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Description automatically generated**Peconic Estuary Protection Committee**

**Meeting Summary – November 1, 2023**

**Held at Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices**

**Griffing Avenue, Riverhead**

**ATTENDEES**

**Committee Member Representatives**

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)

Town of Southampton | Tom Houghton

Village of Sag Harbor | MaryAnn Eddy

Town of Shelter Island |Joe Finora

Town of Southold |Michael Collins

**Additional Participants**

Eileen Keenan | Peconic Estuary Protection Committee, Coordinator

Corey Humphrey | Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, District Manager

Scott Curatolo-Wagemann | CCE Suffolk, Senior Resource Educator

Sara Cernadas-Martin| Peconic Estuary Partnership, Water Quality Program Manager

The meeting was called to order at 10:15, attendees were reminded that the meeting was being recorded for purposes of transcribing the meeting summary, all attendees introduced themselves.

1. **September 6, 2023 Meeting Summary:** The September 6, 2023 Meeting Summary was accepted. It has been posted to the PEPC website.
2. **MCM 6 Training**: Eileen Keenan indicated that she is available to provide trainings pertaining to such topics as Pollution Prevention and Good House Keeping (MS4 Minimum Control Measure 6) and/or Overview of MS4 Stormwater Management. It was noted that DEC requires reporting regarding completed trainings on MS4 reporting forms.
3. **QAPP Update/Monitoring:** Eileen Keenan advised that the PEPC QAPP has been approved and signed by the USEPA and the NYSDEC. It will be effective until October 31, 2025.
4. **Water Quality Monitoring:** Eileen Keenan indicated that the Town of Southold plans to conduct bacterial sampling in Marratooka Pond using the updated PEPC QMP/QAPP and that NYSDEC has provided guidance regarding the specific procedures and protocols that need to be used. Michael Collins explained that monitoring results will be used to inform future water quality protection and restoration initiatives.
5. **DEC MS4 Permit Renewal:** Eileen Keenan advised that the issuance of the next MS4 Permit was long overdue and that the last two drafts of the MS4 Permit included vastly more detailed requirements than the current Permit. It was also noted that NYSDEC recently indicated that the next MS4 Permit will not be subject to public comment. It will be issued as is. Eileen suggested that it would be prudent to begin development of cost effective intermunicipal MS4 compliance strategies.
6. **Drainage Area Minimizations/ Outfall Eliminations:** Eileen Keenan and Michael Collins explained that one such strategy would be to reduce storm sewer system drainage areas and the geographic areas within which municipalities must implement their MS4 programs by replacing stormsewer system outfalls with infiltrative practices where feasible. Eileen pointed out that it would be a good idea to start development of joint grant funding applications for drainage area reduction projects. Corey Humphrey indicated that the SCSWCD is available to provide input and assistance with outfall eliminations, installation of infiltrative practices, and applications for and management of grant funding. Eileen Keenan indicated that she will send out an email summarizing the information that will be needed in order to begin development of outfall elimination grant applications.
7. **Signage Update:** Eileen advised that the Town of Shelter Island has installed two signs at Fresh Pond and that the Village of Sag Harbor is working on identification of a location to install their sign. In addition, the signs are on the PEPC web site and are being posted to the PEPC Instagram account.
8. **USGS Solute Transport Model:** Sara Cernadas-Martin provided an update regarding the Peconic Solute Transport Model and the upcoming PEP TAC Solute Transport Model meeting on November 17, 2023.
9. **Next PEPC Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.