

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee  
**Meeting Summary – June 4, 2020**

**Held Via Conference Call**

**ATTENDEES**

**Committee Member Representatives**

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)

Town of Southold | Michael Collins

Suffolk County | Frank Castelli

**Additional Participants**

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator

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 February 5 Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary was reviewed and approved.

**II. Work Plan and Budget**

The Committee reviewed and approved the Work Plan. It is recognized that due to restrictions on community gatherings and events such as street or environmental fairs most outreach will have to be conducted through social media for the foreseeable future.

The Committee reviewed the budget. All members have made their contributions for the year, except for the Town of East Hampton and the NYS DOT. Pat will follow up with the Town to discuss the status of their dues. NYS DOT typically does not contribute until September.

There is recognition that all municipal budgets will be impacted due to Covid 19. There was a discussion about reducing the amount of dues for the next fiscal year. Dues amounts will be discussed further via a conference call to be held in late June/early July to allow committee members to adjust budget requests.

**III. QAMP Development**

Comments on the latest draft of the QAMP have been received from all reviewers except for Suffolk County. Pat will contact Mike Jensen and check on the status of his review. The deadline for the QAMP is December 31, 2020. Frank Castelli said the County would extend the contract if necessary, as the project is active and making steady progress. Sarah Schaefer will contact Tetra Tech and request that they submit an invoice for work performed to date.

**IV. Outreach Initiatives for 2020**

- a. Outreach initiatives will be focused on social media through Facebook and Twitter for the rest of the year due to restrictions on gatherings due to Covid 19. Pat is redesigning and streamlining municipal pamphlets for posting online.
- b. There was discussion of moving the PEPC website to its own separate website. It is not very visible on the PEP website and could be interpreted that the PEPC is a sub-committee of the PEP and not a separate entity. Pat will research costs and will work with Sarah to make the move. She will also set up a blog to facilitate media outreach.
- c. Estuary-wide Signage project: A draft RFP to request proposals for design of informational signs to be placed in each member municipality was circulated. The goal of this project is to build awareness of the Estuary, and to inform residents or visitors about a project or initiative that was undertaken to improve water quality in the Estuary watershed. Each municipality will designate what should be featured on their sign. There will be language on each sign describing the Committee, its members and its mission. The RFP will be consistent with the Town of Southampton procurement policies. The signage should have a stormwater related element for municipalities to get MS4 credit.
- d. Aquarium Sign: The sign was close to completion. The project is on hold until the Aquarium can re-open.

## **V. Member Updates**

Michael informed the Committee that he was contacted by the EPA requesting clarification of some items on the annual reports for the Town of Southold and Shelter Island. He was able to provide clarification for the EPA. None of the other municipal members reported being contacted.

Michael asked the EPA when the 303(d) List would be released, and he was told “very soon” but not date was given. He believes that the 2018 final and 2020 draft will be released simultaneously, and the permit released shortly thereafter.

## **VI. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.