

**Peconic Estuary Partnership  
Policy Committee (PC) Meeting**

**May 15, 2024  
10am – 12:30pm**

**LOCATION:**

NEW Town of Riverhead Town Hall  
**3rd Floor Conference Room**

[4 W 2nd St, Riverhead, NY 11901](#)  
[Google maps link](#)

**May 15th, 2024 Zoom Recording:**

<https://youtu.be/w3MDImfaSz4>

<b>Briefing Materials Package:</b>
<a href="#">Link to Briefing Materials Folder</a>
<b>October 2023 Joint PC &amp; MC Minutes</b>
<b>FY24 Suffolk County Workplan &amp; Budget</b>
<b>FY24 Stony Brook University Workplan &amp; Budget</b>

**Agenda:**

*A quick review of Policy Committee representation changes:*

**PEP Policy Committee members:**

**Chair: Jennifer Juengst** (Suffolk County Executive Office)

**Cathy Haas**, Regional Director (NYS DEC, Region 1)

**Al Krupski**, Supervisor, Town of Southold (Local Government Representative)

**Kevin McDonald**, (Citizens Advisory Committee Chair)

**Javier Laureano**, Water Division Director (EPA Region 2)

**10:00** Welcome & Policy Committee Roll Call – Jennifer Juengst Committee Chair

**10:05** Review and approval of Policy Committee meeting minutes from joint meeting October 11,2024

**ACTION: Policy Committee vote to approve of October 11, 2023 minutes**

- *Motion Approved, no objections*

**10:10** Presentation of Suffolk County FY24 Workplan activities & budget (Joyce Novak, PhD, PEP Executive Director)

**ACTION: Policy Committee vote to approve Suffolk County FY24 Workplan.**

- *Motion Approved, no objections*

**10:30** Presentation of Stony Brook University FY24 Workplan activities & budget (Joyce Novak, PhD, PEP

Executive Director)

**ACTION: Policy Committee vote to approve Stony Brook University FY24 Workplan.**

- *Motion Approved, no objections*

**11:30** PEP Updates (PEP Program Office)

- Note Management Committee updates
  - Addition of voting body: Shinnecock Indian Nation
  - Local Government Representative: Councilwoman Cate Rogers
- NY NEP Tech Transfer co-hosting with LISS & NY/NJ HEP: November 13-15, 2024
- PEP Committee Updates
  - Update on Agricultural Stewardship working group, **Corey Humphrey**
  - Peconic Bay Scallop Technical Review Committee, **Chris Clapp**
  - Local Government Committee, **Chairperson TBD**
  - PEPC, **Coordinator TBD**
  - Citizens Advisory Council, **Kevin McDonald**
  - Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative, **Joyce Novak**
  - Technical Advisory Council, **Matt Sclafani**
  - PEP Program Office Update
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funded Project Updates
- PEP Active Project Updates
- PEP Outreach Updates

**12:15** Public Portion / Additional Comments

**Thank you!**

2024 Policy Committee meetings:

- October 30, 2024 Joint Policy & Management Meeting

## **Meeting Summary**

The meeting covered a wide range of topics related to the Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP) and its initiatives. The Suffolk County FY24 work plan and budget are presented, allocating funds for water quality monitoring, submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring, and the National Atmospheric Deposition Program. The Stony Brook University work plan and budget are discussed in detail, including personnel costs, outreach efforts, water quality projects, climate resiliency initiatives, and funding allocations from various sources like EPA, New York State, and local governments. Updates are provided on ongoing projects such as microplastics research, wetland restorations, culvert upgrades, and shoreline adaptation efforts. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding and associated projects are highlighted, including stormwater management, wetland restorations, water access improvements, and support for innovative wastewater treatment systems. Progress on aquatic connectivity and salt marsh restoration goals is also

mentioned. The meeting concludes with a brief discussion on the (PEPCC chairperson position and the Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District.

**Reference timing:** <https://youtu.be/w3MDImfaSz4>

*00:00:24 Roll Call and Approval of Minutes*

The meeting begins with roll call, confirming the attendance of voting members, representatives from various agencies, and online participants. The minutes from the previous meeting on October 11, 2023, are approved, and the BIL Year Three work plan is formally approved.

*00:03:30 Suffolk County FY24 Work Plan and Budget*

The Suffolk County portion of the FY24 work plan is presented, for Suffolk County Department of Health for water quality monitoring, for submerged aquatic vegetation annual monitoring (an increase from previous years), and for the National Atmospheric Deposition Program. The work plan is approved by the Policy Committee.

*00:05:38 Stony Brook University Work Plan and Budget*

The Stony Brook University work plan and budget are discussed in detail, covering personnel costs, travel expenses, website maintenance, the Geospatial Center tracking system, the Homeowner Rewards program, staff training, and communication services. The budget also includes funding for water quality projects, outreach efforts, climate resiliency initiatives (shoreline adaptation work and a climate workshop), and support for various partners and programs. The total budget includes EPA, New York State, and local government funds.

*00:33:12 Program Office and Committee Updates*

Updates are provided on the Program Office, including new staff hires and positions being filled. Committee updates are given, covering the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) focus on climate change-related issues, the Citizens Advisory Committee's (CAC) education efforts in Albany, and the Local Government Committee's discussions on scaling up the septic improvement program. Ongoing projects and initiatives are also mentioned, such as microplastics research, wetland restorations, culvert upgrades, and shoreline adaptation efforts.

*01:06:18 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding and Projects*

The meeting highlights the additional funding received through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the associated projects being undertaken. These include stormwater management projects (Meeting House Creek, Havens Beach), wetland restorations (Riverside Wetlands), water access improvements (Broad Cove), discharge coordination (Goose Creek), and support for innovative wastewater treatment systems (IA Support for LMI Households). The 'Changes' project, focused on utilizing combinations of Kelp, oysters, and seagrass to mitigate climate change impacts, is also discussed.

*01:16:06 Progress on Aquatic Connectivity and Salt Marsh Restoration Goals*

The meeting notes the progress made towards the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) goals for aquatic connectivity and salt marsh restoration. The aquatic connectivity goal of 242 acres in 10 years has already achieved 203 acres in 5 years, with the opening of several barriers like Grangebelle and Edwards Avenue. Additionally, 105 acres of salt marsh restoration are either in planning or implementation stages for 2023 and 2024, out of the 10-year goal of 250 acres.

*01:17:23 (PEPC) Chairperson*

The meeting briefly discusses the (PEPC) chairperson position, with the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District expressing intent to partner with the PEPC and potentially take on the coordinator leadership role through an updated inter-municipal agreement with more details to come.

Member Attendance:

**PEP Policy Committee members:**

**Chair: Jennifer Juengst** (Suffolk County Executive Office)

**Cathy Haas**, Regional Director (NYS DEC, Region 1)

**Al Krupski**, Supervisor, Town of Southold (Local Government Representative)

**Kevin McDonald**, (Citizens Advisory Committee Chair)

**Javier Laureano**, Water Division Director (EPA Region 2) Elizabeth Butler, EPA Representative

Absent members: Al Krupski, Javier Laureano, Cathy Haas

Additional Attendees

Joyce Novak (PEP), Sue Van Patten (NYDEC), Corey Humphrey (Soil & Water Conservation District), Kaitlyn Boyle (Soil & Water Conservation District), Rachel Friedman (PEP), Valerie Virgona (PEP), Matthew Sclafani (TAC Chair & CCE), Jim Colligan (Shelter Island, prev.LGC Chair)