

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – February 6, 2020

Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, Griffing Avenue, Riverhead
10:00am - 12:00 pm

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)
Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)
Town of Southold | Michael Collins
Town of Southampton | Thomas Houghton
Town of East Hampton | Kim Shaw (phone)
Town of East Hampton | Mark Abrahamsen (phone)
Village of Sag Harbor | Maryann Eddy
Suffolk County | Frank Castelli

Additional Participants

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

A quorum was determined and the meeting was called to order at 10:05

I. Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Drew Dillingham and Veronica King agreed to continue in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair.

II. Discussion and Approval of 7/31/19 and 10/17 Meeting Summary

The draft meeting summaries were circulated, and as no objections were received, they will be finalized and posted.

III. Work Plan and Budget

A draft work plan was circulated for review. Pat said that a budget will be presented at the April meeting, after discussion regarding the purchase of estuary wide signage and purchase of storm drain markers was had. The balance in the committee account is \$121,000. Invoices were sent to the member municipalities.

IV. QAMP Development

A conversation regarding the QAMP was held with Michelle Golden and Rose Ann Garry of the DEC, and Sarah Schaefer and Elizabeth Hornstein. The DEC stated the QAMP as presented would not be

acceptable to the DEC. They felt it was too cumbersome and difficult for the municipalities to use and should be significantly streamlined. Elizabeth Hornstein sent a copy of the draft QAMP to the EPA for their feedback on the draft. The deadline for completion of the QAMP is December 31, although Frank Castelli assured the group that if necessary, the deadline could be extended.

V. Outreach Initiatives for 2020

Different forms of outreach, including the use of pamphlets, social media and tabling at events were discussed. There was not a consensus that the distribution of pamphlets was a good way of conducting outreach, however, some member municipalities wish to have them. Pat will send out a draft of the pamphlets developed so far. Legislator Krupski suggested that having a brochure to guide residents through building/permitting procedures would be valuable. All agreed that the use of social media – Facebook and Twitter – is a good way of conducting outreach. Suggestions were made to increase the presence of the Committee at different community fairs, festivals, etc. East Hampton will send an example of the bags which have been distributed by the Town and were popular.

There was a discussion of the possibility of using storm drain markers. It was felt that using the glue on type was better, as this would encourage the participation of boy or girl scout groups or other civic organizations. Door hangers explaining the storm drain markers to be placed on nearby homes could also be purchased to inform homeowners.

The members at the meeting agreed that estuary wide signage would be a good opportunity to pursue. These signs could be placed by municipalities at a visible site where a stormwater project was done, or in a site near a waterway to provide education about the Estuary.

The aquarium sign should be completed in time for installation before the spring/summer tourism and school visit season.

VI. Member Updates

The members had a discussion of initiatives to be undertaken and availability of grants that can be applied for.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.