



Peconic Estuary Protection Committee

Meeting Summary – October 2, 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 Southold | Michael Collins
Town of Southampton | Tom Houghton
Village of Sag Harbor | MaryAnn Eddy
Suffolk County | Jennifer McGivern
NYS DOT | Liana Alongi
CCE Suffolk | Scott Curatolo-Wagemann (Advisory)
Peconic Estuary Partnership | Joyce Novak (Advisory)

Additional Participants

Corey Humphrey, Kaitlyn Boyle | Peconic Estuary Protection Committee, Coordinator
Erik Bergey | Suffolk County DPW, Senior Civil Engineer
Carolyn Sukowski | CCE Suffolk, Natural Resource Education Specialist
Madison Wall | NYS DOT, Environmental Specialist
Valerie Virgona, Jade Blennau, Marissa Velazquez-Rosante | Peconic Estuary Partnership

The meeting was called to order at 10:09.

I. New Coordinator: Kaitlyn Boyle is the point of contact

II. New IMA and Coordinator Contract:

- Coordinator contract is TBD – Veronica requested a meeting with Corey, Drew, and Tom (Town of Southampton) to discuss the contract.
- Joyce Novak indicated that she has received feedback from east end Town officials that there is confusion in the function and roles of PEPC vs PEP, specifically as it relates to funding support for both groups. She suggested that the committee consider changing the PEPC name to be more reflective of its goals. Veronica King stated that a name change has been discussed in the past and offered to discuss this again as an agenda item for a future meeting.

III. April 10, 2024 Meeting Summary:

- The April 10, 2024 Meeting Summary was accepted. It will be posted to the PEPC website.

IV. Upcoming due dates for MS4:

- Oct 1, 2024 – Interim progress certification due for Jan 3- June 30.
- Members had no issues submitting their reports.
- Everyone received confirmation emails but nothing about the reports being accepted.
- Tom Houghton's only concern is how to answer the bird pathogen question – birds are always an issue. Veronica King indicated that she has raised this concern with DEC for several years as local municipalities do have authority over wildlife or migratory species.
- Corey mentioned DEC reached out looking for pictures of construction sites (good or bad) to update their training documents. All information on town and location are kept confidential.

V. DEC contacts for MS4 questions:

- Current contacts for any MS4 related questions should be directed to Paul Harding or Ryan Porciello.

VI. Water Quality updates: New 303d List from DEC

- No known impaired waterbodies in Suffolk were added or removed from the list. Therefore, the updated list will have no impact on the new MS4 permit.

VII. Outreach Plans:

- Maryann asked for recommendations on signs to reduce bird feeding. The group discussed having the Committee Coordinator create a generic "Don't feed the birds" sign, possibly with a QR code, which can be customized by each town/village.
- The Committee Coordinator requested an outreach plan from each town/village in hopes to create a generic outreach plan to share with everyone.

VIII. Upcoming Trainings and events:

- North Country Stormwater Conference 10/15/24 - Glens Falls, NY.
- LIRPC Annual Long Island Water Quality Challenge.
- Suffolk SWCD ESC Training to be held 10/3/24 at Griffing Ave offices and 10/23/24 in NYC, all welcome.
- Corey advised all members that if they want or need a private ESC training to contact him.

IX. Funding Opportunities:

- Suffolk SWCD will be releasing a Conservation Implementation RFP for municipalities (\$50k), and NGO's (\$10k).
- Agriculture in the Classroom – RFP being released 1/1/25, more details to come.
- PEP Mini Grant opportunity – In relation to CCMP Clean Water Objective - Open now, \$20-50k, Contact Valerie Virgona.

X. Member Updates:

- Mike Collins advised the group that Paul Pallas has retired and there is no one being hired for his replacement. Greenport Mayor, George Hubbard, has taken on his role.
- Erik Bergey mentioned that Suffolk County applied for 4 grants, 2 under GRG and 2 under WQIP.

XI. Next PEPC Meeting: December 11, 2024