

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – July 31, 2019

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

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)
Town of Southold | Michael Collins

Additional Participants

Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski
Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator
Scott Curatolo-Wegeman | Cornell Cooperative Extension
Elizabeth Hornstein, Peconic Estuary Program
Sarah Schaefer, Peconic Estuary Program
Joyce Novak, Peconic Estuary Program
Lauren Scheer, Peconic Estuary Program

The meeting was called to order at 10:10

I. Review and Approval of 6/5/19 Meeting Summary

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

II. QAPP Development

The initial meeting of the QAPP Technical Review Committee Meeting was held on July 11, 2019 in the form of a conference call. Participants on this call were:

- Pat Aitken – Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
- Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Vice Chair)
- Joyce Novak – Peconic Estuary Program
- Elizabeth Hornstein- Peconic Estuary Program
- Sarah Schaefer – Peconic Estuary Program
- Scott Curatolo-Wegemann – Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Rose Ann Gary – NYSDEC
- Michele Golden – NYSDEC
- Matt Richards – NYSDEC
- John Hochheimer – Tetra Tech

On this call, it was decided that the Peconic Estuary Protection Committee will assume the primary responsibility for the QAPP. There were discussions regarding what organizations will participate in

the QAPP, and the activities that will be covered by the QAPP. Some of the suggested activities discussed included:

- assess current baseline water quality conditions
- testing for pollutants on 303d list
- Identify/prioritize subwatersheds that should be targeted for water quality improvement activities
- verifying waterbody impairment classification
- monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms
- microbial source tracking
- Laboratory analysis

It was decided that the QAPP will be written broadly, in order to be as inclusive as possible.

The QAPP will need to be approved by the NYSDEC and EPA.

QAPP will be distributed to USEPA, NYSDEC, PEP Program Director and Committee Chairs and PEPC Committee Coordinator and Municipal Representatives for further distribution.

Tetra Tech will provide examples of organizational charts.

Other items discussed included what field measurements would be taken, what laboratory analysis performed, training for field crews, sampling design, forms and data quality objectives. There was also discussion as to where physical project files would be stored, and it was tentatively agreed that the Peconic Estuary Program will store them.

A follow up call was held on July 25, 2019. Participants on this call were:

- Pat Aitken – Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
- Elizabeth Hornstein- Peconic Estuary Program
- Sarah Schaefer – Peconic Estuary Program
- Scott Curatolo-Wegemann – Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Andy Seal (Public Health Sanitarian, Suffolk County DOH)
- Rose Ann Gary – NYSDEC
- Michele Golden – NYSDEC
- Matt Richards – NYSDEC
- John Hochheimer – Tetra Tech

This call further refined the structure of the QAPP. It was decided that the Coordinator of the PEPC would be the QAPP Manager. Scott Curatolo-Wegemann agreed to be the QA/QC Manager (after the call). John from Tetra Tech will begin drafting the QAPP. The Committee should have a draft to review the week of October 21.

III. Stormwater Project Summary Update

Elizabeth requested the cooperation of municipalities in providing updates for any stormwater projects their municipality has done or is contemplating to do. This will assist the Program in reporting to the EPA, and will also assist in finding funding for projects contemplated by the municipalities.

IV. Outreach Initiatives Update

Social Media –

The Peconic Estuary Protection Committee now has a Facebook page and Twitter Feed, and will be posting weekly updates to each page. The initial Facebook posting was on 4/4/19, and as of 7/28/19 there were a total of 1675 “reaches” in response to postings. During the same time period, there were 2100 “impressions” (tweets that generated interactions or replies) from the Twitter Feed. Pat will continue to post on both Facebook and Twitter as appropriate, and further outreach campaigns on specific subjects can be conducted.

Signage at Riverhead Aquarium –

Pat has been working with Lauren Scheer of the PEP to develop a sign to be placed in a highly visible sight at the Riverhead Aquarium. This sign will provide general information about the Peconic Estuary. The wording has been reviewed by Veronica King and Joyce Novak. Lauren is working with the aquarium to design the sign.

The meeting ended at 11:45.