

PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM

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FY16 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET



**Submitted by:**  
**PEP Management Conference**

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**May, 2016**

**Peconic Estuary Program**  
FY16 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

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**PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM  
FY 16 WORKPLAN**

**I. 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.

The Peconic Estuary is one of 28 estuaries in the country designated by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an “estuary of national significance” under Section 320 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established to protect and restore nationally significant estuaries threatened or impaired by pollution, development, and overuse. The Peconic Estuary was formally accepted as part of the NEP in 1992. Officially commenced in 1993, the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) includes numerous stakeholders, representing citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, academic institutions, and local, county, state and federal governments. The EPA, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) are the sponsoring government agencies for the program. The PEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was approved by the EPA Administrator on November 15, 2001, with the concurrence of the New York State Governor. The CCMP promotes a holistic approach to protecting, enhancing and restoring the Estuary and its watershed. Priority management topics for the Peconic Estuary are Brown Tide, nutrients, habitat and living resources, pathogens, toxic pollutants, and critical lands protection. These six priority topics, together with public education and outreach, financing, and post-CCMP management, form the basis for the CCMP action plans. Much has changed since the CCMP was approved in 2001 and the USEPA recommended a revision of the CCMP. The CCMP revision will begin during 2016 and is planned to be completed in 2018.

**OVERALL FUNDING SOURCES**

The core FY16 budget reflects the following sources of funding:

EPA FY16 Base Funding	\$600,000.00*
Non-Federal Match	\$600,000.00**
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200,000.00</b>

**Resources Requested:**

The total requested in this PEP grant to Suffolk County Department of Health Services is **\$263,000**. The total request in this PEP grant to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) is **\$337,000**, and together these two components make up the full Peconic Estuary Program FFY2016 workplan for a total \$320 request of **\$600,000**.

\*EPA FY16 Base funding will be provided to Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) ((\$263,000.00) and New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) ((\$337,000).

\*\*The non-Federal match is provided by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) (\$263,000.00) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (\$337,000.00). Match is itemized in detail in Section III. Suffolk County, New York State and other partners are expected to provide significant support above and beyond the committed match in the budget table in support of Peconic Estuary Program goals and objectives.

## II. WORKPLAN

### 1. CCMP Goals

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) proposes to continue assisting and supporting the Program Office and NYSDEC in implementing the PEP CCMP. Workplan tasks address priority management items with a strong focus on nitrogen management, water quality, habitat and living resource conservation and restoration, critical lands protection, financing, and public education and outreach. Workplan tasks will advance protecting and restoring the health of the Peconic Estuary, imperative to supporting its commercial, recreational, environmental, and aesthetic uses and values. The specific tasks designed to support this implementation are outlined in this workplan.

Since 2013, and again this year, the PEP Management Conference has agreed to focus on the CCMP goal to **Reduce Non-point Source Nitrogen Loading to the Peconic Estuary**. NPS nitrogen loading via groundwater remains the largest threat to water quality in the estuary and decreases the “restoration readiness” of many of our critical habitats. Little progress has been made toward meeting the NPS reduction goals specified in the TMDL implementation plan, therefore this continues to be a priority of the PEP.

In addition, PEP will continue to work on several other CCMP goals, with focus on:

- Habitat Restoration: Increase diadromous fish access to freshwater habitats in the Peconic River.
- Pathogens: Promote the use of green infrastructure to mitigate stormwater pollution at the municipal and residential level.
- Public Education and Outreach: A new contract for education and outreach and new efforts to re-invigorate the PEP Citizens Advisory Committee are underway.

### 2. Staff

The Peconic Estuary Program is administered by a Management Conference, as outlined in the Management Conference Agreement. National Estuary Program funds for the Peconic Estuary Program are administered by two key partner organizations: Suffolk County, and New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC). This includes funding for CCMP implementation as well as staff support to manage and administer the program, coordinate with partners and stakeholders, and support the Committees that make up the PEP Management Conference.

#### **Alison Branco, Program Director**

Sponsoring Institution: Suffolk County Department of Health Services

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

Responsibilities:

The Program Director provides overall leadership for PEP staff and is responsible for 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. The program director is also responsible for ensuring that all program reporting requirements are met and managing the Peconic Estuary Program grants awarded to Suffolk County, ensuring that workplans are carried out, funds are expended in a timely manner, and interfacing with Suffolk County budget, finance, and federal aid staff to administer the grant funds. Additionally, the program director helps 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.

**Julie Nace, 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.

**Sarah Schaefer, Program Coordinator**

Sponsoring Institution: New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

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

Responsibilities:

The Program Coordinator will work within the Program Office and be responsible for assisting the Program Director and State Coordinator in providing support to the Peconic Estuary Program Management Conference. The coordinator may serve as the Program Office representative for various workgroups and committees while providing support to the various committees which make up the PEP Management Conference. The Program Coordinator will participate in contract and project management activities and will assist with tracking of CCMP implementation, contract progress, and contractor payments. The coordinator will also contribute to project and grant reports, periodic program evaluations, and grant applications.

**Sheri Jewhurst, 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**Kimberly Roth, NEIWPC Coordinator**

Sponsoring Institution: New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

Location: NEIWPC, 650 Suffolk Street, Suite 410, Lowell, MA, 01854

Responsibilities:

The NEIWPC coordinator is responsible for management of PEP-related grants and contracts within NEIWPC and supervision of the NYS Coordinator and Program Coordinator. The NEIWPC coordinator will support PEP management of the tasks in the NEIWPC workplan; prepare annual workplans and budgets for grants; manage budgets; lead and participate in the hiring process for open positions; set up and manage agreements with participants of homeowner rewards program; set up and manage agreements with other contractors/vendors, including the PEP education and outreach contractor; communicate with PEP Program Director and EPA Project Officer on regular basis; and supervise PEP Office staff in consultation with NYSDEC and SCDHS.

**3. New and Ongoing Project Information**

**3.1 Peconic Estuary Program FFY2016 Budget**

Activity	TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	SOURCE					
		EPA §320	NYS DEC	Suffolk County	USGS Cost Share	NYS Budget Line Item	Possible-NYS Budget Line Item
<b>PROGRAM OFFICE</b>	<b>\$380,000</b>	<b>\$380,000</b>					
Program Director	\$139,000	\$139,000					
Program Coordinator*	\$94,000	\$94,000					
State Coordinator	\$126,000	\$126,000					
NEIWPC Program Management	\$8,000	\$8,000					
Travel	\$14,000	\$14,000					
<b>MONITORING</b>	<b>\$360,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>** \$200,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>		
Monitoring - County Water Quality	\$200,000	\$75,000		\$125,000			

Monitoring - USGS Water Quality	\$115,000	\$0	**\$200,000	\$50,000			
Monitoring - Atmospheric Deposition***	\$15,000	\$15,000					
Monitoring - Seagrass***	\$30,000	\$30,000					
<b>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>					
E&O Contract for services 2017	\$100,000	\$100,000					
<b>IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	\$0				<b>\$250,000</b>	
Groundwater Solute Transport Model	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000				
Hydrodynamic Model	\$250,000	\$0					\$250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,090,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$950,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

\*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 2016 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.

### Suffolk County §320 Workplan Budget

Workplan Category	Program Office	Water Quality Monitoring	Water Quality Monitoring	SAV Monitoring	NADP Monitoring	Outreach and Education	Total
Sub-Category	Program Director	Boat Operator	Chemist				
<b>Personnel</b>	\$92,200	\$22,300	\$27,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$141,700
<b>Fringe</b>	\$46,600	\$10,200	\$15,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$72,300
<b>Travel</b>	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
<b>Supplies</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Contractual</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Other</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$45,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,800</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>\$42,700</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$263,000</b>

## **Task 2016-1A: Program Office, Ongoing Activity - \$142,800**

Partners & Roles: The Program Office located in the Office of Ecology in the Division of Environmental Quality at SCDHS; the PEP Program Director is an employee of the Department.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Program administration, habitat protection/restoration, stormwater control, and nutrient management (Related CCMP Actions: M-1.2, CCMP Page 10-16).

Objectives: The Program Office provides overall leadership, management and administration to the Program on behalf of the Management Conference. The objectives of the management conference focus on protecting and restoring habitats, living resources and water quality.

Description: Carrying out CCMP implementation on behalf of the management committee, including administering grants, managing projects and associated contracts, 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 salary and fringe benefit support for one FTE for the full-time PEP Program Director. This item also includes \$4000 in travel costs to cover travel as described below for the program director to represent PEP at two National Estuary Program conferences as well as other local travel for program meetings as needed. It also includes funding for miscellaneous office and field supplies (\$1000).

### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Report annually on: the status of implementing the identified priority actions in the CCMP; leveraging of governmental and non-governmental funds; and habitat restoration (including acquisition) efforts, according to guidelines and deadlines established by USEPA (i.e. GPRA measures) (September).
- Assist the Management Committee in developing a plan for updating the CCMP and developing a new finance plan and coordination of the CCMP revision.
- Prepare and submit workplans, budgets, and grant applications according to schedules set by the management conference and in accordance with USEPA guidance. Expediently carry out workplan tasks; ensure that all contracts are awarded as quickly as possible with the goal of 12 months from grant award and that funds are drawn down at least semiannually (spring).
- Oversee and coordinate preparation of the Annual Workplan Strategy (September) document and annual report (December).
- Provide technical and administrative support on efforts to protecting and restoring habitats, living resources and water quality. Provide technical and administrative support to PEP committees (ongoing).
- Ensure the Program is represented at all scheduled national meetings of the NEP (typically 2 meetings per year), and represented in local, regional and national conferences, workshops and symposia.
- Plan and execute meetings of the Policy Committee (typically 1 meeting per year) and Management Committee (typically 4 meetings per year). Be responsive to inquiries and initiatives of these committees.
- Prepare “Program Evaluation” submittal consistent with USEPA guidance (2017).
- Chair a Nitrogen workgroup and with the workgroup develop a revised TMDL Implementation Strategy to address NPS nitrogen loads, including technical, regulatory, cultural, and financial considerations. Road-blocks to nitrogen load reduction will be identified and potential solutions outlined. This strategy will help stakeholders understand what is needed to achieve the nitrogen load reduction goals called for in the TMDL.
- Develop an Environmental Indicators Report, with support from the Environmental Indicators Workgroup, using data inputs from the TAC, monitoring programs, stakeholders, and other agencies.
- Assist TAC and Outreach Coordinator to develop a “State of the Bay” publication to summarize the environmental indicators report and other available information, as needed, to inform the public about the status and trends of the environmental quality of the Estuary.



## Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: See “Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones”

Intermediate: Stakeholders (governments at all levels and citizens) are implementing habitat protection efforts and restoration projects, stormwater control measures, and practices to eliminate or reduce nutrient and pathogen loadings. There is increased understanding of factors that are adversely impacting tidal wetlands and eelgrass and management options are developed to address them.

Long Term: Terrestrial and aquatic habitats support healthy and diverse populations of commercially, recreationally and ecologically important species (especially eelgrass and diadromous fish) and water quality that supports all designated uses and achieves all applicable standards, particularly with respect to dissolved oxygen, pathogens, and toxic substances.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: TMDL implementation, MS4 permit implementation, wetlands protection. Elements of this project prevent or mitigate the impacts of nutrient pollution.

## **Task 2016-1B: Peconic Estuary Program Coordinator (Ongoing Activity) - \$98,769**

Partners & Roles: The Program Coordinator is a NEIWPCC employee; NEIWPCC provides management support. SCDHS Office of Ecology provides daily supervision and office space/support, as well as input and support on relevant topics.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Program administration, habitat protection/restoration, stormwater control, and nutrient management (Related CCMP Actions: M-1.2, CCMP Page 10-16).

Objectives: The Program Office provides overall leadership, management and administration to the Program on behalf of the Management Conference. The objectives of the management conference focus on protecting and restoring habitats, living resources, and water quality.

Description: This task continues support of a full-time program coordinator to work in the SCDHS Office of Ecology. The coordinator is part of a team of staff that works on the tasks and activities described below. Some will be handled exclusively by the Coordinator and others will be handled jointly by the NYSDEC, SCDHS, and U.S. EPA.

## Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Provide technical support related to priority management topics including harmful algae blooms (HAB), nutrient management, habitat and living resources, pathogens and closed shellfish beds, toxics, and critical lands protection (ongoing).
- Assist with contract administration and management of funded PEP CCMP priority management topic projects (ongoing).
- Provide support and assistance to the PEP CAC (ongoing). Assist with responding to requests for technical information and assistance regarding the PEP from the public, elected officials, USEPA, and others (ongoing).
- Provide support and assistance to the Local Government Committee, Management Committee, Natural Resources Sub-Committee, Nitrogen Workgroup, Policy Committee, Stormwater Workgroup, and Technical Advisory Committee (ongoing).
- Assist with the development of the PEP annual workplan and Annual Report (ongoing).
- Assist with programmatic reporting, including reporting annually on the status of implementing the identified priority actions in the CCMP, leveraging of governmental and non-governmental funds, and habitat restoration efforts (ongoing). Assist with the preparation of PEP workplans, budgets, and grant applications (ongoing). Assist with carrying out workplan tasks (ongoing). Ensure quality assurance project plans are developed and in place prior to initiating projects that collect or use environmental data (ongoing). Assist

with administering contracts, grants, RFPs and RFP waivers (ongoing).

### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: See “Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones”

Intermediate: Stakeholders (governments at all levels and citizens) are implementing habitat protection efforts and restoration projects, stormwater control measures, and practices to eliminate or reduce nutrient and pathogen loadings. There is increased understanding of factors that are adversely impacting tidal wetlands and eelgrass and management options are developed to address them.

Long Term: Terrestrial and aquatic habitats support healthy and diverse populations of commercially, recreationally and ecologically important species (especially eelgrass and diadromous fish) and water quality that supports all designated uses and achieves all applicable standards, particularly with respect to dissolved oxygen, pathogens, and toxic substances.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: TMDL implementation, MS4 permit implementation, wetlands protection. Elements of this project prevent or mitigate the impacts of nutrient pollution.

### **Task 2016-1C: New York State Coordination (Ongoing Activity) - \$129,379 Requested**

Partners & Roles: The State Coordinator is a NEIWPCC employee; NEIWPCC provides management support. The NYSDEC provides daily supervision and office space/support, as well as input and support on relevant topics.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Habitat protection/restoration, stormwater control, and nutrient management (Related CCMP Actions: M-2.3, CCMP Page 10-17).

Objectives: The objectives of this task are to protect and restore aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and attain water quality system-wide that supports all designated uses and achieves all applicable standards, particularly with respect to dissolved oxygen, pathogens, and toxic substances.

Description: This task continues support of a full-time state coordinator to work in the NYSDEC Bureau of Marine Resources in East Setauket, NY. The incumbent coordinates NYS participation in the PEP, with an emphasis on habitation protection/restoration, stormwater control, and nutrient management.

### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Advance habitat restoration efforts; produce annual implementation report, implement and continuously update the Habitat Restoration.
- Advance eelgrass management initiatives (work with State Seagrass Coordinator to implement NYS Seagrass legislation); prepare annual implementation report (ongoing).
- Support design of five habitat restoration conceptual designs (2016).
- Implement subwatershed management plans (ongoing)
- Assist east end municipalities in implementing MS4 permit requirements, subwatershed management plans and establishment of Inter-municipal Agreement (ongoing).
- Plan and carry out *Ludwigia peploides* management/control event(s) on the freshwater Peconic River (as needed) (ongoing).
- Participation in tidal wetlands assessment projects (ongoing).
- Assist in implementing the Peconic nitrogen and pathogen TMDLs (ongoing).
- Advance efforts to eliminate barriers to fish passage, particularly on the mainstem Peconic River (ongoing).
- Maintain effective communication with East End municipalities regarding habitat protection/restoration, and

pathogen and nutrient management. Continually seek funding opportunities and establish necessary partnerships (ongoing).

- Assist with periodically reporting (every 3-5 years) on environmental indicators identified in the CCMP, and direct the production of a citizen's guide to this indicators report, such as a "State of the Bay" publication (see Task 2015-3A-3B) (2016).
- Continue to support a nonpoint source (NPS) workgroup and with the workgroup develop a TMDL Implementation Strategy to address NPS nitrogen loads, including technical, regulatory, cultural, and financial considerations. Identify road-blocks to nitrogen load reduction and outline potential solutions. Use this strategy to help stakeholders understand what is needed to achieve the nitrogen load reduction goals called for in the TMDL (2015-2016).
- Finish development of an Environmental Indicators Report with data inputs from the TAC, program stakeholders, and other agencies. A subcommittee of the TAC will contribute and review this document (2016).
- Assist TAC and Outreach Coordinator to develop a "State of the Bay" publication to summarize the environmental indicators report and other available information, as needed, to inform the public about the status and trends of the environmental quality of the Estuary (see Task 2015-3A-3B) (2016).
- Implementation of Sebonac Creek subwatershed management plan pilot project (2016).
- Implementation of one or more projects from the Conceptual Habitat Design project. Issue Request for Proposal and implement (2016 - 2017).
- Support program with required reporting through NEPORT and federal workplan (ongoing).

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: See "Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones"

Intermediate: Stakeholders (governments at all levels and citizens) are implementing habitat protection efforts and restoration projects, stormwater control measures, and practices to eliminate or reduce nutrient and pathogen loadings. There is increased understanding of factors that are adversely impacting tidal wetlands and eelgrass and management options are developed to address them.

Long Term: Terrestrial and aquatic habitats support healthy and diverse populations of commercially, recreationally and ecologically important species (especially eelgrass and diadromous fish) and water quality that supports all designated uses and achieves all applicable standards, particularly with respect to dissolved oxygen, pathogens, and toxic substances.

Change in Pressure Targets: Preserved, protected and restored habitats; reduction in pathogen and nutrient loadings and stormwater volumes.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: TMDL implementation, MS4 permit implementation, wetlands protection. Elements of this project prevent or mitigate the impacts of nutrient pollution.

#### **Task 2016-1D: Program Management - \$8,851**

NEIWPC proposes to support staff time for NEIWPC Lowell staff to continue management of PEP-related grants and contracts and supervision of the NYS Coordinator. Funding will mainly support the NEIWPC Project Manager, but also the Director of Water Quality Programs (for oversight of program management support) and the Deputy Director (for preparation of grant applications and paperwork).

Responsibilities of the NEIWPC Project Manager include:

- Support PEP management of the tasks listed above;

- Prepare annual workplans and budgets for grants;
- Manage budgets;
- Lead and participate in the hiring process for open positions;
- Set up and manage agreements with participants of homeowner rebate program;
- Set up and manage agreements with other contractors/vendors;
- Process travel reimbursements and invoices;
- Communicate with PEP Program Director and EPA Project Officer on regular basis; and
- Supervise PEP Office staff in consultation with NYSDEC and SCDHS.

