

# PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM

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## FY10 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET



Submitted by:  
PEP Management Conference

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# Peconic Estuary Program FY10 Workplan and Budget

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## PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM FY 10 WORKPLAN

### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Peconic Estuary System consists of over 100 distinct bays, harbors, embayments and tributaries, the surface area of these waters exceed 158,000 acres. The population of the East End towns surrounding the Peconic Estuary System more than doubles during the summer months. These residents and visitors use the system and its resources extensively for beach-going, swimming, boating, fishing, shellfishing, and other water-dependent activities, contributing significantly to the local economy. However, there are problems in the system ranging from increased nutrient loading to declines in habitat quality and quantity, and reduction in catch of commercially and recreationally important finfish and shellfish. Other issues of concern include closure of shellfish beds due to contamination by coliform bacteria (used as an indicator for pathogens), potential contamination with toxic substances, the relationship of land use to water quality and the health of the living resources, and the occurrence of harmful algal blooms, e.g. Brown Tide, and *Cochlodinium polykrikoides*. The effects of these problems are a significant threat to the overall health of the Peconic Estuary System and its resources.

#### 2. OVERALL FUNDING SOURCES

The core FY10 budget (see Appendix A) reflects the following sources of funding:

EPA FY10 Base Funding	\$800,000*
Non-Federal Match	\$800,000**
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>

\*EPA FY10 Base funding will be provided to Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) (\$650,000) and New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) (\$150,000)

\*\*The non-Federal match is provided by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) (\$650,000) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (\$150,000). Match is itemized in detail in

**Section III: Grants/Funding to Local Entities, subsection ii.** The actual match for the FY10 period is expected to exceed the commitment reflected in the budget table.

### 3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TOP PRIORITIES

The Management Conference believes that the PEP has effectively administered the funding it has received to support appropriate and necessary efforts, which has resulted in a truly comprehensive, meaningful, and site-specific CCMP. Especially significant are the following factors that, individually and collectively, have made the PEP unique:

- the focus on early action, which resulted in a firm "no net increase of point source nitrogen" commitment for the western bays system, as well as a commitment to establish a progressive water quality preservation policy for the eastern portions of the Peconics
- the level of detail (e.g., parcel-specific land use information for the entire study area)
- the extent of monitoring and data collection (e.g., thousands of groundwater and surface water samples)
- the powerful management tools which are being utilized (e.g., hydrodynamic and water quality modeling for the entire estuary and the Critical Lands Protection Strategy, modeling of the groundwater contributing areas to the estuary including times of travel)
- the goals of site-specificity for management, with focus not only on the main bays system, but also on subwatersheds for creeks and embayments
- state-of-the-art technical characterization techniques essential to PEP management (e.g., sediment flux and accretion measurement; sophisticated groundwater underflow measurement techniques)
- the early focus on finance and implementation, with a full valuation of market and non-market resources completed
- emphasis on water quality and habitat preservation, and interaction of living resources with water quality management

### 4. COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (CCMP) GOALS

#### a. Annual Goals and Top Priorities:

##### *CCMP Chapter: Brown Tide*

- Maintain HAB and Brown Tide research funding levels
- Continue monitoring and funding research activities to better understand, and if necessary mitigate, blooms in the Peconic Estuary system

##### *CCMP Chapter: Nutrients*

- Implement the Agricultural Stewardship/Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program
- Develop and implement a residential fertilizer use reduction program (e.g., comprehensive education/media program, use restrictions, public relation endorsements of "good"/sustainable products, investigate the feasibility of a selective sales fee on fertilizer and pesticide products)

- Develop and adopt an on-site disposal system strategy (e.g., incentive-based programs, upgrade programs, maintenance programs); and ensuring that all STPs discharging to the Peconic Estuary are upgraded and operating properly

*CCMP Chapter: Habitat and Living Resources*

- Protect and restore existing eelgrass with aggressive public outreach coupled with a long-term management strategy
- Develop a strategy to minimize shoreline hardening structures that results in no net increase of such structures and protects natural shorelines
- Develop a strategy to protect the Critical Natural Resource Areas in each town and institute a pilot program
- Implement the Habitat Restoration Plan; continue shellfish enhancement and other resource restoration programs, particularly fish passage projects along the Peconic River
- Fund priority ecosystem investigations identified in the Living Resources Research, Monitoring and Assessment Plan and other relevant documents and investigations
- Manage invasive species, especially water primrose in the mainstream Peconic River

*CCMP Chapter: Pathogens*

- Implement stormwater mitigation recommendations including those from the four Subwatershed Stormwater Runoff Management Plans
- Assist towns and villages in meeting municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) requirements.
- Develop and implement a program to eliminate or reduce runoff volumes and eliminate or reduce pollutant loads associated with runoff
- Continue to implement the Vessel Waste No Discharge Area in the Peconics

*CCMP Chapter: Toxics*

- Reduce loadings of pesticides and herbicides by pursuing finalization and implementation of the NYSDEC's Long Island Pesticide Use Management Plan; planning and carrying out "Clean Sweep" programs; developing and implementing a comprehensive agricultural pesticide management strategy; funding and initiating aggressive public outreach and education
- Reduce the use of insecticides used for mosquito control to the maximum extent practicable, while adequately protecting human health and without detriment to the environment
- Continue remedial efforts at sites of concern in Peconic Estuary, including monitoring the effectiveness of implemented remedies under Superfund for Brookhaven National Laboratory and encourage active remediation under CERCLA at the Calverton NWIRP.

*CCMP Chapter: Critical Lands Protection*

- Continue to implement the Critical Lands Protection Plan
- Accelerate land protection in the Peconic Estuary by monitoring success of acquisition programs; securing 0% financing of county and town CPF monies for the Peconics from the State by executive order or legislation; and securing long-term 10 to 15 year land acquisition funds from county, state and federal sources

*CCMP Chapter: Financing*

- Ensure that funding reserved for the PEP in the New York State Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act and the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Program (¼% Sales Tax Program) is used effectively for the highest priority eligible projects
- Apply for outside funds to implement CCMP actions.

b. Status of Annual Goals and Top Priorities & Expected Focus in 2010:

*CCMP Chapter: Brown Tide*

- *Brown Tide and HAB Research Funding Levels* - Since 1991, Suffolk County has appropriated over \$1.69 million dollars for Brown Tide research. \$100,000 in Capital Program (CP) 8228 funds are being utilized for the Peconic Estuary Water Quality Status & Trends Assessment to conduct an in-depth review and analysis of historical water quality data collected throughout the Peconic Estuary, and to provide a comprehensive assessment of water quality status and trends. The selected contractor, Cameron Engineering, is responsible for literature review, data compilation and data analysis of Peconic Estuary estuarine and stream water quality over the 1976-2007 sampling period, and describing any relationships identified related to the occurrence of major algal blooms, including Brown Tide and *Cochlodinium polykrikoides* and the effects of climate change on the estuary seen and expected.

