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Description automatically generated**Peconic Estuary Protection Committee**

**Meeting Summary – February 7, 2024**

**Held at Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices**

**Griffing Avenue, Riverhead**

**ATTENDEES**

**Committee Member Representatives**

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)

Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Vice Chair)

Town of Southampton | Tom Houghton

Village of Sag Harbor | MaryAnn Eddy

Town of Southold | Michael Collins

Suffolk County | Jennifer McGivern

**Additional Participants**

Eileen Keenan | Peconic Estuary Protection Committee, Coordinator

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

Kaitlyn Boyle | Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, Environmental Planner

Jill Deiterich | Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, Environmental Planner

Scott Curatolo-Wagemann | CCE Suffolk, Senior Resource Educator

Jason Blizzard | Town of Riverhead, Principal Engineering Aide

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. **November 1, 2023 Meeting Summary:** The November 1, 2023 Meeting Summary was accepted. It has been posted to the PEPC website.
2. **DEC MS4 Permit Renewal:** Eileen Keenan advised that the NYS DEC issued the 2024-2029 MS4 Permit on December 13, 2023 and noted the following:
   * + - * A Notice of Intent must be filed using the NYSDEC online portal by February 20, 2024.
         * The 2024-2029 MS4 Permit includes a number of new requirements as well as a greater degree of specificity and greater volume of requirements than prior MS4 permits. (A summary of 2024-2029 MS4 requirements and deadlines, prepared by Eric Swenson, Director of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, was distributed.)
         * It would be helpful for the Committee to identify the new MS4 permit requirements that can be satisfied or facilitated through joint Committee initiatives.
         * Chemung County, NY has requested a 90-day extension of the deadline to file a Notice of Intent (NOI).
3. **Drainage Area Minimizations/Outfall Eliminations:** Eileen noted that at the last PEPC meeting all agreed it would be wise to begin plans to obtain funding for projects that will eliminate outfall discharges, improve water quality and reduce the size of storm sewer system drainage areas that are subject to MS4 requirements. Corey Humphrey indicated that the SCSWCD might be available to provide support with grant applications, grant administration, field assessments, outfall prioritizations, and implementation of outfall eliminations. Next steps, including determination of priority outfall eliminations were discussed. Potential funding sources, such as NYS DEC CFA WQIPP, were identified.
4. **QAPP Update/Monitoring:** Eileen advised that plans to conduct pathogens monitoring in Marratooka Pond have been put on hold due to the need to prioritize outfall eliminations in light of the issuance of the 2024-2029 MS4 Permit.
5. **MS4/MCM 6 Training**: Eileen noted that the Center For Watershed Protection has received a grant to begin development of updated MCM 6 trainings. Tom Houghton (T Southampton) requested that Eileen provide MS4/MCM6 training to T Southampton staff. Eileen indicated that she is available to do so.
6. **Signage Update:** Eileen advised the Village of Sag Harbor is working with the sign manufacturer (Fossil) on fabrication of the Village’s sign. Tom Houghton (T Southampton) indicated that a sign has been installed at Round Pond.
7. **Next PEPC Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.