

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – April 3, 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
Christine Fetten | Town of Southampton

Additional Participants

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator
Joyce Novak | Peconic Estuary Program
Sarah Schaefer | Peconic Estuary Program

The meeting was called to order at 10:10

I. Review and Approval of 2/6/19 Meeting Summary

II. TMDL Development Status Update

The most recent TMDL workgroup meeting was held on April 1, 2019. The DEC is developing TMDLs for the areas studied by the USGS as part of their tracking project. These waterbodies include: Port Jefferson Harbor, north and tidal tribs; Conscience Bay and tidal tribs; Setauket Harbor; Patchogue Bay; Bellport Bay; Lake Montauk; South Oyster Bay and Hempstead Harbor, north and tidal tribs. A “Nassau and Suffolk Impaired Bays Priority List” was distributed by NYSDEC at this meeting. A copy is attached.

Despite repeated requests, a map of administratively closed waterbodies has still not been received. It is noted that areas with no impairments are on the priority list, and areas such as Gull Pond, which is classified as SC is on the list. Michael is trying to get meeting with the FDA to get their input regarding reopening a waterbody. He expressed that the TMDL development process is not balanced among the municipalities on Long Island and doesn't seem to make sense. He questioned why a TMDL would be developed for an area like inner Hempstead Harbor, which is like Flanders or Reeves, which will never be reopened to shellfishing.

The 303(d) list was sent to EPA for review, but there is no timeline for when it will be announced. There is no word on when the revised MS4 permit will be released for public comment.

III. Scope Of Work

The Committee reviewed the draft Scope of Work for the Coordinator.

IV. Budget

A draft budget was presented to the Committee for review. A final budget will be voted on at the June meeting.

V. Joint Protection Committee Meeting

The Long Island Protection Committees will be holding their annual joint meeting on May 16 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will begin at the offices of The Nature Conservancy in Cold Spring Harbor, where Christopher Clapp will give a presentation on the newly completed wastewater treatment system. The meeting will continue at the offices of Friends of the Bay in Oyster Bay, with presentations from Chris Pickerell and Dr. Aaren Freeman on “The Importance of Protecting Shellfish Resources in Long Island Bays” and updates on activities of the Protection Committees by Eric Swenson and on LINAP by Kyle Rabin. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

VI. Member Updates

Joyce Novak asked for suggestions for areas for placements of raingardens or green roofs. She would like to assemble an idea list for green infrastructure which could potentially be installed as funding becomes available.

The Town of Southampton is working on Riverside Marine Park. At this time, the Town doesn't have funding for wetlands restoration, which is the first phase of project. A DEC grant for a permeable reactive barrier in the Flanders Bay area in Iron Point Park was awarded, but it was determined that nitrogen levels were not high enough to support the PRB installation. It could be placed in Iron Point west of the Riverhead traffic circle.

Christine said that Southampton would like to work with agricultural community to put more BMPs in place for control of stormwater. Michael said that the Town of Southold meets with a CPF administrator before a property is purchased to designate an area for stormwater control before any purchase is completed.

Veronica reported that Brookhaven was awarded a grant for a new vac truck.

VII. Public Comments

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.