

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – August 5, 2020

Held Via Conference Call

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)
Suffolk County | Frank Castelli
Town of Shelter Island | John Cronin
Town of East Hampton | Mark Abramson, Kim Shaw

Additional Participants

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator
Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski
Scott Curatolo-Wagemann | Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sarah Schaefer | Peconic Estuary Partnership
Elizabeth Hornstein | Peconic Estuary Partnership

The meeting was called to order at 10:05

I. Discussion and Approval of the June 4 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary was approved.

II. QAMP Development

The most recent version of the QAMP was received on August 4 and was circulated to the QAMP review committee and to Michael Collins for review and comment. Pat will schedule a meeting the week of August 24 to review this version. Significant progress has been made and it is believed that this version will be very close to final. When finalized, the QAMP will be sent to NYSDEC and USEPA for review and approval. Pat said that SOPS and QAPPS are currently being developed for coliforms, nitrogen and sediment sampling, and that if there is anything else that a municipality might want to monitor for, that they advise her now.

III. TMDL Development

A TMDL Workgroup meeting was held on Wednesday, July 29. There was very little new information provided, and the focus continues to be on the western embayments. During the course of the meeting, it was stated that it is anticipated that Spring Pond, West Harbor – Fisher's Island, Budds Pond, Wickham Creek and Tribs and Dering Harbor will be removed from the 2018 303(d) list. There was no word on when that list will be published.

IV. Outreach Initiatives for 2020

- a. Outreach initiatives will continue to be through social media.

- b. The committee has a new website at www.peconiccommittee.org. Pat asked members to review the website and give suggestions for inclusions, etc. Some of the pages link back to the Peconic Estuary Partnership. Pat will continue to update and modify pages as appropriate and will work with Sarah Schaefer.
- c. Estuary-wide Signage project: The RFP for signage was issued by the Town of Southampton on July 17, with a due date of August 26.
- d. Aquarium Sign: The sign was close to completion before the aquarium closed in March. Pat will work with Lauren to see when the sign can be installed at the aquarium, and what kind of publicity can be given to the installation.

V. Member Updates

- a. Sarah Schaefer invited committee members to the PEP TAC meeting on August 19 from 10:00 to 12:30, held via ZOOM. The USGS will give updates on progress made on the Solute Transport Model. The USGS is requesting information from the municipalities on any major subdivisions which were completed either recently or in the past. They are looking to determine possible impacts due to soil disturbance and changes to nitrogen loading.
- b. Elizabeth Hornstein reminded members that this is the time of year when PEP reports to EPA regarding progress on water quality improvement projects and land acquisitions. This year PEP is partnering with LINAP to compile the data.

VI. PEPC Dues

A discussion was held regarding reducing the dues members pay to the PEPC in light of the impacts of COVID 19 on municipal budget. The consensus of the Committee members on the call was that a 50% reduction would be prudent. This reduction is for 2021 only, and the amount of dues collected for 2022 and beyond will be evaluated each year. Since there was not quorum in the meeting today, Pat will email the Committee members for approval of the reduction. If there is a majority vote to approve the reduction, Pat will draft and circulate a motion for approval. The reduced amounts will be:

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| Suffolk County: | \$7,500 |
| Towns | \$3,000 |
| Villages/NYS DOT | \$ 900 |

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.