*CCMP Chapter: Nutrients*

- *Nitrogen Load Allocation Program* -A Nitrogen TMDL has been developed to achieve dissolved oxygen standards in select segments in the western estuary. The document was finalized in September 2007 and implementation has been initiated. Several PEP-related projects are in response to the Nitrogen TMDL including enhanced ground water monitoring efforts to be funded using NEP FY08 funding. The groundwater contributing area has been delineated for the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan to allow further investigations of land based nitrogen inputs and potential reductions. The Meetinghouse Creek Dredging Feasibility Study is near completion. A full scale dredging of 97,000 cubic yards of duck sludge for the entire creek length is recommended in order to decrease nutrient loading from the material and increase levels of dissolved oxygen in the water column at a total estimated cost of \$8.2 million.
- Increased groundwater monitoring will provide the necessary data to better understand nitrogen loading into the Peconics
- *Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program* – Work towards implementation of the Suffolk County Agricultural Stewardship Program continues. The Ag Stewardship Program is envisioned as a comprehensive initiative for maintaining and strengthening farming in Suffolk County while improving groundwater and surface water quality. A Five Year Plan has been developed by the Ag Stewardship Program and initiatives supporting the Plan have been initiated.
- *Residential Fertilizer Use Reduction Program* –Specific recommendations have been made to guide homeowners to eliminate or reduce nitrogen losses, and have been included in the program’s newsletter and website. Cornell Cooperative Extension was awarded a contract

in early 2009 to implement a homeowner and landscaper outreach program in support of Suffolk County's Nitrogen Reduction Law. The PEP will also continue efforts to encourage homeowner nitrogen fertilizer elimination or reduction through its regional Subwatershed Management efforts and the initiatives of the PEP CAC.

*CCMP Chapter: Habitat and Living Resources*

- *Eelgrass Management* – The Peconic Estuary Program continues to fund the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Long Term Monitoring Program; an Eelgrass Management Plan has been finalized and was adopted by the Management Committee in June 2009; numerous restoration efforts have taken place and success is being monitored. To document the progress in implementation of the plan, annual progress reports will be prepared, circulated to the PEP Management Conference and made available on the PEP website. The first annual report is expected to be made available in July 2010.
- *Shoreline Hardening* – With the use of Base Program funds, the PEP contracted the USFWS to analyze aerials flown in the fall of 2000 for submerged aquatic vegetation and shoreline hardening. New aerials are expected to be flown in 2010 to update the extent of eelgrass beds and hardened shoreline. The maps of the hardened shoreline serve as a basis for developing a strategy to minimize shoreline hardening structures. This information will be showcased in the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> PEP Environmental Indicators report and the GIS layers will be available through the PEP Program Office.
- *Critical Natural Resource Areas* – Critical Natural Resource Areas are regions of particular ecological significance designated by the Peconic Estuary Program. Steps have been made to protect the marine CNRAs by targeting these areas in the first phase of the Benthic Mapping Project. The upland CNRAs are an overlay criterion in the Critical Lands Protection Strategy for identifying land protection priorities.
- *PEP Habitat Restoration Plan* – Select projects identified in the existing Habitat Restoration Plan have been initiated, including diadromous fish passage restoration along the Peconic River, bay scallop restoration in the eastern Peconics, eelgrass bed restoration in the eastern Peconics and wetlands restoration at Cassidy Preserve. The effort to update the plan has been completed and the updated PEP Habitat Restoration Plan was finalized in November 2009. Funding from NEP FY09 will allow for conceptual design plans to be developed for one project in each of the five east-end towns. Suffolk County has issued a RFP for habitat restoration plan conceptual design services and plans are expected to be completed in 2011. In addition, to document the progress in implementation of the plan, annual progress reports will be prepared, circulated to the PEP Management Conference and made available on the PEP website. The first annual report is expected to be made available in November 2010.
- *Living Resources Research, Monitoring, and Assessment Plan* – The Benthic Mapping Project is one of the priorities in the PEP Living Resources Research, Monitoring, and Assessment Plan this project is ongoing and Phase II is expected to be complete by the end of 2010. Nine shellfish spawner sanctuaries, another priority in the Plan, have been established by The Nature Conservancy and other partners in the Peconics and will be investigated as a natural resources management tool as well as a possible control for Brown Tide populations. The Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program to foster increased use of appropriate areas for shellfish cultivation has held hearings on the

initial aquaculture lease applications for sites permitted by NYSDEC temporary use permits.

*CCMP Chapter: Pathogens*

- *Vessel Waste No Discharge Zone* – The USEPA Regional Administrator approved New York State's designation of the entire Peconic Estuary as a Vessel Waste No Discharge Zone in June 2002. Efforts to educate the public and provide financial assistance to municipalities for the purchase of pump-out boats continue. The Town of East Hampton will be receiving partial reimbursement for an additional pump-out vessel through Suffolk County's Capital Program 8710. Additionally, data from the past 7 years of vessel waste pump out efforts is being gathered with cooperation from the east-end towns participating in the initiative and will be compiled to show the measurable results of the No Discharge Zone designation in the Peconics.
- *Implement Stormwater Mitigation Recommendations*- The PEP has assisted in securing adequate funding for full implementation of all four of the existing Stormwater Runoff Management Plans. Additionally, funding from Suffolk County Capital Program 8235 will provide for the development of six additional plans. Work has begun on development of plans for Town and Jockey Creeks, Goose Creek, Richmond Creek, Dering Harbor, Accabonac Harbor, and Sebonac Creek.

*CCMP Chapter: Toxics*

- *Long Island Pesticide Use Management Plan*- With the NYSDEC, the PEP will pursue finalization and implementation of relevant elements of this NYSDEC Plan in the coming year.
- *Clean Sweep Programs*- A Clean Sweep event was held in Suffolk County in March 2008. Unwanted, unused and obsolete pesticides and chemicals were removed from various agricultural and non-agricultural businesses within the Peconic Estuary for proper disposal. Opportunities for future events will be investigated.
- *SC Vector Control and Wetlands Mgmt Long Term Plan & EIS* - Suffolk County was responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of a Suffolk County-wide vector control and wetlands management plan, which addressed numerous issues of Federal and state jurisdiction, including pesticide fate and transport and wetland preservation. The County Legislature has adopted the Long Term Plan and Findings and Resolution 285 was signed into law by the County Executive in March 2007. Efforts to implement the Long Term Plan have been initiated.
- *Brookhaven National Laboratory* – The Peconic Estuary Program continues to remain involved through USEPA/NYSDEC/SCDHS oversight of the Superfund clean-up at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). The oversight of environmental restoration is important as BNL is located at the headwaters of the Peconic River. The DOE secured additional funding to complete the High Flux Beam Reactor Control Rod Blade and Beam Plug removal interim actions in 2009. This action removed and secured a large portion of the highly radioactive components remaining within the HFBR structure for decay at the Nevada Test Site. Groundwater monitoring continues to show progress in contaminant reduction at numerous remediation sites on the laboratory as well as off-site.