### **Task 2016-2A: Water Quality Monitoring, Ongoing Activity - \$75,200**

Partners & Roles: SCDHS conducts long term periodic monitoring; CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Assess environmental conditions in the Peconic Estuary and refine management programs as necessary. Water column nitrogen and dissolved oxygen concentrations are useful in assessing progress toward TMDL implementation and verifying modeling efforts. (Related CCMP Actions: N-1, N-9, N-10 CCMP pages 3-21, 3-22 and 3-36 to 3-40).

Objectives: SCDHS monitors water quality of surface and marine waters within the Peconic Estuary. SCDHS will assess water quality and bathing beach data and provide PEP with an annual water quality summary report. The NADP monitoring station will also be maintained.

Description: The water quality monitoring program conducted by the SCDHS Office of Ecology includes monthly monitoring at approx. 40 Peconic surface water quality stations throughout the year, periodic monitoring of approx. 30 point source and stream stations, and weekly monitoring at the NADP rain and atmospheric deposition gauge. Water quality monitoring is essential to evaluate the effect of TMDL implementation on the environment, 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 estuary on the 303(d) list for dissolved oxygen and pathogen violations and in developing the nitrogen TMDL for select segments in the Western Estuary. Funds support approximately 0.72 FTE marine monitoring program staff. These measures are necessary to assess the implementation of TMDLs for pathogens and nitrogen; prevalence of harmful algal blooms; shellfish bed closures; occurrences of bathing beach closures, and qualitative water quality goals.

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Monitoring data made publically available (ongoing)
- Annual report on data collected (spring)

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: See “Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones.” 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.

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. Data collected by these monitoring efforts inform periodic reporting, including environmental indicators reports and “State of the Bay” publications, and support adaptive management.

Long Term: Water quality that supports all designated uses and achieves all applicable standards, particularly with respect to dissolved oxygen, pathogens, harmful algae, and toxic substances.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: Identifying Polluted Waters and Developing Plans to Restore Them (TMDLs): Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads; addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution

### **Task 2016-2B: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Long Term Monitoring and Management (a.k.a. SAV Monitoring), Ongoing Activity - \$30,000**

Partners & Roles: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Marine Program

Objectives: Evaluate success of seagrass restoration efforts. Refine habitat restoration site suitability indices (based on light, temperature, and seagrass extent) used in planning the extensive seagrass habitat restoration program funded by PEP and its partner agencies, primarily NYS and Suffolk County. Additionally, these data contribute to scientific studies and will be used in future seagrass management plan developed through the New York State Seagrass Protection Act.

Description: Monitoring of seagrass survival and bed expansion resulting from previous habitat restoration efforts. Long-term measurements of seagrass extent and deep edge location at 6 historical sites, measurements of light, temperature, and sediment conditions at these sites.

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Annual report summarizing methods and results, including maps of seagrass bed extent (current and change) and analyses of relationships between water and sediment quality parameters and seagrass success.
- Annual reporting, periodic status and trends assessments corresponding to Environmental Indicators Report schedule.

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: See “Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones.”

Intermediate: Information to inform update of habitat restoration strategy for seagrass in light of climate impacts (specifically increasing water temperatures).

Long Term: Progress toward PEP goal to increase seagrass acreage by 10%. Development of science-based regulatory programs to protect existing seagrass.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: Protecting Wetlands

### **Task 2016-2C: National Atmospheric Deposition Program (a.k.a. NADP Monitoring), Ongoing Activity - \$15,000**

Partners & Roles: Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Ecology is responsible for sample collection; University of Illinois (cations) and Frontier Global Sciences, Inc. (mercury) are responsible for data analysis; University of Illinois National Atmospheric Deposition Program is responsible for data assessment, reporting, and coordination with the national network; Mercury Deposition analyses are funded through a partnership with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

Objectives: Evaluate success of Clean Air Act policies and program in reducing atmospheric deposition of nitrogen in the Peconic region. Track progress toward nitrogen TMDL goals.

Description: Monitor local atmospheric deposition of major cations in precipitation. Monitor local mercury deposition in precipitation.

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Data available online, Quarterly reports of results and collection/analytical issues.

- Annual reporting, periodic status and trends assessments performed by PEP and EPA staff as needed (e.g. 5-year TMDL assessment)

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: See “Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones.”

Intermediate:

Long Term: Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads

Clean Water Act Core Programs: Identifying Polluted Waters and Developing Plans to Restore Them (TMDLs): Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads; addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution.

### **Task 2016-3A: Public Education & Outreach (Ongoing Activity) - \$100,000**

Partners & Roles: NEIWPC and Education and Outreach Contractor, in cooperation with the Program Office and Management Conference.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: P.O.E-5.1, P.O.E-5.4, P.O.E. -5.5, P.O.E-5.7, CCMP pages 8-16, 8-17

Objectives: Coordinate and conduct public education and outreach for the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP).

Description: The education and outreach program will enhance visibility of the PEP within the community, invigorate a commitment of the community to protect and restore the Peconic Estuary, coordinate a representative and engaged Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) who advocates for program goals and provides input on priorities and concerns to the Management Committee, track behavioral changes within the community that meet PEP’s protection and restoration goals and documentation of perception and behavior change resulting from PEP education and outreach program.

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

##### 1. Citizens Advisory Committee

- Continuation of CAC initiatives and regularly held meetings with the CAC. Work with representative members of the CAC to coordinate municipal board involvement.
- Plan, advertise, recruit participants, co-host and support quarterly (with CAC Chair.) Recruit ambassadors to engage citizens as liaisons between towns and the PEP.
- Work with the CAC to facilitate PEP outreach activities in participation and implementation of “Call to Action Conference” topics.
- Maintain and increase participation in the CAC, with emphasis on the CCMP update.
- Maintain current and create new social media and digital communication with the CAC to promote engagement between in-person meetings.
- Ensure that PEP is represented at community events at least once a month

##### 2. Outreach Materials

- Create, establish, and continually update a PEP presence, based on current social marketing techniques and methods. Current social marketing efforts should be maintained.
- Produce three program newsletters that are available as an e-mail and on-line.
- Conduct public education efforts related to improve, protect, or enhance habitat issues

- Conduct public education and outreach efforts related to the CCMP revision, residential stormwater control, nutrient reduction, green infrastructure, etc.
  - Host one annual conference for estuary stakeholders and elected officials
3. Green Infrastructure Homeowner Rebate Program and Residential Nutrient & Toxin Management Program
- Administer and recruit applicants for the ongoing PEP Homeowner Rewards Program Conduct outreach on the rebate program to increase community (residential) participation.
  - Process homeowner applications for proposed project installations. Conduct site visits to confirm and document implementation of installations.
  - Coordinate with NEIWPC to process payment once installation has been confirmed.
  - Track installations/scope of the rebate program and report on the estimated environmental benefits of the program to encourage further support and participation in the program.
  - Implement a fertilizer/pesticide reduction program to achieve quantifiable behavioral change.
  - Engage a variety of groups to participate in the program.
  - Continue to create and maintain demonstration projects.
4. Citizen Science and Volunteer Opportunities
- Conduct Annual Long Island Alewife Survey training prior to the alewife run.
  - Host at least one Coastal Clean-up event and collecting, reporting, and summarizing results.
  - Participate in one Ludwigia (invasive species) removal event hosted by the NYSDEC.
  - Facilitate PEP’s continued participation in A Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary.
  - Conduct additional outreach events strategically planned to further the program goals including:
    - Community Stormwater Stewardship Program,
    - Naturalist Tours Led By Leading Biologists from PEP Partner Organizations,
    - Raingarden Demonstrations, Planting Events, and Maintenance,
    - Participate in NYSDEC Horseshoe Crab Spawning Surveys and Tagging.
5. Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan Revision
- Engage stakeholders and involve them in the development and review of the CCMP revision.
  - As a member of the CCMP Core Team develop a implementation strategy for the timeline of the revision
  - Develop a public input strategy within the first year of the CCMP revision (2016 contract period) that will consist of making contact with all stakeholders within the estuary.
  - Prioritize themes based on initial public from public hearing and comment periods before the final revision is released.
  - Dedicate time during CAC meetings to discuss the CCMP revision and working in small breakout groups to identify key details and being initial drafting of the document.

## 6. PEP Blueways Trail

- Develop a paddle trail throughout areas of the Peconic Bays that exhibits the diverse ecosystems within the Estuary.
- Coordinate with CAC members to complete this project and in cooperation of the inter-municipal agreement.
  - Coordinate public access and parking sites, paddle navigation channels, and educational kiosks/habitat signs through a “blazed” trail using metal signs posted in shallow areas that would not interfere with shellfishing activities or boating channels.
- Trail maps will be available through all print and online platforms.
- A kickoff paddling sports event will take place toward the end of the contract period to introduce completed portions of the trail.

### Anticipated Outcome

Short Term: Creation of social media, website and hard copy outreach and education material.

Long Term: Reinvigorate environmental advocacy in CAC and communities in the Peconic Estuary watershed.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: N/A

### Green Infrastructure Homeowner Rewards Program and Resident Nutrient Management

This year the Homeowner Rewards Program outreach strategy is to reach landscapers and retail/wholesale distributors to introduce this program to their customers. We conducted an outreach table at the Long Island Horticulture conference where landscapers come for county certification and gave a presentation of the program to landscapers and organic/native minded professionals at Perfect Earth Project conference. We have also achieved the following:

- Have had 5 viable applications and 10 projects still in progress from last year.
- Rewards program social media outreach has resulted in a reach of 4,200 people, 261 visits to the website, and 37 shares.
- Reaching a new crop of nurseries and garden centers (connections with the CCE Horticulture mailing lists).
- Developing a fertilizer/pesticide behavior survey via Survey Monkey and outreach strategy for Big Box stores using guidance from Tampa Bay NEP.
- PEP partners to post a link to Rewards website on their own websites. (i.e. New Suffolk Waterfront Fund and local township natural resource departments).

