatory program that helps coordinate regional planning efforts between multiple levels of government and nonprofits, all with the intent to protect and restore the Peconic Estuary and its resources. We trust that you are familiar with the critical long-term water quality monitoring data PEP has provided, in addition to the subwatershed management and habitat restoration plans that are ready for implementation.

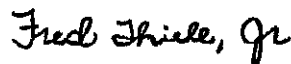
Because we see the incredible value of our local National Estuary Program, we have fought hard to ensure that our Federal, State and County government's make substantial financial commitments to the program, totaling anywhere from \$550,000 to just over \$1 million the last seven years. Future funding levels are never guaranteed and will also remain uncertain. Therefore, we must ensure that we do everything in our power, locally, to match Federal, State

and County financial contributions. Additional funding through the CPF will not only allow the PEP to continue and expand their current efforts, but may also make them available to assist Towns to plan or administer septic upgrade programs, evaluate and prioritize CPF water quality projects, or obtain outside funding to augment CPF water quality programs.

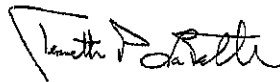
We would like to discuss this matter, either at an upcoming East End Supervisors and Mayors Association Meeting or separate meeting in the very near future. In the meantime, we urge you to contact Alison Branco, Executive Director of the Peconic Estuary Program, at 631.852.5805 to begin to discuss ways in which your municipality can partner with the PEP and how both you and the PEP can benefit from the 10 percent allocation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
Assemblyman



Kenneth P. LaValle
Senator



Anthony Palumbo
Assemblyman

cc: Honorable Lee Zeldin, U.S. Congressman
Honorable Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive
Honorable Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator
Honorable Bridget Fleming, Suffolk County Legislator
Seth Ausubel, PEP Management Committee Chair
Alison Branco, PEP Director
Kevin McDonald, PEP Citizens Advisory Committee Chair

FWT/LT

Grant Progress Tracking Table

Grant Progress Tracking Table									
Milestone reached		Milestone not yet reached		Milestone not obtained					
NEP Grant and Workplan Year	Task/Contractor/ Services	Total Budgeted	Not yet Expended	Contract Status	Outputs/ Deliverables & Milestones				
					Task	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date	Actual Start Date	Actual Completion Date
NEP 2010 CE992002 17-1	National Atmospheric Deposition Program Monitoring/ University of Illinois	\$15,000.00	\$7,301.50	Work underway	Contract Deliverable 1:	Oct-15	Dec-16		
					Contract Deliverable 2:				
	Living Resources, CCMP Tasks/Land Use Ecological Services, Inc./ Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Services	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	Contractor selected. Currently contracting for services.	RFP advertisement	Apr-16	Oct-16		
					Contracting for Services	Oct-16	Apr-17		
NEP 2011 CE992002 17-2	Habitat Restoration Plan Implementation/ Peconic Land Trust	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	Work underway. Suffolk County grant waiver approved.	Final Design	Dec-15	Jul-16		
					Permit Submittal & Approval	Jul-16	Jan-17		
					Procurement Waiver	Jan-17	Jun-17		
					Contracting	Jun-17	Dec-17		
					Construction	Jan-18	Jun-19		
	Nitrogen Assessment/ Contractor TBD after advertising	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00	RFP submitted to Suffolk County Procurement June 2, 2016.	RFP Advertisement	Oct-16	Mar-17		
					Contracting	Mar-17	Oct-17		
					Contract for Services	Oct-17	Mar-19		
	Public education Mini Grants/ 4 Contractors	\$20,000.00	\$6,800.00	Mini-grant work is completed and one remaining contract is currently being completed. Contracts (4) (April-15-September-16)	Conscience Point Shellfish Hatchery Corp.	Completed	Apr-15	N/A	
					Quality Parks, Inc.	Task 3 still to be completed.		Sep-16	
					Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission	Completed		N/A	
					Peconic Green Growth	Work completed. Contract currently being finalized.		May-17	
	Eelgrass/Bio-Optical Study/ The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook	\$82,000.00	\$82,000.00	Contract signed May 2016, work has begun.	Contract Task 1	May-16	Apr-18		
Contract Task 2									
Contract Task 3									
Contract Task 4									
NEP 2012 CE992002 17-3	Climate Ready Estuaries CLPS Updates/ Anchor QEA/ Climate Ready Assessment Services	\$63,381.00	\$63,381.00	Contractor selected. Currently contracting for services.	RFP advertisement	Jun-16	Nov-16		
					Contracting for Services	Nov-16	Jun-17		
					Contract for Services (Project 1: Tasks 1-4 and Project 2: Tasks 1-3 outlined in RFP)	Jun-17	Dec-18		

Milestone reached		Milestone not yet reached		Milestone not obtained	
NEP Grant and	Task/Contractor/ Services	Total Budgeted	Not yet Expended	Contract Status	Meeting Milestones?
NEP 2010 CE992002 17-1	National Atmospheric Deposition Program Monitoring/ University of Illinois	\$15,000.00	\$7,301.50	Work underway	YES
	Living Resources, CCMP Tasks/Land Use Ecological Services, Inc./ Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Services	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	RFP awarded, contract being drafted	YES
NEP 2011 CE992002 17-2	Habitat Restoration Plan Implementation/ Peconic Land Trust	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	Waiver approved, contract being drafted	YES
	Nitrogen Assessment/ Contractor TBD after advertising	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00	RFP being drafted (submitted to Suffolk County Procurement June 2, 2016)	some delay, no change in milestones
	Public education Mini-Grants/ 4 Contractors	\$20,000.00	\$6,800.00	3/4 complete, rebudget \$1800 from one, 4th contract circulating for signatures	YES
	Eelgrass/Bio-Optical Study/ The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook	\$82,000.00	\$82,000.00	Work Underway - on track	YES
NEP 2012 CE992002 17-3	Climate Ready Estuaries CLPS Updates/ Anchor QEA/ Climate Ready Assessment Services	\$63,381.00	\$63,381.00	RFP awarded, contract being drafted	YES