*CCMP Chapter: Critical Lands Protection*

- *Critical Lands Protection Plan* – The Peconic Estuary Program Critical Lands Protection Plan (2004) prioritizes land protection (including acquisition) priorities with respect to estuarine management concerns. Efforts continue to protect critical landscapes through methods including full-fee acquisition, purchase of development rights, conservation easements, and native vegetation protection ordinances. Measures to support these methods of land protection are specifically addressed in the 2010-2012 Marine Conservation Planner workplan and will be supplemented by efforts of Suffolk County Office of Ecology's Principle Environmental Analyst who will serve as Land Use Coordinator for the program.

*CCMP Chapter: Financing*

- Efforts to ensure funding sources such as the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection program (¼% Sales Tax Program) are used effectively continue. The PEP has a Priority Funding List which includes the highest priority eligible projects that will support PEP initiatives.

## 5. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The objective of this project is to support the Peconic Estuary Program Management Conference in carrying out the EPA Administrator-approved Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Specific activities in the workplan address: support for local government land use planning and decision making to protect, enhance and restore estuarine resources, preparation of conceptual habitat restoration design plans; water quality monitoring; shellfish restoration; NYSDEC staff and coordination; Program Office staff and support; public participation; stormwater management; and National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). Funding under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act is made available to support activities necessary for the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan prepared under Section 320 of the Act. The project therefore carries out Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. Clean Water Act core program implementation is further defined in Appendix B.

## 6. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND EPA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

This National Estuary Program cooperative agreement supports Subobjective 4.3.1 of the 2003-2008 EPA Strategic Plan (see page 94) which is to restore and protect ecosystems and facilitate the ecosystem-scale protection and restoration of natural areas. The Strategic targets under this subobjective specifically cite improving the overall aquatic system health of the 28 estuaries that are part of the National Estuary Program and working with National Estuary Program (NEP) partners to protect and restore habitats. The objective of this project is to support the Peconic Estuary Program Management Conference in carrying out the EPA Administrator approved Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Specifically, the SCDHS will support implementation of the CCMP to restore and protect the Peconic ecosystem and facilitate the ecosystem-scale protection and restoration of natural areas.

The workplan for this National Estuary Program Cooperative Agreement contains well-defined outputs, and to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes, summarized as follows:

*Outcomes:*

- Improvements in the health and extent of eelgrass beds due to the development and implementation of pollution control programs and an eelgrass management plan, as measured by the eelgrass monitoring program. Maintain existing eelgrass acreage (1,550 acres) in 119 eelgrass beds, per 2000 assessment.
- Enhanced protection of critical lands and better coordination among land acquisition programs, as recorded by critical lands protection reports. Protect 200 or more acres per year through acquisition programs.
- Advancement in knowledge for targeting aquatic habitat restoration projects and the siting of aquaculture projects due to benthic mapping and as described in accompanying reports. Full eradication of the invasive *Ludwigia* plant from the Peconic River and monitoring the status of this goal.
- Knowledge of water quality conditions for conventional water quality parameters to better manage point and nonpoint source water pollution control programs, as reported in summary reports. Achieve dissolved oxygen standards in 97% or more of the Peconic Estuary.
- Planned and realized reductions in pathogen loadings and improvements in water quality for swimming and shellfishing uses, due to the preparation of a Total Maximum Daily Load and the development and implementation of Stormwater Runoff Management Strategies, as measured by water quality monitoring. Maintain all existing open shellfish growing areas (prevent closed shellfishing growing areas from exceeding 5,172 acres). Prevent any public bathing beach closures.
- Planned and realized reductions in nitrogen loadings and improvements in dissolved oxygen conditions due to the preparation of a Total Maximum Daily Load, as measured by water quality monitoring and estimated by modeling. Summarize atmospheric deposition loadings. Ensure the 4 waste water treatment plants included in the TMDL do not exceed their total nitrogen load targets/limits (156 lbs. of nitrogen per day).
- Successful outreach and participation to citizens and elected officials resulting in reduced pollution loads, increased participation in projects, and improved governmental management, as measured by: participation in programs, meetings, and events; increases in subscriptions to newsletters and web page hits; and projects pursued/undertaken. Hold a minimum of six Citizens Advisory Committee meetings per year.
- Successful restoration of bay scallop populations and the commercial fishery in the eastern estuary.

## 7. OVERALL PROGRAM APPROACH

The Peconic Estuary Program follows the general approach outlined in the Management Conference Agreement. This approach has three key elements: 1) technical, 2) administrative/regulatory, and 3) public involvement. These elements are outlined in general here, and the specific tasks that fall under each element are described below.

The technical element includes research and monitoring activities, designed to synthesize our understanding and further our knowledge of the Peconic Estuary System. It can be further broken down into three categories: 1) systemwide and site-specific investigations and

implementation, 2) performing detailed water quality and natural resource investigations, 3) conducting management efforts, additional research and pilot demonstration projects (including Brown Tide research).

The administrative/regulatory element includes, but is not limited to:

- Communicating regularly with all PEP participants about activities and issues to ensure consensus and that all views are fairly considered and that work products are scientifically supported.
- Coordinating activities among Federal, state, county, and local agencies as well as the public sector to obtain program objectives.
- Managing the preparation of annual workplans, the CCMP, and budgets, in cooperation with all PEP participants.
- Managing the preparation of all PEP work products, including data summaries, annual reports, technical reports, CAC products, and modeling activities, for content and accuracy before publication.
- Ensuring the transfer of all PEP materials (e.g., work products, annual reports, meeting minutes, etc.) to the appropriate persons and locations (e.g., Management Conference participants, the public, local libraries, etc.).
- Receiving and responding to requests for technical information and assistance regarding the PEP from the public, elected officials, USEPA Headquarters, and others.

Public involvement is addressed through a Public Participation strategy developed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Public Participation and Outreach Program will include disseminating information to educate the public regarding the scope, goals, and progress of the Peconic Estuary Program. This information will be disseminated through websites pamphlets, booklets, public service announcements, conferences, workshops, and other methods.