The second quarter will see a large focus on promoting gardens to mitigate stormwater pollution as well as the Rewards Program. We have educational events planned at the existing Big Duck native plant garden and are planting a raingarden in downtown Riverhead with the help of the Town of Riverhead. We have partnered with the local chapter of Surfriders to collaborate with their national Ocean Friendly Gardens campaign. We plan to have a presence at Earth Day events and local PTA plant sales. Finally, we plan to help organize a possible raingarden training for landscapers in July in partnership with CCE's Horticulture Department.

## **3.2 Program Office Tasks**

In addition to the projects listed above that will be funded with §320 funds, and those listed below under *New and Ongoing Project Information*, the PEP Program Staff will be working on the following tasks not funded through the FY16 § 320 Budget:



## **Task 1- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP)**

Partners & Roles: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) are, in partnership with numerous local governments and interested organizations on Long Island

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: N-3., N-5., N-8., N-9. CCMP pages 3-24, 3-28, 3-35, 3-36.

Objectives: The LINAP will provide an assessment of conditions based on existing data. Groundwater quality and quantity, and surface water quality. The plan will determine nitrogen load reduction targets as well as alternatives and strategies to meet those targets.

Description: The Peconic Estuary Program will be heavily involved in developing the planning scope that will be used to develop a plan envisioned by the New York State Governor and Legislature. In the 2015-2016 State Budget appropriated \$5,000,000 for services and expenses related to a Long Island nitrogen management and mitigation plan. The Peconic Estuary Program has remained involved in the development of this scope, realizing this scope may be modified as conditions evolve or more information becomes available, and we believe that LINAP is very well aligned with the nitrogen reduction strategies PEP has laid out in our 2015 Action Plan and Nitrogen Workgroup Summary Document. It is also well-aligned with the work occurring in some of the East End towns and villages on water quality. Through LINAP PEP will work to provide information that local governments need to reduce nitrogen loading.

Estimated Budget: N/A

### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Assess nitrogen pollution in Long Island Waters. Identify Sources of nitrogen and impacted water bodies. Establish nitrogen reduction endpoints, and develop implementation plan to achieve reduction endpoints

### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: Assembling available studies, characterization of waterbody residence times, identification of tiered priority areas, estimation of preliminary load reductions for surface waters, evaluation of and development of load reduction goals for public water supply wells, review of wastewater alternatives and preparation of a draft wastewater plan.

Long Term: Mitigating nitrogen pollution, prioritizing/targeting areas based on the more rigorous analytical analysis for achieving estuarine specific ecological endpoints and cost effective analysis of mitigation alternatives.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them; addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution.

## **Task 2- Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement Consulting Services**

Partners & Roles: Suffolk County Department of Health Services Department will serve as the liaison between the Contractor, LI NAP, the LISS, and other stakeholders

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: N-3., N-5., N-8., N-9. CCMP pages 3-24, 3-28, 3-35, 3-36

Objectives: Suffolk County is seeking to contract with a consultant for the preparation of a Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan (SWP) and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS).

Description: The purpose of the SWP will be to provide a wastewater management plan specific to all parcels within the priority subwatersheds of Suffolk County in order to meet the County's first order of nitrogen load reduction goals

for surface water restoration and the protection of groundwater and drinking water. The SWP is to be completed as an early action element of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan ("LI NAP") and will be expected to guide County wastewater policy by providing a map and narrative depicting the location, number, and location specific-methodology for required sanitary upgrades using a phased approach linked to current and predicted ecological and public health risks. Preparation and execution of the SWP will also serve a critical role in the County Reclaim our Water Initiative. The SWP is expected to be constructed upon a solid foundation of qualitative and quantitative technical evaluations that rely and expand on previous studies and data sources. Preparation of the SWP will follow a classical management plan approach, and will be a complement to LI NAP, with data sets and outputs used for both a LI NAP Early Action Strategy and a full LI NAP Plan. Whenever possible, cross collaboration will also be pursued with similar initiatives such as the Long Island Sound Study ("LISS"). Note that the Department will serve as the liaison between the Contractor, LI NAP, the LISS, and other stakeholders to ensure that the SWP is prepared in accordance with the goals of each program. Peconic Estuary Program will advise the administration of the contract and coordinate program nitrogen management actions to complement both LINAP and Suffolk County's nitrogen management plans.

Estimated Budget: N/A

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Identifying ecological endpoints (desirable conditions in surface waters) for individual estuaries or embayments around Long Island to restore/protect estuarine health and function as well as groundwater resources.
- Establishing estuarine or embayment specific nitrogen loading targets based on:
  - Preliminary rapid assessments for immediate reduction actions
  - Development of more specific reduction targets based on higher precision estuarine modeling for meeting ecological endpoints
- Developing sub-watershed plans including:
  - Action plans which contain near term actions that will reduce nitrogen pollution to groundwater and surface waters

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: Establishment of subwatershed boundaries and nitrogen load calculation for watersheds. Establishment of a nitrogen load reduction goal and development of wastewater alternatives for priority tiers in the watershed and the creation of Subwatershed Wastewater Plans.

Long Term: Development of strategies to manage nitrogen pollution

Clean Water Act Core Programs: Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them; addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution.

### **Task 3- Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Revision**

Partners & Roles: Peconic Estuary Program , partners and stakeholders within the watershed. EPA will provide guidance and review of the revised CCMP

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: M-1.- M-6. pages 10-15

Objectives: Revision of the PEP CCMP

Description: The Peconic Estuary Program is proposing to use funds dedicated to the Peconic Estuary in the 2015 NYS budget to directly support revision of the Peconic Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan published in 2001 (<http://peconicestuary.org/ccmp/index.php>). The revision, recommended by the USEPA, will not only guide the program, but will articulate the regional consensus about the most important

environmental challenges now facing the Peconic Estuary and the priority actions needed to address those challenges. The revised CCMP will address the current priority issues in the Peconic Estuary will be the blueprint by which the PEP directs its resources and efforts at the region's priority problems and challenges over the next decade. The revision of the Peconic Estuary CCMP will be accomplished through a robust stakeholder process that brings together all levels of government and all sectors of the community surrounding the Peconic Estuary. PEP is requesting proposals for writing support, facilitation support and graphic design for the CCMP revision and working closely with the State University of New York ("SUNY") during the completion of the CCMP revision process and contracting. The CCMP revision is scheduled to take place in 2016, 2017 and 2018, during this time all aspects of outreach efforts will be aimed at collecting public opinion and recruiting community involvement to include priority concerns within the estuary communities. PEP and the Education and Outreach staff at Cornell Cooperative Extension will implement the timeline for revision which will include initial public input on priority themes and public hearing and comment periods.

Estimated Budget: NYSDEC: \$200,000 (FY15).

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Draft CCMP and incorporate Core Team comments into CCMP draft
- Implement outreach and public comment strategies
- Draft final CCMP which includes synthesis of partner, HQ and Regional EPA and public comments

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: Revise PEP CCMP to guide the program and address the priority management issues in the watershed

Long Term: Provide a long-term plan to manage the Peconic Estuary watershed and provide the basis for future funding on priority issues

Clean Water Act Core Programs: Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them; addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution, protecting wetlands, protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program, protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems.

### **Task 4-Fish Passage**

Partners & Roles: Peconic Estuary Program, Suffolk County, NYSDEC, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, East End towns and villages.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: HLR-12.2, pages 4-54

Objectives: Support fish passage construction in the Peconic River and its tributaries

Description: During the upcoming year PEP and its partners are working towards opening up acres of freshwater spawning area to diadromous fish through the completion of fish passage projects. PEP will continue to support the design, permitting and construction of fish passage throughout the Peconic River.

a. Woodhull Dam- The Engineering Design and Permitting Services for Construction of a Fish Passage at the Woodhull Dam, Town of Riverhead contract is in the final stages of being completed through Suffolk County Parks and funding for the construction of the dam is being pursued through a NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grant. If the funding is awarded to Suffolk County Parks, construction is planned to begin in 2018. 95 acres of freshwater habitat will be opened with project completion. PEP applied for the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grants in partnership with Suffolk County Parks to fund the fish passage construction.

Estimated Budget: TBD

b. Edwards Avenue Dam- A structurally damaged NYSDEC owned dam is currently undergoing construction for a fish passage for alewife and an eel pass for American Eel. The fish passage will open up 35 acres of freshwater

spawning habitat.

Estimate Budget: N/A

c. Upper Mills Dam- PEP will begin contracting to complete the Engineering Design and Permitting Services for Construction of a Fish Passage at the Upper Mills Dam, Town of Riverhead within the coming year. The Upper Mills Dam is an earthen embankment with an asphalt/concrete road on top and two (2) parallel spillways located approximately 2.9 miles from the mouth of the Peconic River in Flanders Bay. The northern banks of the Peconic River at this location are located in the Town of Riverhead, while the southern banks are located in Southampton. The dam is currently owned by PSEG but is maintained by the Town of Riverhead. A hydrological study of the Peconic River watershed was conducted in 2005 in association with the Grangabel Part Fish Passage Project. This project will open forty (40) acres of historic spawning and maturation habitat for diadromous fish within the Peconic River. Target species that will benefit from the restoration are the Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), Blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), and American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).

Estimated Budget: Suffolk County Capital Funds

d. Forge Road Dam- Plans are underway to replace the structurally damaged Forge Road Dam and to construct a fish passage. The dam is owned by the Town of Brookhaven. PEP is assisting Brookhaven Town and County for culvert replacement, and RFP for fish passage construction.

