

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – August 1, 2018

Board Room, Town of Riverhead Town Hall
200 Howell Avenue, Riverhead, NY
10:00am- 12:00pm

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice-Chair)
Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)
Town of Southold | Michael Collins
Town of Southold | Lewis Eastwood
Suffolk County | Elyse JayPeconic Estuary Program | Joyce Novak
Suffolk County | Sara Schaefer

Additional Participants

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee Coordinator | Patricia Aitken
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation & Peconic Estuary Program | Elizabeth Hornstein
Suffolk Soil and Water Conservation District | Corey Humphrey
Village of Sag Harbor | John Parker

Committee Member Representatives Not Present

Town of Shelter Island
Village of Greenport
Village of North Haven
New York State Department of Transportation

I. Discussion and Approval of March 28 and June 6 Meeting Summaries

Summaries will be sent to the committee for review and approval by an electronic vote.

II. Draft 303(d) List

The NYSDEC has issued its Draft 303(d) List, which rescinds the pathogen TMDLs in anticipation of developing new TMDLs. It is anticipated that the new TMDLs could be completed in two years, but this is not certain. The current MS4 permit requires retrofit plans by 2020 and by rescinding the current TMDL any enforcement actions would be avoided. The withdrawal of the TMDLs would allow the DEC to proceed with the new draft MS4 permit. It is anticipated that the new permit will be issued in 4 – 6 months, possibly after the elections.

There have been many issues with the current 303(d) list, due to lack of monitoring which led to improper classification of waterbodies and closures of waterbodies for shellfishing and aquaculture. It was expressed at this meeting that it is critical to get the NYSDEC to develop TMDLS which accurately reflect the current conditions of the waterbodies and to conduct monitoring in a timely manner, and that a strong response from Long Island is needed. Comments on the

303(d) list were due to the DEC by July 30. A conference call to discuss the formulation of member responses was held on June 28, with a subsequent meeting by committee members on July 11. Michael Collins suggested each municipality submit a FOIL request to the DEC for their water quality data, and to start formulating a cover letter to the DEC. Michael will assist Shelter Island and Riverhead with their responses, and he offered his assistance to any interested municipality. Pat Aitken will consolidate all comments, and submit them to the DEC.

Eric Swenson of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee is part of an MS4 Permit Renewal Subcommittee. Pat will contact Koon Tang and request that she be added to that workgroup.

III. Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model

The Solute Transport Module is under development. Municipalities have been requested to provide information to the USGS which will assist in developing the model. Solute transport meetings will be held after each Technical Advisory Meeting (quarterly) and all members are invited to attend.

IV. Peconic Estuary Program CCMP Revision

The PEP is having public meetings in order to solicit input on the revision of the CCMP. In addition to public meetings, comments on the CCMP revision can be made through the Peconic Estuary Program website.

V. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Upcoming Meetings December, 5 at 10:00, Cornell Cooperative Extension 423 N Griffing Avenue, Riverhead

Note: October 3 meeting with NYSDEC will be held at Riverhead Town Hall due to inability to confirm availability of Cornell building.