## 8. PEP ADMINISTRATION: STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Peconic Estuary Program is administered by a Management Conference, as outlined in the Management Conference Agreement. However, funding will be provided for support of most Management Conference activities, in the form of NYSDEC and SCDHS staff. State and County staff will provide many functions that are vital to the success of the Peconic Estuary Program. These tasks include planning and coordinating Management Conference activities, developing support documents for the Program, and providing State and County input into all levels of the Program. Staff support of the PEP is more fully discussed below. (It should be noted that in addition to administering and carrying out NEP workplan activities, program staff also dedicates time to PEP endeavors sponsored by various funding sources and partners. Detailed accounts of such Non-NEP support can be seen in Appendix D.)

The SCDHS Office of Ecology has been designated as the PEP Program Office. As such SCDHS, as the working arm of the Management Committee, is responsible for management and coordination of all routine aspects of the PEP. Vito Minei, P.E., the PEP's program director since it's inception in 1993, retired in April 2010. The PEP Management Committee is developing a job description and a new director is being sought at the time of this writing. The Deputy Program Manager, Walter Dawydiak, PE, JD and Martin Trent, Chief of the Office of Ecology, will

continue to manage the program until a new director is named.

**Sponsoring Institution: Suffolk County Department of Health Services**

**Location:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services, 360 Yaphank Ave, Suite 2b  
Yaphank, NY 11980

**Responsibilities and Funding Sources:**

The SCDHS Division of Environmental Quality, headed by Mr. Walter Dawydiak, stands at the national forefront as a progressive, pro-active County environmental agency. With approximately 160 employees, the division conducts comprehensive environmental programs through its offices of Pollution Control (e.g., commercial and industrial pollution discharge monitoring, assessment, and management), Water Resources (well drilling, groundwater quality monitoring, drinking water supply, etc.), Wastewater Management (including development and discharge permits), and Ecology. The Division also has a state-certified laboratory, which analyzes groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples for a broad array of organic and inorganic conventional parameters (nutrients, salinity, etc.), pesticides, metals, organics (e.g., PAHs), Brown Tide, coliform bacteria, enterococcus, etc.

Walter Dawydiak serves as the Chief Engineer for the SCDHS Division of Environmental Quality and oversees the work of the five sections within the Division, including the Office of Ecology. The Office of Ecology, headed by Martin Trent, oversees water quality-related planning studies for all of Suffolk's waters, including the Peconic Estuary Program, the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Suffolk County Watershed Management Strategy, the South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER) Suffolk County Monitoring Program, and the Source Water Assessment Program. The office also conducts an aggressive surface water monitoring program, having collected over 50,000 samples since 1988. Finally, the Office conducts State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review for the SCDHS, and conducts and coordinates numerous other environmental review activities and programs.

As head of the Division of Environmental Quality, Walter Dawydiak assists in overseeing activities of the Program Office (discussed below), as well as other facets of the environmental management program.

Between them, Walt Dawydiak and Martin Trent bring over 50 years of professional environmental management experience to the PEP. They serve the program at no cost to the PEP, and are funded through the operating budget of the SCDHS. As such, their positions are not dependent on grant funds, and provide a great likelihood of continued local commitment and institutional longevity. Unique opportunities for interdisciplinary integration are also offered, by virtue of SCDHS commitment to the program.

**Richard Balla, Federal Coordinator**

**Sponsoring Institution:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region II

**Location:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

**Responsibilities:**

The regional coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the Peconic Estuary Program and the CCMP comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act, Federal regulations and EPA issued guidance. This includes serving as project officer or work assignment manager for all funds awarded in support of the program, including grants, cooperative agreements, interagency agreements, contracts and procurements. The coordinator participates in and represents EPA at PEP meetings, and meetings with other stakeholders, elected officials and the public. The coordinator serves as the liaison with EPA-HQ on matters related to the National Estuary Program and ensures that all reporting requirements are satisfied and program requirements are met. Within the regional office, the coordinator works to secure funding or services of other programs to complete actions in the CCMP. The coordinator works to ensure PEP goals and actions are consistent and integrated with other EPA functions and programs, including but not limited to: water quality standards, total maximum daily loads, wetlands protection, vessel waste no discharge areas, Superfund, the national pollutant discharge elimination system, stormwater management, dredged material management, monitoring and assessment, quality assurance/quality control requirements, peer reviews, nonpoint source management, pollution prevention, sustainable development, state revolving loan funds, RCRA programs, Clean Air Act programs, and matters related to Brookhaven National Laboratory. The coordinator is also responsible for working with other Federal Agencies (including FWS, NRCS, NOAA).

**Laura Stephenson, State Coordinator**

**Sponsoring Institution:** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

**Location:** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 205 Belle Meade Road, East Setauket, NY 11733

**Responsibilities:**

The New York State Coordinator is responsible for assisting the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in providing support to the Peconic Estuary Program Management Conference and is primarily responsible for ensuring implementation of PEP CCMP Pathogen and Habitat and Living Resources Management Actions. The New York State Coordinator co-chairs the PEP Natural Resources Subcommittee and the PEP Phase II Stormwater Workgroup, spearheads the PEP Impacted Shellfishing Waters Management Initiative, and supports a myriad of stormwater management, regional watershed-based pathogen management, invasive species, habitat restoration, and water quality improvement initiatives. The Coordinator also reviews proposals submitted to New York State for NYS Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act and Environmental Protection Fund funding.

**Kimberly Paulsen, Suffolk County Coordinator**

**Sponsoring Institution:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services

**Location:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Yaphank, NY 11980

**Responsibilities:**

The County Coordinator works within the Program Office and is responsible for assisting the

departments of Suffolk County in providing support to the Peconic Estuary Program Management Conference. Responsibilities include management of all PEP related contracts (and management of the projects associated with them) to ensure terms of the agreements are adequately fulfilled; ensuring administrative duties are carried out sufficiently within the Program Office; and participating in technical and public outreach activities. Ms. Paulsen serves as the Program Office representative for various workgroups and committees while providing support to the various committees which make up the PEP Management Conference.

**Emily Fogarty, Technical Outreach Specialist**

**Sponsoring Institution:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services

**Location:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Yaphank, NY 11980

**Responsibilities:**

The Technical Outreach Specialist is responsible for producing technical publications for the program, including PEPTalk, the official newsletter of the PEP. Working out of the Program Office, Ms. Fogarty coordinates and attends outreach events and provides information pertaining to PEP initiatives to the public. She is responsible for updating and maintaining the PEP website ([www.peconicestuary.org](http://www.peconicestuary.org)), overseeing the mini-grant program, and fielding information inquiries in relation to PEP reports and GIS data. In addition to technical outreach tasks, Ms. Fogarty provides support to the Program Coordinators and the Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Wayne Grothe, Marine Conservation Planner**

**Sponsoring Institution:** The Nature Conservancy

**Location:** The Nature Conservancy, 250 Lawrence Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

**Responsibilities:**

The Marine Conservation Planner was responsible for developing the living resources characterization report, a living resources threats analysis, and the Living Resources Research and Monitoring Framework. Responsibilities now include co-chairing the Natural Resources Subcommittee, implementing the Critical Lands Protection Plan, and providing assistance and guidance to the program in regards to climate change and land use regulations.

