



PECONIC INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR WATERSHED & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) has initiated and funded a pilot effort to establish a framework for collaboration of 12 east end municipalities to work together towards water quality improvements in the Peconic Estuary. The concept is to establish an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) focused on water quality protection by all the municipalities within the surface water contributing area of the Peconic Estuary. This effort has been underway for several years and has had very positive participation and feedback from the 12 municipalities within the watershed. We are reaching out to you to gather your support and participation for the adoption of the IMA.

KEY PARTICIPATION BENEFITS

- **Improve Water Quality:**

- Fisheries and tourism industries are a significant driving force to the East End economy
- Water quality is an important issue to the taxpaying & voting public.
- Coordinated efforts to educate the public on the impacts of pollutants to the Peconic Estuary will help minimize impacts to commercial/recreational fisheries and reduce bathing beach closures.
- The watershed is shared; therefore collective efforts are essential to achieving water quality improvements.



- **Proven Success:**

- On Long Island, 37 municipalities have agreed to participate in IMAs of this nature, with additional IMAs currently being drafted.
- Several of these agreements are long-standing efforts (15+ years), attesting to the benefits of cooperative efforts.
- These IMAs have successfully worked together on wide range of issues including water quality monitoring and efforts to open waters to shellfishing, MS4 compliance, sanitary system maintenance, invasive species control, restoration and stormwater improvement projects, etc.
- Existing IMAs in Long Island have been awarded millions of dollars in grant funding

- **Attract & Leverage Grant Funding:**

- Funding agencies are more likely to award funds to multi-party consortiums over a single municipality (more "bang for their buck"). Each grant application made by a single municipality will be competing against other existing consortiums (Hempstead, Manhasset, and Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbors, numerous counties throughout NYS).
- IMA would establish a "coordinator" responsible for identifying and securing funding for collective use.





- **Dedicated Coordinator for Priority Issues:**

- A Coordinator dedicated to this effort ensures members are kept informed on the important issues that affect them, assists in prioritization of key issues each year, ensures collaborative efforts, and provides leadership for municipalities with limited staff time and budgets.
- A dedicated Coordinator will keep participating municipalities up-to-date on changing permit requirements, compliance issues, aware of grant opportunities and resources, and reduce duplicative efforts by municipal staff.
- Coordinators of other Long Island IMAs collaborate together and provide a single point of contact for each region. This allows for efficient and effective communication and provides an easy way to get the word out on collective opportunities and on Long-Island wide issues of importance.

- **Cost-Effective MS4 Permit Compliance:**

- The IMA provides an opportunity for cost savings and reductions in many duplicative efforts required by the DEC Stormwater MS4 Permit.
- Opportunities for shared resources include:
 - public education materials,
 - draft ordinances,
 - municipal training programs,
 - shared website of resources,
 - facility good housekeeping best management practices,
 - goose management, etc.
- An organized consortium is favorably viewed by NYS & EPA regulators during program audits.



- **Positive Message for East End:**

- By opting into the IMA, the municipality can share in the positive message and press associated with collectively joining other East End municipalities in efforts to collectively improve water quality, and promote smart, money saving government.

- **Immediate Implementation of MS4 Permit Requirements:**

- Participating municipalities will be eligible for the immediate implementation tasks completed by the PEP funded project to initiate the IMA, which include:
 - Grant application for funding the cost of the Coordinator position.
 - Illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) program guidance document
 - IDDE training program
 - Municipal operations "Good Housekeeping" training
 - Municipal facility audit template "checklist"
 - Goose Management training
 - Template Goose Management Plan