Estimate Budget: N/A

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Successful completion of fish passage design, permitting and construction.

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: Support the restoration of access to freshwater spawning habitat for diadromous fish populations in the Peconic River and tributaries.

Long Term: Restoring and strengthening ecosystem services, fish and wildlife of the Peconic Estuary will benefit from access to critical habitat, increased biodiversity and restoration of historic food webs.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems.

### **Task 5- PEP Program Evaluation**

Partners & Roles: Peconic Estuary Program. EPA will provide review of the program.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: M-1.- M-6. pages 10-15

Objectives: Peconic Estuary Program CCMP implementation evaluation

Description: The Peconic Estuary Program will complete a Program Evaluation in 2017. The purpose of the EPA Program Evaluation is to help the EPA determine whether the 28 programs included in the National Estuary Program (NEP) are making adequate progress implementing their CCMPs and how well the NEPs support Clean Water Act core programs. The evaluation process enhances the EPA Headquarters and Regional knowledge of each individual NEP and promotes sharing of innovative projects and approaches across all 28 NEPs.

Estimated Budget: N/A

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Program management core elements response
- NEP workplan narrative summary
- Budget summary

- EPA on-site visit

### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: Evaluate progress of PEP towards implementing the CCMP.

Long Term: increase the objectivity and consistency of PEs among the different NEPs; further align the Program Evaluations with individual NEP CCMP priorities and related NEP annual work plans; measure progress in achieving programmatic and environmental results over the short-term, intermediate, and long-term stages of progress; and better document reductions and/or changes in pressures on coastal watersheds.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them; addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution, protecting wetlands, protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program , protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems.

### **Task 6- Community Preservation Fund**

Partners & Roles: Peconic Estuary Program, Towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Shelter Island, Riverhead and Southold

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: CLPP-5, CLPP-6, F-1, F-3, F-10, F-11

Objectives: Generate a new, local-government based funding source to support PEP Base programs and for CCMP implementation.

Description: In 2015, New York State. passed legislation to extend the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) until 2050, and to allow up to 20% of those funds to be utilized on water quality improvement projects. Additionally, up to 10% of the water quality portion can be provided directly to the Peconic Estuary Program to support base program functions and facilitate PEP assistance to municipalities. Each town must develop a plan for the spending of the CPF funds, and approve the plan by voter referendum. PEP staff will work with towns to develop these plans to be consistent with the PEP CCMP, where appropriate, and may assist towns in the administration of these funds once the programs begin.

Estimated Budget: N/A

### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Meetings with local governments and CPF committees
- CPF water quality improvement plans that are consistent with the PEP CCMP
- Short term plans for projects that will be accomplished in concert with PEP
- Outreach to citizens about the CPF and its relationship to PEP CCMP

### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: Successful referendum allowing CPF funds to be dedicated to PEP operations and CCMP implementation.

Long Term: increased diversity and stability in PEP program funding, long-term consistent source of CCMP implementation funds, enhanced involvement of local government in PEP, increased pace of CCMP implementation

Clean Water Act Core Programs: (2)Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them; (4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution, (5) protecting wetlands, (6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program

### **Task 7- New York State MS4 General Permit and Peconic Estuary Protection Committee**

Partners & Roles: Peconic Estuary Program, Towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Shelter Island, Riverhead and

Southold; Villages of Greenport, North Haven, Sag Harbor, Suffolk County, NYS DOT, NYS DEC

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals & Related CCMP Actions: P-1, P-12

Objectives: Participate in workgroup helping NYS DEC draft and review update MS4 general permit for small MS4s..

Description: In 2016, NYS DEC, a key partner in PEP, is due to issue a new MS4 general permit. This permit and the work done to comply with it is an important driver of stormwater management activities within the PEP watershed. PEP has been instrumental in coordinating between our local governments and NYS DEC on issue surrounding the old permit and it is essential that we work, with our local government partners, to ensure that the new permit is even better for controlling pathogen and nitrogen pollution within the PEP watershed. PEP created and now participates on the Peconci Estuary Protection Committee, and inter-municipal coalition of local governments working to protect water quality and reduce nutrient and pathogen loading to the Peconic Estuary.

Estimated Budget: N/A

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Meetings with local MS4s, protection committees, and NYSDEC
- Key input to ensure tha the MS4 general permit for NYS is applicable on Long Island and Long Island's unique issues (e.g. fast-draining soils, ubiquitous cesspools) are addressed appropriately in the permit.

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: A new NYS MS4 General Permit that furthers CCMP implementation

Long Term: decreased point an dnon-point source stormwater loading of pathogens and nutreints into surface waters; opening of closed shellfish beds, prevention of beach closures

Clean Water Act Core Programs: (2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads), (3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits), (4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution, (5) protecting wetlands, (6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program

### **Task 8- Research and Habitat Restoration**

#### **a. Peconic Estuary Program Eelgrass Assessment Services**

Partnerships & Roles: The Program Office in the Office of Ecology in the Division of Environmental Quality in the Suffolk County Department of Health Services will a contract with The Research Foundation of State Univeristy of New York at Stony Brook.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: N-1.2 CCMP page 3-22, HLR 6.1, 6.2, 7.5, 8.3, 16

Objectives: This task will fund two related eelgrass research projects to examine the combined effects of light and temperature on eelgrass physiology and survival. It will help us better understand the causes of the decline in eelgrass over the last few decades and allow us to develop a targeted management strategy to address the factors causing a continued decline and preventing the population from rebounding. It will also inform the PEP restoration strategy and ultimately, increase restoration success.

Description: An Request for Proposals(RFP) was issued by Suffolk County to solicit proposals from Stony Brook University, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and any other interested parties. Peconic Estuary Program Eelgrass Assessment Services RFP contract will commence with the selected proposer, The Research Foundation of State University of New York at Stony Brook, in May, 2016. The intent of the Services is to obtain specific information

to inform eelgrass management and restoration programs to lead to a better understanding of specific light and temperature requirements for eelgrass in the Peconic Estuary as well as the factors that contribute to reduced light conditions throughout the Peconic Estuary.

This information will provide an improved site suitability index and an improved ability to make management decisions for eelgrass protection and restoration within the Peconic Estuary. Building on a previous PEP-funded project, specific light, temperature, and combined light-temperature thresholds for eelgrass health and survival will be developed for the Peconic Estuary by measuring physiological parameters in eelgrass plants during the critical times of high-temperature, low-light, and high shoot mortality. This will result in an improved site suitability index for eelgrass restoration, improved understanding of the combined effects of multiple stressors, increased success of future restoration efforts, and the ability to target preservation and restoration efforts differently in different areas of the estuary, if necessary.

This project will develop a bio-optical model specific to the Peconic Estuary, quantifying the relative contributions of water-column constituents to light attenuation. This will allow us to determine what the causes of reduced water clarity are, identify which components are dominant in different zones of the estuary, and will quantify the relative contribution from phytoplankton (one main pathway of the effect of increased nitrogen loading). This information is a critical step in the path toward quantifying the nitrogen load that the estuary can tolerate and the setting of nitrogen load limits designed to preserve the natural ecosystem in the Peconic Estuary.

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds: \$35,311 (FY 11); \$46,689 (FY12).

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Approved QAPP
- Field sampling and analysis of water quality and bio-optical model
- Light, temperature and combined thresholds for eelgrass survival
- Site suitability index and final report

#### Anticipated Outcomes:

Short Term: Optical model (to determine what is decreasing light available to eelgrass, and what pollutants or activities need to be managed, including determining nitrogen loads for eelgrass protection (in addition to achieving dissolved oxygen standards)) .Peconic-specific light and temperature thresholds for eelgrass survival (including the combined effects).

Intermediate: Increase understanding of light limits of seagrass plants under different temperature conditions so that numeric nutrient criteria can be established for the maintenance of sufficient light for plant survival. Increased light availability for healthier eelgrass due to the implementation of regulatory and voluntary programs to manage for nitrogen loadings, suspended sediment, or other factors.

Long Term Outcomes: Recovery of eelgrass in the Peconic Estuary, providing enhanced habitat for shellfish and finfish, improved sediment stability and oxygenation.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: (potentially: water quality standards, TMDLs, water quality)

#### **b. Peconic Estuary Climate Ready Assessment Services**

Partners & Roles: The Program Office in the Office of Ecology in the Division of Environmental Quality in the Suffolk County Department of Health Services will issue an RFP from qualified entities.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: CLPP-1.-7. CCMP Page 7-14.

Objectives: Update the Peconic Critical Lands Protection Strategy, taking into account climate related variables,

specifically sea level rise, in order to update acquisition priorities and to provide climate change analysis of the environmental restoration and protection programs of both the PEP and Shinnecock Indian Nation

Description: Generally, acquisitions, conservation easements, and purchases of development rights are tracked by the Peconic Estuary Program and the towns. Developed parcels can be removed from the available lands inventory. The criteria originally used to prioritize available parcels have not been reviewed or updated in a substantial way in about 10 years. With the availability of good climate change projections and the recent development of local, reliable, GIS-based sea level rise prediction tools through the PEP and the Nature Conservancy, the PEP would like to update its Critical Lands Protection Strategy, taking into account climate related variables, specifically sea level rise in order to update acquisition priorities.