**Kimberly Shaw, Land Use Coordinator/Program Office Manager**

**Sponsoring Institution:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services

**Location:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Yaphank, NY 11980

**Responsibilities:**

Kim Shaw serves as Principle Environmental Analyst and Supervisor of Suffolk County Office of Ecology's Bureau of Environmental Management. Ms. Shaw will be partially funded under the NEP grant to help the PEP develop regional land use recommendations, determine what course

of action needs to be taken in order to improve land use and development patterns, and determine what the outcomes of such measures would be while providing overall leadership for PEP staff. Ms. Shaw's experience in land use planning activities and her existing relationships with planning staff and local governments of East End towns will assist the PEP in fulfilling numerous land protection and improvement initiatives.

## PART II: PROPOSED AND ONGOING PROJECT REPORTING

### I. STATUS OF NEP FY09 PROJECTS

- *Land Use/Environmental Resource Management* (FY09:\$92,210 Federal funding) for development of land use improvements and innovations; funding will provide for a portion of a Principle Environmental Analyst's salary through 2011 to help the PEP develop regional land use recommendations, determine actions needed to be taken in order to improve land use and development patterns, and determine what the outcomes of such measures would be. Responsible entity is the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS). Milestone/Completion Date: Ongoing.
- *Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Management and Long Term Monitoring funds* (FY09; \$103,000 Federal funding) continue to support ongoing Peconic eelgrass monitoring including vegetative sampling at six sites (Gardiners Bay, Orient Harbor, Southold Bay, Northwest Harbor, Three Mile Harbor, and Bullhead Bay) as well as other SAV-related activities including the commencement of work on development of an Eelgrass Management Plan (\$30,000). In addition to continued monitoring, funds will be utilized to perform an updated Aerial Photography Survey (\$73,000); Aerial maps will be produced to indicate the status and extent of both eelgrass beds and hardened shoreline throughout the Peconics in the 2010 monitoring season. This information is integral to eelgrass research and restoration. Responsible entities are the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE). Milestone/Completion Date: Ongoing.
- *Habitat Restoration* (FY09: \$80,000 Federal funding) for completion of conceptual design plans of the top 5 habitat restoration projects as listed in the updated Habitat Restoration Plan. Suffolk County has issued a RFP for conceptual design services and the project is expected to be completed in 2011. Responsible entities are the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and consultant TBD. Milestone/Completion Date: 2011
- *Program Office funds* (FY09; \$73,954 Federal funding) continue to provide support for a PEP Suffolk County Coordinator and Program Office supplies. Responsible entity is the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) Milestone/Completion Date: Ongoing.
- *Public Participation* (FY09; \$100,000) will be utilized to support efforts of the PEP CAC. Milestone/Completion Date: Ongoing Responsible entities are the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.
- *NYSDEC Staff* (FY09; \$110,000) continue to provide support for a NYSDEC PEP Coordinator. Responsible entity is the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Milestone/Completion: Ongoing
- *National Atmospheric Deposition Program funds – NTN and Mercury Monitoring Costs* (FY09;

\$15,000 Federal funding) are necessary to maintain the respective contracts with Illinois State Water Survey and Frontier Geosciences required for the PEP to be a part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program. The funds are also being used to carry out the mandatory equipment upgrade to the existing gauge and will also allow for mercury deposition to be monitored at Cedar Beach County Park in Southold.

Milestone/Completion Date: Ongoing

- *Technical Outreach Services* (FY09; \$18,836 Federal funds) continue to support the Technical Outreach Specialist position in the PEP Program Office. Responsible entity is the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) Milestone/Completion Date: Ongoing.

## 2. NEP FY10 WORKPLAN TASKS

(Funding for all tasks, with the exception of “Task e.” is provided to Suffolk County)

### a. Land Use/Env. Resources and Underwater Land

#### **Project Purpose and Description:**

The quality of land and water resources of the Peconic System is tied to the cumulative impact of individual decisions local governments make on a daily basis. Improvements and innovations are needed so these decisions are protective of the Peconic Estuary System, consistent across jurisdictions, and able to withstand scrutiny and challenges that may weaken them. The PEP Management Conference has determined it is appropriate to provide additional NEP funds to the Program Office in support of a dedicated PEP Land Use Coordinator to assist in such efforts.

**Milestone/due date:** The funding allocated by this source will provide for 50% of the Land Use Coordinator’s salary through 2012.

**Related CCMP Action:** CLPP-5, CLPP-6 CCMP Pages 7-20 to 7-23

**Budget:** \$50,000 Federal Funding

**Responsible Entities:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS)

#### ***Roles:***

The Land Use Coordinator will operate out of the PEP Program Office, housed by SCDHS’s Office of Ecology.

#### **Outcomes:**

*Short Term:* By comprehensively assessing current land use trends, the PEP will be more apt to developing regional recommendations to ensure future development and land use regulations are consistent with the goals of the PEP. To kickoff this effort, a workgroup of stakeholders (including Town/Village Planning staff) will be convened to develop new watershed wide policy guidelines.

*Intermediate:* After developing guidelines, work will continue with the appropriate stakeholders to ensure the guidelines are adopted and enforced by local municipalities. Following these local efforts, the issue of adopting state legislation to identify municipalities that adopt minimally consistent local laws to protect the Peconic Estuary will be assessed.

*Changes in Pressure Targets:* The need for consistent land use guidelines to be developed and implemented has become apparent. Having a devoted staff person to spearhead this effort will be integral to its success. Issues such as potential climate change, sea level rise and the impacts such unpredictable future impacts

may have on the Estuary have made it clear that more needs to be done to protect wetlands, natural buffers and native vegetation.

*Long Term:* Through development and implementation of effective land use guidelines (for vegetative buffers, vegetative and wildlife preservation, impervious surfaces, sea level rise implications, post storm recovery, erosion control, lawn care, irrigation practices, etc.), the Program expects to see long term improvements of water quality, habitat and general health of the Estuary.

