

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee Meeting Summary – February 3, 2021

Held Via Conference Call

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Drew Dillingham | Committee Chair
Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)
Suffolk County | Frank Castelli
Town of Southold | Michael Collins
Town of Southampton | Christine Fetten
Village of Sag Harbor | Mary Ann Eddy

Additional Participants

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator
Joyce Novak | Peconic Estuary Partnership
Sarah Schaefer | Peconic Estuary Partnership
Elizabeth Hornstein | Peconic Estuary Partnership
Scott Curatolo – Wegemann | Cornell Cooperative Extension

The meeting was called to order at 10:05

I. QAMP Development

The revisions to the QAMP/QAPP were reviewed by several members, and it was felt that the revisions suggested to NYSDEC and USEPA were reasonable. Pat highlighted that a DUAR (Data Useability Assessment Report) had been included as a requirement. This had not been mentioned previously by USEPA or NYSDEC as a component of the program. Hempstead Harbor submits a DUAR and had given a template and an example of a finished report, which will be circulated to the committee. The QAMP/QAPP review committee will be meeting on February 16, and it will be clarified at this meeting when and under what circumstances (funding source, etc) a DUAR will be required.

II. Outreach

- a. Signage - The signage project was discussed. Mary Ann of Sag Harbor felt strongly that signs should incorporate a Spanish language translation. Pat will clarify with Paul Singer if translating the signs into Spanish can be a component of the current contract
- b. Outreach – Brochures for outreach to the Spanish language community will be developed with the assistance of a translator from the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District. There are already Spanish language brochures for fertilizer applications. Other topics for translation could include dog waste and waterfowl feeding.
- c. Website – The PEP CLPS Strategy Tool Webinar and document were added to the PEPC website. Pat also pointed out a series from Rutgers University on green infrastructure that provides excellent basic information as well as graphics that could be used in presentations.
<http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/GreenInfrastructureChampions/GIC.html>

Links to webinars and trainings are available on the “Events and Trainings” section of the Resources and Links page of the PEPC website.

III. Member Updates

Michael Collins said he had been in contact with NYSDEC regarding the 303(d) list. The 2018 list was submitted to USEPA in November for approval. The EPA offered the DEC the opportunity to combine the 2018 and 2020 list, so that when data gathering for the 2022 list begins, the 2020 and 2018 lists will be folded in to the 2022 list. The MS4 permit will probably not be issued until the 2020/2018 lists are finalized. The 2016 303(d) list was approved, and is the list in use now.

Mary Ann Eddy asked how her Village could use the QAPP. In response, Michael explained that some waterbodies are on the 303(d) list based upon anecdotal responses, with no scientific evidence, and are not being monitored by the DEC. The Town will use the QAPP to find out if these waterbodies are indeed impaired, and if so, will address the source of impairment. If the waterbodies are not impaired, the Town will seek to have them removed from the 303(d) list.

Mary Ann asked for assistance with BMPs for snow removal. In Sag Harbor, snow plowed from Village Streets is stored at Havens Beach, where as it melts it runs off into the harbor, bringing all the contaminants from the streets with it. Michael said there is no statewide plan for snow removal, but that procedures should be in each municipal SWMP. (Stormwater Management Plan). DEC requires a self -assessment of these plans every three years. If snow removal is not addressed, it should be added. MaryAnn asked for recommendations as to how to approach snow removal. Veronica suggested using municipal parking lots if they are not currently being used otherwise. Michael cautioned that if the lots have outfall pipes discharging to the harbor, that the Village would be back in the same situation of discharging pollutants into the harbor.

Christine Fetten reminded members that the invoices for 2021 dues were emailed and to check for them.

Pat reminded members that MS4 reporting for the period ending March 9 will be due. Due to Covid restrictions over the reporting period, all outreach activities will have been done through social media.

The Peconic Estuary Partnership will be holding a three day Biennial Conference April 14 – 16. An invitation and agenda will be sent out shortly.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.