We envision overlaying the 50 and 100 year sea level rise predictions over the CLPS maps, and re-evaluating the original prioritization strategy. The product of this CLPS re-evaluation would be a new Critical Lands Protection Strategy and new maps prioritizing parcels for protection/acquisition with the goal of protecting water and habitat quality. This updated, climate-ready, strategy would be used by State, County, Town, and Village governments to assist in their open space preservation and land acquisition planning and would inform local and regional smart-grown initiatives. It would also be used by non-profit organizations which seek to preserve and protect the environment through the preservation of critical lands. Finally, it could be used to inform outreach efforts that encourage private citizens and organizations to consider selling land, development rights, or conservation easements to such municipal or not-for-profit entities for the purpose of water quality and habitat protection. This strategy would serve as an example for climate-based modifications to land protection and development in other coastal communities on Long Island and throughout the country. The Peconic Estuary Climate Ready Assessment Services request for proposals (RFP) for the Services will be advertised and a contract will be started within the coming year. The intent of the Services is to better prepare the PEP and its partners for the impacts of climate change. The Services include two (2) projects: Project 1: Climate Change Assessment of the PEP Critical Lands Protection Strategy, and Project 2: Peconic Estuary Program and Shinnecock Indian Nation Climate Vulnerability Assessment.

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds: \$20, 878.39 (FY09 Public Participation, CCE (incl. Ag Stew)); \$153 ( FY09 Conceptual Habitat & Land Use); \$3,550 (FY11 US Geological Survey- Water Qual Mont); \$8,800 (FY11 PEP Talk Newsletter); \$35,000 (FY 12 Climate Ready Estuaries CLIPS Updates); \$30,000 (FY14 Climate Vulnerability Assessment). \* FY09 and FY11 funds were rebudgeted to the Climate Ready Estuaries project in 2016.

#### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- The updated Critical Lands Protection Strategy and a completed Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the PEP and SIN.

#### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: This project will result in the creation of a new, Climate-Ready Critical Lands Protection Strategy for the Peconic River. This revision to the existing strategy will result in the generation of new maps prioritizing land parcels for acquisition and protection with the goal of protecting water and habitat quality. Additionally, the Services are required in order for the PEP and SIN to be able to assess the climate change vulnerabilities of the environmental restoration and protection programs of both the PEP and SIN (Project to be initiated in 2016 and completed in 2017).

Intermediate: Like the original critical lands prioritization, this new strategy, that prioritizes parcels based on climate predictions as well traditional criteria, will be used by the Peconic Estuary Program, Suffolk County, other municipalities within the Peconic Estuary watershed, and other Program partners, such as non-profit organizations, to target land acquisition and protection efforts to maximize the benefits to the Peconic Estuary. The Services will also identify methods to ensure that current and future programmatic actions take climate risks and vulnerabilities into account in all phases of planning, designing, and execution by assessing how the PEP's [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) ("CCMP") priorities and the SIN management plan will most likely be affected by climate change.



Long Term: This project will result in the protection and acquisition of lands that will continue to preserve and improve water and habitat quality in the face of rising sea levels and increased temperatures. It will allow for the natural inland migration of critical salt marsh habitats as sea level rises and preserve living shorelines in an environment where shoreline hardening is likely to become increasingly common. The information resulting from the Services will serve as an important tool for New York State, Suffolk County, and local agencies. The Services will be a critical step towards updating the current PEP CCMP and addressing a long-term goal of prioritizing management actions and planning within the Peconic Estuary watershed. It will be a first step towards the PEP and SIN working together toward climate adaptation by assessing our highly overlapping climate vulnerabilities.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: (not applicable)

**c. Peconic Estuary Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Plan Services**

Partners & Roles: Peconic Estuary Program, contract partners TBD.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: HLR-7 CCMP Page 4-40

Objectives: 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.

Description: Use Program Priority Living Resource and CCMP Tasks funds to fund the Peconic Estuary Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Plan Services. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Services was advertised in April 2016 and a contract will be started within the coming year. These services will result in "Peconic Estuary Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Plans", feasibility assessments, conceptual designs/ plans and planning-level cost estimates for four designated habitat restoration projects identified in the 2009 Peconic Estuary Program Habitat Restoration Plan. In support of implementing the 2009 PEP Habitat Restoration Plan and completing the thirty-two projects listed as not yet initiated in the 2014 Implementation Progress Report: Habitat Restoration Plan, the PEP Natural Resource Subcommittee (NRS) has identified the four sites to be: Southold: Narrow River Road, Southampton: Iron Point Wetland Restoration, East Hampton: Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement, and Riverhead: MH-2 Main Road Wetland Construction.

Estimated Budget: §320 funds: \$100,000 (FY 10)

Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Conceptual habitat designs by 2018

Anticipated Outcome

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 timely 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.

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.

## Task 9- Peconic Estuary Program Website Redesign and Development

Partners & Roles: Peconic Estuary Program , contract partners TBD.

CCMP & Annual Workplan Priority Topics/Goals: Related CCMP Actions: POE-1-8 CCMP Page 8-8.

Objectives: NEIWPCC will act as the contracting agency for this project and oversee the development of a redesigned Peconic Estuary Program website carried out by a consultant.

Description: The contract for the services is expected to begin within the coming year. The Peconic Estuary Program has invited proposals from qualified contractors to redesign the PEP website, [www.peconicestuary.org](http://www.peconicestuary.org). The purpose of this project is to create an updated website using primarily existing content; the site should feature responsive design, include an open-source content management system, and be optimized for search engine visibility. PEP's website serves as the organization's primary mode of communicating to the public and provides a key means of delivering information to the public, our committees, and state and federal partners.

Estimated Budget: New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NIEWPCC) §320 Funds Agreement No. CE-97230301 (\$30,000)

### Outputs/Deliverables & Milestones

- Redesigned Peconic Estuary Program website expected by December 2016.
- 

### Anticipated Outcomes

Short Term: A new Peconic Estuary Program website.

Long Term: Increased capability to promote PEP events, research and work and volunteer opportunities to public. Improved method of communication for CCMP revision process.

Clean Water Act Core Programs: N/A

## 4. Areas of Special Interest

**Nitrogen Management:** Nutrient Reduction is the primary focus of PEP. We have been working diligently with our Technical Advisory Committee to advance our own efforts to refine non-point source loading estimate and then update the N TMDL implementation plan. The Nitrogen Workgroup, a sub-committee of the TAC, has discussed and defined a nitrogen modeling plan. Simultaneously, we have invested a great deal of staff and committee time to coordinating with our partners in New York State, Suffolk County, US EPA, and the US Geological Survey to coordinate and leverage related efforts with similar goals. The regional focus on nitrogen load reduction that PEP has helped to foster has generate large state and county investments in this problem and PEP looks forward to collaborating with these partners to finally make progress on one of the most difficult PEP CCMP goals to implement.

- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) ( See Section 3.2: Task 1)
- Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement Consulting Services (See Section 3.2:Task 2)

**Climate resilience:** PEP continues work on two Climate Ready Estuaries initiatives, including a vulnerability assessment. We have also been co-hosting training sessions and participating in events to build knowledge and capacity on the issue in our region. We have begun to do a rapid assessment of climate resilience as we plan projects with partners or support efforts in the area. We are also working with Suffolk County to ensure that climate resilience considerations are included in the major wastewater planning efforts they are undertaking.

- Peconic Estuary Climate Ready Assessment Services (See Section 3.2:Task 6b.)

## 5. Status of Ongoing and Completed Major Projects

### Ongoing:

#### **Critical Lands Protection Strategy; Ongoing**

Project/activity Objective(s): Revise Critical Lands Protection Strategy to account for climate change impacts.

Project/activity Description: Re-evaluate the Critical Lands Protection Strategy to include climate change impacts. Develop updated prioritization scheme and apply it to all parcels remaining vacant or underdeveloped.

Partners and Their Role(s): To be accomplished via contract, not yet awarded.

Outputs/Deliverables: Make list and geographic-format data available to municipalities and other organizations that protect land. Displays will be presented to interested parties by PEP staff and/or the contractor.

Estimated Milestones: Contract expected in 2016, expected completion 2017.

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds: \$35,000 (FFY 2012 Climate Ready Estuaries)

Long-term Outcomes: Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads

CWA core program(s): Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads); addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution

#### **Partner Grants; Ongoing**

Project/activity Objective(s): to coordinate and conduct public education and outreach for the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP).

Project/activity Description: The PEP has historically offered Partner Grant opportunities (formerly known as Mini-Grant opportunities) to local entities to carry out small scale projects as they relate to PEP CCMP priorities. The Partner Grant Program was offered in 2004, 2006, 2009 and 2015. In each round, local municipalities, civic groups, academic institutions and non profits carried out an array of projects in support of PEP objectives, the grant application can be for any amount between \$1,000 and \$5,000. There are four Partner Grant contracts awarded in 2015. Three out of four are still ongoing and will be completed by December 2016.

Partners and Their Role(s): SCDHS Office of Ecology will oversee the development and implementation of the partner grants. Ongoing contracted Partner Grant projects include:

- Conscience Point Shellfish Hatchery Corp.Educational Program Services; completed: Educational materials and brochures for Southampton Town’s Founder’s Day Event and provide an educational program for families and an aquaculture program and bioremediation reef tour.
- Quality Parks, Inc Educational Program Services; ongoing: Preparation of Quality Parks Master Naturalist educational materials that include information on nutrient pollution reduction, climate change and sea level rise, preserving and restoring landscapes and stormwater runoff reduction via green infrastructure techniques for a certification program entitled “Quality Parks Master Naturalist”. Perform seven promotional sessions and seven educational sessions to the community within the Peconic Estuary.
- Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission Educational Program Services; ongoing: Provided training services to educators within the community to facilitate the collection and supply of data to estuary-wide research.Provided a citizen science, research educational program entitled “ A Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary”.
- Peconic Green Growth Educational Program Services;ongoing: Map water quality conditions and parcel data in the Peconic Estuary.