**b. Water Quality Monitoring and Long Term Monitoring**

**Project Purpose and Description:**

The water quality monitoring program conducted by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) Office of Ecology includes monthly monitoring at 38 Peconic surface water quality stations throughout the year (see Figure 1 for map), periodic monitoring of 30 point source and stream stations, and weekly monitoring at the NADP rain gauge. Water quality monitoring is essential to assess the effect of implementation on the environment, to analyze the effectiveness of programs in relation to their intended goals, and to make corrections in the course of the post-CCMP process. The data collected from this monitoring program was critical in listing the water segments in the western estuary on the 303(d) list for dissolved oxygen violations and in developing the nitrogen TMDL for select segments in the western estuary. Current needs of the program have made it necessary to fund the salaries of a boat operator (\$53,000 including fringe through 2012) using FY10 funds.

In addition to supporting the continuation of the SCDHS monitoring program, FY10 funds (\$120,000) will support the USGS in establishing and operating a monitoring station that collects data on tidal water elevations at a western estuary location. Data will be recorded at 6 minute intervals, relayed hourly via satellite telemetry to USGS offices in real time, and made publicly available via the Internet within a few minutes of their arrival. Data from about 0.5 m above the seabed on water temperature, specific conductance (which will be used to compute salinity), dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and chlorophyll also will be collected and disseminated via the same processes employed for the water elevations. In addition, the station will be equipped with an add-on nitrate analyzer; these data also will be disseminated with the water-elevation data in real time. Tidal statistics (for example, mean high and low waters) will be published (online) annually for daily water-elevation records from the embayment in the USGS Water-Data Report for Long Island. In addition, daily statistics (for example, maximum, minimum, and mean values) will be published annually in this report for records of water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and chlorophyll and nitrate from this continuous monitoring station.

**Milestone/due date:** SCDHS Monitoring Program; ongoing. USGS Continuous Monitoring Station; 2012.

**Related CCMP Action:** N-1, N-9, N-10 CCMP pages 3-21, 3-22 and 3-36 to 3-40

**Budget:** \$173,000 Federal Funding

**Responsible Entities:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and the United State Geological Survey

***Roles:***

SCDHS will continue to conduct a surface water quality monitoring program, of which the boat operator is a necessary component.

The USGS will embark on a continuous monitoring program, in cooperation with SCDHS in which the USGS will install and maintain a continuous water quality monitoring station in the Western Peconics.

**Outcomes:**

*Short Term:* Routine monitoring conducted in the Peconic Estuary makes it possible for the PEP to have accurate, up to date information regarding water quality conditions throughout the estuary. Data generated from this program can be used towards projects involving the many partners and stakeholders of the PEP.

*Intermediate:* Based on water quality data, priority projects and research initiatives can be identified and the PEP can continue its success in efforts to protect and restore the estuary

*Changes in Pressure Targets:* The implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads for Pathogens and Nitrogen; prevalence of harmful algal blooms; shellfish bed closures; occurrences of bathing beach closures all contribute to water quality goals and what measures are necessary to meet them.

*Long Term:*

Subwatersheds have been prioritized and partners and funding sources are being investigated to implement stormwater management plans; effectiveness of shellfish restoration efforts over time will be evaluated and any correlation to water quality parameters will be determined; an interpretive analysis of the long term data set of water quality monitoring data (30+ years of information) will soon be carried out. Allowing for continuous sampling to occur in the Peconics will help in accounting for long term and short term changes to water quality and data generated may be helpful in making regional water quality comparisons in relation to potential climate change factors, among other issues facing our estuaries.

c. **Program Priority Living Resource and CCMP Tasks**

**Project Purpose and Description:**

In 2009, the PEP Natural Resource Subcommittee Co-Chairs embarked on an effort to update the 2000 PEP Habitat Restoration Plan (Plan). Funding availability, permitting requirements and other complicating factors have made it difficult for habitat restoration projects to occur within the Peconic Estuary. The first step in trying to increase the frequency and effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts has been taken by updating the Plan, and the next step needed is to attain funding to implement these projects. In attempts to mitigate some of the difficulties associated with initiating restoration efforts and ensure each of the east-end towns has at least one “ready to go” project, the PEP plans to provide funding for the conceptual design of the top ranked habitat restoration project (as per the Plan) in each of the five east-end towns.

**Milestone/due date:** Conceptual designs to be completed by 2012

**Related CCMP Action:** HLR-7 CCMP Page 4-40

**Budget:** \$100,000 Federal Funding

**Responsible Entities:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and Consultant TBD

***Roles:***

SCDHS will act as the contracting agency for this project and oversees the development of conceptual design plans for each of the 5 restoration sites to be carried out by a consultant.

**Outcomes:**

***Short Term:***

In order to advance the success and number of habitat restoration projects eligible for funding, it is necessary to develop conceptual design plan that will make permitting and other requirements for these projects able to be fulfilled in a timelier manner

***Intermediate:***

Having conceptual plans completed will facilitate applying for funding sources as they become available. It is also more likely that habitat restoration efforts will be fulfilled and thus the benefits of such projects can be realized.

***Changes in Pressure Targets:***

The high cost of habitat restoration projects and the time and effort needed to apply for funding sources and attain permits highlighted the need for the PEP to provide assistance in advance to local governments to scope out site specific habitat restoration project plans. By updating the PEP Habitat Restoration Plan, the program has been able to work closely with the East-End towns to prioritize projects based on their readiness and likelihood of being successful.

***Long Term:***

The benefits of habitat restoration efforts will be seen over a long period of time, but will result in enhancement of existing resources and/or restoration of habitats that have been lost or degraded. Significant natural habitats such as eelgrass beds, and wetland complexes will benefit from restoration efforts.

**d. HAB/Bioremediation and Shellfish Restoration**

**Project Purpose and Description:**

Research pertaining to larval settlement of small juveniles and comparative survival of planted bay scallops in eelgrass versus other submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) has been initiated. Findings have provided valuable insights into habitat utilization, which in turn has important application to the selection of appropriate sites for free-planting scallops for restoration work. The existing work would be expanded upon to include laboratory research of attachment preferences of small juvenile scallops. In addition, further monitoring of the prevalence of naturally recruited bay scallops in the field to better define the relative value of various species of macroalgae to small juveniles will be conducted. Using the funds provided for this project, this continued research work (\$40,000) will be paired with actual scallop restoration work (\$42,000).

**Milestone/due date:** 2012

**Related CCMP Action:** HLR-8, HLR-12 CCMP Pages 4-43 to 4-44 and 4-52 to 4-55

**Budget:** \$82,000 Federal Funding

**Responsible Entities:** Cornell Cooperative Extension (\$40,000) and Town of East Hampton (\$42,000)

**Roles:** Cornell Cooperative Extension will be responsible for overseeing and carrying out the habitat utilization study and the Town of East Hampton (East Hampton Town Shellfish Hatchery) will carry out the scallop restoration elements of this project.

**Outcomes:**

*Short Term:*

Providing funds to the Town of East Hampton will ensure ample resources are in place to raise future broodstock of bay scallops for restoration purposes.

