

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – February 6, 2019

Cornell Cooperative Extension
423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead
10:00am - 12:00 pm

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)
Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Vice Chair)
Town of Southold | Michael Collins
Town of East Hampton | Mark Abramson
NYS DOT | Gregg Williams

Additional Participants

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator
Scott Curatolo-Wegeman | Cornell Cooperative Extension
Corey Humphrey | Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

The meeting was called to order at 10:10

I. Review and Approval of 12/5/18 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary will be emailed to committee members for approval via electronic vote.

II. Committee Chair and Vice Chair Positions

Drew Dillingham (Town of Riverhead) and Veronica King (Town of Brookhaven) have agreed to continue in their positions as Committee Chair and Vice Chair for another year.

III. Work Plan –

The Committee reviewed the proposed Work Plan for the Coordinator. Some of the activities suggested and modifications to the work plan are listed below.

- Social media campaign – the Coordinator will work with the Peconic Estuary Program and other program partners to develop an outreach program which will highlight topics of concern in the Estuary, such as nitrogen pollution, plastics, fertilizer, etc. Messages will be designed to be shared on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram by program partners. It is planned to conduct the campaign between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Print materials will also be developed, and will be placed in libraries and municipal offices during this time period.
- The semi-annual reporting requirement will be suspended until the NYS DEC TMDL is revised. Nitrogen reporting will continue to apply to Riverhead and Southampton.

- A compilation of relevant model codes, such as rain gauges on home watering systems, on agricultural/commercial systems, wetlands provisions, conditional release program (Brookhaven – stormwater) will be conducted
- A Municipal Manual focusing on Minimum Control Measures (MCM) 3- 6 : Public Education and Outreach consisting of guidance documents will be created. Michael Collins suggested the following:
 - Start with the draft MS4 permit and review very specific procedures which can be used for compliance purposes. These procedures could consist of a SIMPLE flow chart, checklists, etc.
 - The manual will be designed to be printed by municipalities and placed in a three ring binder for ease in updating
 - SWPPP review procedures will be included.

IV. Budget

A draft budget was presented. Potential uses of funds, including purchase of water quality monitoring sondes, other equipment, printing costs, as well as what amount to hold in reserve, were discussed. A revised budget will be circulated to the Committee.

V. QAPP

The members of the PEPC participating in the Technical Advisory Subcommittee in development of the QAPP will be Pat Aitken, Veronica King and Michael Collins. There was discussion about what the Committee would like to see as part of the QAPP. Michael Collins expressed he would want Pathogen sampling – specifically of Maratooka Lake and other waterbodies that DEC will not sample.

VI. TMDL Development Status Update

- The next meeting of the TMDL Development Workgroup will be on February 28 at 1:00 pm at the Suffolk County Water Authority Education Center. Michael Collins can't be there but will send written comments to Pat Aitken to present at the meeting.
- There was discussion to how to respond to the information request from the DEC regarding Municipal Readiness and Community Commitment. It was noted that many of the waterbodies were incorrectly assigned to municipalities. It was decided that a response will be drafted to be sent to the DEC, and will include the following points: a) The list is incomplete, certain waterbodies that are on 303d list are not on it and others that are coming off it are on; b) members of the PEP Committee are willing to work with NYSDEC to develop a rubric, however, the Committee does not believe that inventorying municipal readiness and community commitment is a proper way to start; c) The Committee believes the focus should be on aspects such as mapping of administratively closed areas, water quality data or the lack thereof, and linking rainfall to water quality data, and that at the current time there is no way to quantify waterfowl contribution; d) Reiterate that this process will not work unless the people who will be regulated are represented and are part of the process. There should be a larger component of municipal involvement. The NYSDEC should not be relying solely on protection committees, as not all municipalities are part of a PC.

VII. **Member Updates**

- East Hampton is exploring the use of solar walkways and driveways and will be installing a demonstration walkway at their municipal offices.
- A Joint Protection Committee meeting is scheduled for May 16 at the Friends of the Bay office in Oyster Bay. An agenda will be circulated when it is finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30

Next Meetings: 4/3, 6/5, 8/7, 10/2, 12/4