Outputs/Deliverables:Education and outreach programs according to Partner Grant. Final reports detailing education and outreach programs funded by the Partner Grant.

Estimated Milestones:Contracts to be completed in December 2016.

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds: \$15,000 (FFY 11)

Long Term Outcomes: These projects will generate products that assist in long term public awareness of the estuarine environment and/or encourage long term active public participation in protecting and restoring the Peconic Estuary.

CWA core program(s): N/A

**Public Education and Outreach; Ongoing**

Project/activity Objective(s): Cultivate an informed public who supports Program objectives; Foster a sense of stewardship of the estuary in the public; Facilitate the involvement of a broad groups of stakeholders in Program goal setting and implementation.

Project/activity Description: This program seeks to engage the public in protection and restoration of the estuary by hosting events, conducting educational activities, providing information to the public (generally and through targeted stakeholder engagement), and facilitating the involvement of existing community groups in Estuary Program activities. Facilitates the functions of the Citizens Advisory Committee and ensures stakeholder input to the Management Committee.

Partners and Their Role(s): Accomplished via contract, currently: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and CAC Chairperson, Kevin McDonald.

Outputs/Deliverables: Determined annually via workplan. Includes CAC meetings, outreach events, stewardship activities (e.g. beach clean-ups, plantings), etc.

Estimated Milestones: Report on progress annually; quarterly CAC meetings and quarterly updates to Management Committee.

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds: \$100,000 annually [ongoing]

Long-term Outcomes: Informed citizenry that supports Program objectives and generates political and financial support for the Estuary Program. Improved individual and community behavior that is protective of estuarine resources. Increased sense of stewardship for the Peconic Estuary among the citizens who use it.

CWA core program(s): N/A

**Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Long Term Monitoring and Management; Ongoing**

Project/activity Objective(s): Evaluate success of seagrass restoration efforts. Refine habitat restoration site suitability indices (based on light, temperature, and seagrass extent) used in planning the extensive seagrass habitat restoration program funded by PEP and its partner agencies, primarily NYS and Suffolk County. Additionally, these data contribute to scientific studies and will be used in future seagrass management plan developed through the New York State Seagrass Protection Act.

Project/activity Description: Monitoring of seagrass survival and bed expansion resulting from previous habitat restoration efforts. Long-term measurements of seagrass extent and deep edge location at 6 historical sites, measurements of light, temperature, and sediment conditions at these sites.

Partners and Their Role(s): Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Christopher Pickerell

Outputs/Deliverables: Annual report summarizing methods and results, including maps of seagrass bed extent (current and change) and analyses of relationships between water and sediment quality parameters and seagrass success.

Estimated Milestones: Annual reporting, periodic status and trends assessments corresponding to Environmental Indicators Report schedule.

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds \$15,000 annually [ongoing]

Long-term Outcomes: Progress toward PEP goal to increase seagrass acreage by 10%. Development of science-based regulatory programs to protect existing seagrass.

CWA core program(s): Protecting Wetlands

**National Atmospheric Deposition Program; Ongoing**

Project/activity Objective(s): Evaluate success of Clean Air Act policies and program in reducing atmospheric deposition of nitrogen in the Peconic region. Track progress toward nitrogen TMDL goals.

Project/activity Description: Monitor local atmospheric deposition of major cations in precipitation. Monitor local mercury deposition in precipitation.

Partners and Their Role(s): Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Ecology is responsible for sample collection; University of Illinois (cations) and Frontier Global Sciences, Inc. (mercury) are responsible for data analysis; University of Illinois National Atmospheric Deposition Program is responsible for data assessment, reporting, and coordination with the national network.

Outputs/Deliverables: Data available online, Quarterly reports of results and collection/analytical issues.

Estimated Milestones: Annual reporting, periodic status and trends assessments performed by PEP and EPA staff as needed (e.g. 5-year TMDL assessment)

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds\$10,000 annually [ongoing]); partnership with NYSERDA funding for mercury analytical costs [ongoing].

Long-term Outcomes: Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads.

CWA core program(s): Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads); addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution

### **Continuous Water Quality Monitoring; Ongoing**

Project/activity Objective(s): High frequency measurements of key water quality parameters to allow long-term trend assessment of climate and other incremental changes; estimates of frequency, severity, and duration of hypoxia and anoxia.

Project/activity Description: Water quality parameters, including dissolved nitrate and dissolved oxygen, salinity temperature, chlorophyll and turbidity as well as water depth measured in high frequency, and available in near-real-time, online and available to the public.

Partners and Their Role(s): United States Geological Survey.

Outputs/Deliverables: Annual data report, real-time data downloadable via the internet, incorporated by PEP staff into State of the Bays Report and used by researchers and partner other agencies.

Estimated Milestones: Annual data report within one year of collection.

Estimated Budget): Funded through the USGS and NYSDEC.

Long-term Outcomes: Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads; Assessment of frequency and duration of hypoxia.

CWA core program(s): Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)

### **Long Term Periodic Water Quality Monitoring; Ongoing**

Project/activity Objective(s): An understanding the status and trends of water quality in the estuary and the data necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions.

Project/activity Description: Sampling and analysis of samples of physical and chemical parameters indicative of water quality and pollution impacts throughout the estuary and its tributaries. Annually, these data will be summarized and compared to previous years' data.

Partners and Their Role(s): Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

Outputs/Deliverables: Annual report summarizing the year's data, comparing status and trends to previous years, making recommendations for changes to the monitoring program going forward.

Estimated Milestones: First annual report to be completed before the end of 2014.

Estimated Budget: \$320 funds: 75,000 annually) ongoing; \$125,000 annually Suffolk County Funding

Long-term Outcomes: Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads; Assessment of factors impacting ecosystem health

CWA core program(s): Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads); Establishing the Standards to Measure Success

### **Completed:**

#### **Inter-municipal Agreement for Stormwater Management** (Creation of Peconic Estuary Protection Committee)

CCMP Goals: P-2 Demonstrate and Implement Technologies to remediate Stormwater Run-off; P-12 Identify Sources and Loadings of non-point sources of Pathogens; P-14 Obtain Funding to address stormwater runoff; N-5 and P-13 Implement Non-point Source control Plans (for Nitrogen and Pathogens, respectively)

Lead Project Implementers: PEP Protection Committee Program Coordinator and East End Towns and Villages.

Accomplishments and project deliverable(s):

- Coordinator hired and began work March 2015 and contract renewed for another year in March 2016.
- Municipalities pay yearly dues now fund the Program Coordinator position.
- RFP for Peconic Estuary Monitoring Program QUAPP currently being drafted.
- Committee worked together to provide comments on Draft NYS 2016 Section 303(d) List of Impaired/TMDL waters.
- Provided input on the DEC's MS4 permit update

CWA core programs:

- Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads) – supporting
- Addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution - supporting

External Constraints: none

**Conscience Point Shellfish Hatchery Educational Program Services- Partner Grant**

CCMP Goals: POE-7.3, CCMP page 8-21.

Lead Project Implementers: SCDHS Office of Ecology will oversee the development and implementation of the partner grants.

Accomplishments and project deliverable(s):

- Conscience Point Shellfish Hatchery completed educational programs designed to encourage action-oriented stewardship at the Southampton Town's Founder's Day event at Conscience Point.
  - o Educational materials and brochures completed.
  - o Educational program, aquaculture program and tours of bioremediation reef.
  - o Final report summarizing the services and evaluating the effectiveness of the services to the community.

CWA core programs: N/A

External Constraints: none

**6. Required Documentation of CWA §320 Funds Used for Travel**

**Suffolk County Staff Trips Anticipated for FFY 2017**

Date	Meeting/Event	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Estimated Cost
Dec. 8-15 2016	ANEP/RAE	Tech Transfer	New Orleans, LA	1	\$2000
Feb. 2017	NEP-EPA HQ	Tech Transfer	Washington DC	1	\$1500

Trips Taken During FFY 2016:

Date	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Final Cost
Dec. 1-4 2015	NEP/ANEP	San Juan, Puerto Rico	1	1475.75
Feb. 22-25 2016	NEP-EPA HQ	Washington DC	1	1314.70

Trips Expected to Occur Between Date of Submission and End of FFY2016:

Date	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Estimated Cost
May-August 2016	NYS MS4 workgroup	Albany NY	1	\$300

**NEIWPCC Staff Trips Anticipated for FFY 2017**

Date	Meeting/Event	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Estimated Cost
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Feb. 20-24, 2017	NEP meeting - EPA HQ	Tech Transfer	Washington, DC	2 (NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator)	\$1,500 each; \$3,000 total
September 6-8, 2017 (approximation)	NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator annual performance appraisals and PEP Management Committee meeting	Conduct annual performance appraisals for PEP-NEIWPC staff and attend PEP Management Committee meeting	Yaphank, NY East Setauket, NY	1 (NEIWPC Project Manager)	\$700
October 24-25, 2016	NEIWPC All Staff meeting	NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator attend NEIWPC All Staff meeting	Lowell, MA	2 (NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator)	\$500 each; \$1,000 total
December 8-15, 2016	Association of NEPs conference	Tech Transfer	New Orleans, LA	2 (NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator)	\$1,500 each; \$3,000 total

Trips Taken During FFY2016:

Date	Meeting/Event	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Final Cost
Feb 22-25, 2016	NEP-EPA HQ	Tech Transfer	Washington, DC	1 (PEP Coordinator)	\$700**
Nov 4-5, 2015	NEIWPC All Staff Meeting	NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator attend NEIWPC All Staff meeting	Lowell, MA	2 (NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator)	\$300
Dec 1-4, 2015	Association of NEPs conference	Tech Transfer	New Orleans, LA	1 (PEP Coordinator)	\$1,200

Trips Expected to Occur Between Date of Submission and End of FFY2016:

Approximate Date	Meeting/Event	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Estimated Cost
September 7-9, 2016	NYS Coordinator and PEP Coordinator annual performance appraisal and	Conduct annual performance appraisals for PEP-NEIWPC staff and attend PEP Management Committee	East Setauket, NY	1 (NEIWPC Coordinator)	\$500

\* Best estimate based on actual costs for hotel, meals, and ferry and estimate for vehicle expense. Actual final cost will be available when the next quarterly financial report becomes available in July 2016.