Continuing to study habitat utilization preferences of the bay scallop will allow for more success to be seen in the way of scallop restoration in the Peconic Estuary.

*Intermediate:*

Preservation and maintenance of shellfish resources in the estuary and increased understanding of essential habitat integral to the success of scallop restoration will be achieved.

*Changes in Pressure Targets:*

Alteration of natural habitats of juvenile bay scallops have taken place (i.e. loss of eelgrass beds as nursery habitats) making it necessary to further explore what other types of submerged aquatic vegetation and other habitat types are appropriate to be utilized by scallops, particularly as they related to restoration efforts.

*Long Term:*

This project will help ensure future bay scallop free-plantings/restoration will be as effective as possible, making such efforts both more cost effective and more likely to succeed. Scallop restoration to occur through this project will ensure that restoration efforts in the Peconics continue and goals to achieve a self sustaining scallop population in the Peconic Estuary system are achieved.

e. State Coordinator Position

**Project Purpose and Description:**

The State Coordinator position is funded under this budget line through an agreement with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Commission and the NYSDEC. The State Coordinator carries out day-to-day Post-CCMP work required by the Management Conference in addition to spearheading efforts to encourage regional watershed based nutrient and pathogen management, increasing habitat and living resource restoration initiatives and co-chairing the PEP's Natural Resource Subcommittee.

**Milestone/due date:** Ongoing

**Related CCMP Action:** M-2.3, CCMP Page 10-17

**Budget:** \$150,000 Federal Funding

**Responsible Entities:** New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation (NYSDEC) & New England Interstate Water Pollution  
Commission

*Roles:* NYSDEC houses the State Coordinator

**Outcomes:**

*Short Term:*

Effective communication with East End municipalities of issues pertaining to the CCMP including nutrient and pathogen management is maintained by the State Coordinator. Non-federal funding opportunities are continuously sought after and necessary partnerships are obtained.

*Intermediate:*

Preservation and maintenance of shellfish beds in the estuary, reduced agrichemical pollution, increased interest and collaboration on PEP related projects, and increased understanding of changes in tidal wetland complexes and eelgrass beds will be realized via the State Coordinator efforts.

*Changes in Pressure Targets:*

The finalization of TMDLs for Nitrogen and Pathogens and new MS4 permitting requirements has lead to an increased need for collaboration with municipalities to ensure targeted goals and reductions are seen.

*Long Term:*

Improvements in habitat quality and quantity, improvements of dissolved oxygen concentrations in the Peconic Estuary, heightened understanding of waterfowl, wildlife, livestock, domestic pet and septic system pathogen contributions to select watersheds, and a greater understanding of eelgrass population decline will be attained.

f. **Program Office**

**Project Purpose and Description:**

The SCDHS-Office of Ecology continues to serve as the PEP Program Office. The Program Office conducts program management on behalf of the Management Committee. Responsibilities include administering grants, managing activities of several committees, providing technical support to the PEP (including conducting technical projects and providing data management services), and offering public information and outreach services. The budget for the Program Office includes support for a PEP County Coordinator (\$75,000 for salary and fringe benefits) and office supplies (\$5,000). Specific tasks of the PEP County Coordinator include, but are not limited to, initiating and overseeing PEP subcontracts and serving as a liaison between County Government and the PEP Management Conference.

**Milestone/due date:** Ongoing

**Related CCMP Action:** M-2.1, CCMP Page 10-16

**Budget:** \$80,000 Federal Funding

**Responsible Entities:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS)

*Roles:* House the PEP Program Office and provide technical and administrative support to the PEP Management Conference

**Outcomes:**

*Short Term:*

Daily operations of the PEP will continue and work towards programmatic goals will be carried out. Overall program perception and stakeholder approval and agreement of elements of the PEP are strived for continuously.

*Intermediate:*

Cooperative partnerships with various agencies will be maintained and communication within these groups will be fostered as a result of Program Office efforts.

*Changes in Pressure Targets:*

Staff turnover and vacancies have proven to be problematic in recent years, but the Program has since filled the vacancies of the County Coordinator and Technical Outreach Specialist and the Program is now functioning at an effective level.

*Long Term:*

The projects and research initiatives in which the Program Office assists in carrying out, both technically and administratively, ultimately help the PEP to carry out the restoration and protection activities that are the core of the program.

g. **Public Participation**

**Project Purpose and Description:**

On behalf of the Peconic Estuary Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE) has been carrying out the Public Education and Outreach Program. In addition to focusing on initiatives pertaining to estuarine awareness and education, nutrient reduction and estuarine protection and involvement, this funding source provides for the salary of a Public Education and Outreach Coordinator who in addition to ensuring the planned tasks of the Public Education and Outreach Program workplan, supports, plans and promotes the activities of the PEP CAC.

**Milestone/due date:** Ongoing

**Related CCMP Action:** POE-1, PEO-2, PEO-4, PEO-7 CCMP Page 8-9-8-25

**Budget:** \$50,000 Federal funding

**Responsible Entities:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

*Roles:* SCDHS oversees the contract with CCE to carry out the objectives as listed in the Public Education and Outreach workplan.

**Outcomes:**

*Short Term:*

Re-invigorating the PEP CAC and developing an updated mission statement and broad reaching public outreach campaign are the immediate priorities of this initiative. Increased positive public relations and active involved presence in communities will be attained.

*Intermediate:*

Many public stewardship campaigns are planned and will allow for citizens to learn what they can do to protect and restore the Peconics.

*Changes in Pressure Targets:*

The PEP CAC has been meeting monthly for the past year and will continue to do

so in the future in order to ensure outreach efforts are developed and realized in a timely manner. Efforts are underway to recruit citizens to join the CAC and a media campaign is being launched to re-introduce stakeholders to the efforts and ideals of the PEP.

*Long Term:*

Through these efforts, the PEP will develop long lasting relationships with civic and community groups throughout the Peconics and maintain and foster relationships with other stakeholders as part of its mission to offer a holistic program based in science and research along with public education and participation.

**h. Public Health/Stormwater Management**

**Project Purpose and Description:**

Funds will be utilized to support development and implementation of a Homeowner Green Infrastructure/Conservation Landscaping Rebate Demonstration Project. This program will encourage community members in the Reeves Bay or Hashomomuck watershed to install stormwater abatement mechanisms on their property. The demonstration program will be modeled after the existing "Rainscapes Program" as conducted in Montgomery County, Maryland to fit the specific needs of municipalities in the Peconic Estuary watershed.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/deptmpl.asp?url=/Content/DEP/Rainscapes/home.asp>

**Milestone/due date:** 2012

**Related CCMP Action:** P-4.1, CCMP Page 5-19

**Budget:** \$100,000 Federal funding

**Responsible Entities:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and Southampton and Southold Townships.

*Roles:* SCDHS Office of Ecology will oversee the development and implementation of the demonstration rebate program as carried out by the townships of Southampton and Southold.

**Outcomes:**

*Short Term:* Following the implementation of various stormwater retention mechanisms and practices, increases in water quality of water bodies previously impacted by stormwater runoff generated from private property may be realized.

*Intermediate:* As a result of public outreach, to be included in the scope of the rebate program design, attitudes and homeowner practices may be changed and efforts to mitigate the impacts of stormwater will be carried out.

*Changes in Pressure Targets:* The finalization of the TMDL for Nitrogen and Pathogens in the Peconic Estuary has led to increased awareness and need for measures to be taken to decrease nitrogen and pathogen loading into impaired waterbodies throughout the Peconic Estuary.

*Long Term:* Meeting nitrogen and pathogen reduction requirements (as per the TMDL's for nitrogen and pathogens) to improve water quality and re-open shellfish beds in areas impacted by stormwater inputs are possible long term outcomes of effective stormwater management concentrated in impaired

watersheds.

i. National Atmospheric Deposition Program – NTN and Mercury Monitoring Costs

**Project Purpose and Description:**

On behalf of the Peconic Estuary Program, the Suffolk County Department of Health Services – Office of Ecology has participated in the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) since Winter 2004 by constructing and operating a rain collection site at Cedar Beach County Park in Southold. Every Tuesday according to established protocols, the site is maintained and a water sample collected from the rain gauge is sent to the Illinois State Water Survey for testing (pH, SO<sub>4</sub>, Cl, NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, and base cations). With funding from the USEPA, the Cedar Beach County Park site will also monitor mercury deposition this year. Funding in the amount of approximately \$6,000/year is needed in order to continue the National Trends Network contract with the Illinois State Water Survey. Funding in the amount of approximately \$9,000/year is needed to contract Frontier Geosciences for one year of analyzing rain samples for total mercury. Both of these contracts are a requirement of the NADP.

**Milestone/due date:** Ongoing

**Related CCMP Action:** N-9.4, CCMP Page 3-36

**Budget:** \$15,000 Federal funding

**Responsible Entities:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS)

*Roles:* SCDHS Office of Ecology is responsible for ensuring the site is maintained and sampled on a weekly basis (with analytical services provided by Frontier Geosciences and Illinois State Water Survey)

**Outcomes:**

*Short Term:*

The national collaboration of all of the partners, including the PEP, who participate in weekly wet deposition sampling for the National Trends Network, is contributing to increased knowledge and awareness of the importance of atmospheric deposition.

*Intermediate:*

Quality control is a key element in sample collection. Practices to ensure samples are not contaminated in any way are taught to sample collectors via workshops and informational updates. In addition, the NADP Management Committee makes recommendations and mandates changes in procedure and equipment as appropriate to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the sampling process.

*Changes in Pressure Targets:*

Site specific requirements and recent equipment update mandates have slowed the process of integrating the site to perform Mercury sampling in addition to wet deposition sampling.

*Long Term:*

A long term, national data set is being contributed to with every sample analyzed. This data set will help to determine long term trends and can serve as baseline information as to the elements that make up our atmosphere and how they are circulated across the country.

### PART III: GRANTS/FUNDING TO LOCAL ENTITIES

#### I. FUNDS LEVERAGED FOR 2009

The Peconic Estuary Program has documented \$34,750,707 in leveraged funds for 2009 (see Appendix D). Actual leveraged dollar amounts are likely higher but the calculation is not fully possible at this time due to delayed reporting by some program participants. A more accurate, larger amount for the 2009 reporting period will be entered into the NEPORT system by September 15, 2010. The PEP is therefore presenting a highly documented, but also highly conservative figure for leveraged funds.

The attached accounting details the following:

- *Suffolk County Department of Health Services Marine Monitoring Program* - Laboratory, monitoring vessel fuel, ice, equipment and supplies costs for water quality monitoring in the Peconic Estuary
- *Suffolk County Department of Health Services Personnel* - SCDHS personnel time dedicated to Peconic Estuary Program initiatives
- *Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program (1/4% Sales Tax)* - The sales tax revenues from this County program are used for three distinct categories: open space acquisition, farmland easements, and water quality improvement projects.
- *Suffolk County Capital Programs*- Programs funded through Suffolk County's Capital Budget relating specifically to carrying out various PEP objectives
- *Community Preservation Fund (2% Real Estate Transfer Tax)* - The Community Preservation Fund (CPF) in the five east end towns has generated significant funding for land acquisition and the purchase of development rights. In the decade since its inception, the CPF has generated over \$508 million. Approximately one-half of the land area in the Townships of Riverhead, Southold, Southampton and East Hampton, and the entire town of Shelter Island, are situated within the Peconic Estuary watershed. The appropriate leveraging information for this source is broken down into the amount generated by these towns and then invested in land parcels in the Peconic study area.

#### 2. NON-FEDERAL MATCH FOR 2009

The non-Federal match is provided by Suffolk County (\$650,000) and the New York State Department of Conservation (\$150,000).

The Suffolk County match consists of \$650,000 from Suffolk Capital Program 8237: Development of the Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, the total cost of which is \$700,000.

The NYSDEC portion of the non-federal match (\$150,000) will be accounted for using an Environmental Protection Fund Aid to Localities to conduct Eelgrass Monitoring and Restoration.

3. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2010

Category	Federal Contribution	Non-Federal Contribution	Total
1. Personnel	\$218,678	\$0	\$ 218,678
2. Fringe Benefits*	\$ 83,140	\$0	\$83,140
3. Travel	\$ 3,000	\$0	\$3,000
4. Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Supplies	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
6. Contractual	\$467,000	\$800,000	\$1,267,000
7. Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. Other	\$301	\$0	\$301
9. Total Direct Charges	\$777,119	\$800,000	\$1,577,119
10. Indirect Charges	\$22,881	\$0	\$22,881
11. Program Income	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>

Federally Funded Personnel Itemization**	Salary	Fringe	Total
Land Use Coordinator	\$35,842	\$14,158	\$50,000
County Coordinator	\$53,763	\$21,237	\$75,000
Boat Operator	\$37,993	\$15,007	\$53,000
NEIWPCC Personnel	\$91,080	\$32,738	\$123,818
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$218,678</b>	<b>\$83,140</b>	<b>\$301,818</b>

\*Note: 1.395 (fringe benefits multiplier)

Fringe benefits include retirement, life/health/dental insurance, social security, etc.

\*\*The funding provided to these positions reflect percentages of full salaries in order to accommodate task timelines arriving to an even endpoint