	PEP Management Committee meeting	meeting			
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### III. BUDGET DETAILS

#### 1. Resources Requested

The total requested in this PEP grant to Suffolk County Department of Health Services is **\$263,000**.

The total requested in this PEP budget amendment to New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) is **\$337,000**. Together these two components make up the full Peconic Estuary Program FFY2016 workplan for a total grant request of **\$600,000**.

The \$263,000 allocated to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services is distributed among the following budget categories:

Suffolk County Budget Detail 2016 Workplan	Total Requested from EPA	Total Cost Share Provided by Applicant	Total
Personnel - wages and salary	<b>\$141,700.00</b>	<b>\$82,500.00</b>	<b>\$224,200.00</b>
Program Director: Marine Biologist @ \$3488 biweekly	\$92,200.00	\$0.00	\$92,200.00
Monitoring Personnel: Chemist @ \$2748 biweekly	\$27,200.00	\$45,300.00	\$72,500.00
Monitoring Personnel: Boat Operator @ \$2259 biweekly	\$22,300.00	\$37,200.00	\$59,500.00
Fringe Benefits - FICA (7.65%), health (\$1674 fam/\$785 individual per month), retirement (19.60), benefit fund (\$1456 per year)	<b>\$72,300.00</b>	<b>\$42,700.00</b>	<b>\$115,000.00</b>
Program Director	\$46,600.00	\$0.00	\$46,600.00
Chemist	\$15,500.00	\$25,800.00	\$41,300.00
Boat Operator	\$10,200.00	\$16,900.00	\$27,100.00
Travel - 2 national conferences including lodging, air/train/mileage, per diem, and conference fees; local travel to meetings & site visits	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
Supplies - miscellaneous office, outreach and field supplies	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Other - sub awards to extend existing relationships, as per Suffolk County procurement procedures; WQPRP: County Grant Program as outlined in local law	\$45,000.00	\$137,800	\$182,800.00
Ongoing Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring via NADP	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00



Ongoing SAV Monitoring via Cornell Cooperativ Extension	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program (WQPRP) Projects & Suffolk County Capital Projects	\$0.00	\$137,800.00	\$137,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$263,000.00</b>	<b>\$263,000.00</b>	<b>\$526,000.00</b>

The \$337,000 allocated to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission is distributed among the following budget categories:

<b>NEIWPC Budget Detail 2016 Workplan</b>			<b>Task 1C: NYS Coordin ation</b>	<b>Task 1B: Program Coordinat or</b>	<b>Task 3A: Outreach/ Education</b>	<b>Task 5: Program Managem ent</b>	<b>Total Federal Costs</b>	<b>Non- Federal Match</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>
			<b>0307-001</b>	<b>0307-002</b>	<b>0307-003</b>	<b>0307-005</b>		<b>0307-006</b>	-
<b>Personnel</b>	<i>Hrs</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<b>\$76,435</b>	<b>\$57,086</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,637</b>	<b>\$138,158</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$138,158</b>
Deputy Director (MA)	7.5	\$82.12	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$616	\$616	\$0	\$616
Director of Water Quality Programs (MA)	15	\$69.02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,035	\$1,035	\$0	\$1,035
Environmental Analyst II (MA)	75	\$39.81	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,986	\$2,986	\$0	\$2,986
Environmental Analyst II (NY)	1920	\$39.81	\$76,435	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$76,435	\$0	\$76,435
Environmental Analyst I (NY)	1700	\$33.58	\$0	\$57,086	\$0	\$0	\$57,086	\$0	\$57,086
<b>Fringe</b>			<b>\$28,281</b>	<b>\$21,122</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,739</b>	<b>\$51,142</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$51,142</b>
Full time (37.5% of MA Personnel)			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,739	\$1,739	\$0	\$1,739
Full time (37% of NY Personnel)			\$28,281	\$21,122	\$0	\$0	\$49,403	\$0	\$49,403
<b>Travel</b>			<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
			\$2,500	\$3,500	\$0	\$1,000	\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000

<b>Equipment</b>			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Supplies</b>			\$600	\$600	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200
<b>Contracts</b>			\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Outreach and Education			\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
<b>Other</b>			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$337,000	\$337,000
Non-Federal Match			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$337,000	\$337,000
<b>Total Direct</b>			\$107,816	\$82,308	\$100,000	\$7,376	\$297,500	\$337,000	\$634,500
<b>Indirect (20% of Total Direct for FY16)</b>			\$21,563	\$16,462	\$0	\$1,475	\$39,500	\$0	\$39,500
<b>Total Federal Costs</b>			\$129,379	\$98,769	\$100,000	\$8,851	\$337,000	\$0	\$337,000
<b>Non-Federal Match</b>			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$337,000	\$337,000
<b>Total Project</b>			\$129,379	\$98,769	\$100,000	\$8,851	\$337,000	\$337,000	\$674,000
<b>Procurement</b>			\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0

**Personnel:** Total hours for FY2016 is 1.91 FTEs.

NEI does not provide annual salary and other confidential information.

**Fringe Benefits:** Costs for health and accident insurance, FICA, unemployment, worker's compensation and retirement are based on historical data and are calculated, annually, as a percentage of personnel costs. The 2015 fringe rate for NEIWPC full time NY staff is 37% and full time MA staff is 37.5%.

**Indirect Cost:** The EPA approved Indirect Cost for FY16-17 is calculated at 20% of the direct cost.

The Commission utilizes 2 CFR Section 200 to determine its indirect rate and submits the appropriate paperwork to EPA.

Non-Federal Match: Match is provided by the NYSDEC.

## 2. Non-Federal Contribution

Suffolk County will provide **\$125,000** in matching funds toward water quality monitoring, and an additional **\$137,800**, comprised from projects funded through the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program (WQPRP) and Suffolk County Capital Funds. NYSDEC will provide **\$337,000** (estimated to be spent during the grant period). Details of match are still being determined.

## 3. Cooperative Agreement Allocations For 2016

The Federal Fiscal Year Award is expected to be awarded by Suffolk County Cooperative Agreement CE-992002-19. The table below details the agreement.

Grant/Amendment Number	CE-992002-19-0	Total CE-992002-19
Federal Fiscal Year	FFY 2016	
1. Personnel	\$141,700.00	\$141,700
2. Fringe Benefits	\$72,300.00	\$72,300.00
3. Travel	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
4. Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
6. Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00
7. Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00
8. Other	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
9. Total Direct Charges	\$263,000.00	\$263,000.00
10. Indirect Costs: % Base	\$0.00	\$0.00
11. Total (Share: Recipient 50.00 % Federal 50.00 %.)	\$263,000.00	\$263,000.00
12. Total Approved Assistance Amount		
13. Program Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
14. Total EPA Amount Awarded This Action		
15. Total EPA Amount Awarded To Date		

The Federal Fiscal Year Award is expected to be awarded by New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission Cooperative Agreement CE-97230302. The table below details the agreement.

Attachment A - Total Line Item Budget  
 Peconic Estuary Program  
 Budget Period: 10/01/2015 - 9/30/2018  
 Project Period: 10/01/2015 - 9/30/2018  
 Grant # 97230302  
 5/12/2016

	Existing Grant	Amendment #1	Total Grant
<b>Personnel</b>	\$138,369	\$138,158	\$276,527
<b>Fringe</b>	\$48,521	\$51,142	\$99,663
<b>Travel</b>	\$2,580	\$7,000	\$9,580
<b>Equipment</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Supplies</b>	\$95	\$1,200	\$1,295
<b>Contractual</b>	\$39,130	\$100,000	\$139,130
<b>Other</b>	\$263,000	\$337,000	\$600,000
Postage & Mailing		\$0	\$0
Copies		\$0	\$0
Non-Federal Match	\$263,000	\$337,000	\$600,000
<b>Total Direct</b>	\$491,695	\$634,500	\$1,126,195
<b>Indirect</b>	\$34,305	\$39,500	\$73,805
<b>Total Federal Costs</b>	\$263,000	\$337,000	\$600,000
<b>Non-Federal Match</b>	\$263,000	\$337,000	\$600,000
<b>Total Project</b>	\$526,000	\$674,000	\$1,200,000
<b>Total Procurement</b>	\$39,130	\$100,000	\$139,130

**See Amendment #1 Budget Breakdown by Task**

**Fringe Benefits:** Costs for health and accident insurance, FICA, unemployment, worker's compensation and retirement are based on historical data and are calculated, annually, as a percentage of personnel costs. The FFY2016 fringe rate for NEIWPCC full time MA and NY staff is 37.5% and 37.0%.

**Indirect Cost:** The Indirect Cost for FFY2016 is calculated at 20% of the direct cost. The Commission utilizes 2 CFR Section 200 to determine its indirect rate and submits the appropriate paperwork to EPA HQs. The rate is approved annually by the NEIWPCC Executive Committee and Commission and EPA HQs.

**Non-Federal Match:** Match is provided by the NYSDEC.