



Peconic Estuary Protection Committee

Meeting Summary – December 11, 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
Greenport Village | Mayor Kevin Steussi
NYS DOT | Liana Alongi
CCE Suffolk | Scott Curatolo-Wagemann (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
Gabiella Asher | NYS DOT, Environmental Specialist
John Baglivi | Suffolk County Legislature, Catherine Stark, Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 10:16.

I. October 2, 2024 Meeting Summary:

- The October 2, 2024 Meeting Summary was accepted. It will be posted to the PEPC website.

II. Upcoming due dates for MS4:

- We are still waiting on DEC to put out a template for annual reports that are due April 1, 2025. This template should be out by the end of December. *Note post meeting*, DEC release information regarding annual report format (provide link).
- Veronica proposed having the February meeting virtually due to potential weather, and we can talk about the DEC template which should be available by then. The Committee agrees.
- Corey proposed trying to set up a Q&A session for the Committee and a DEC representative in March, to ask questions regarding the annual report due April 1. The Committee agrees. Municipalities should gather questions about permits/reporting prior to the meeting. The coordinator will reach out to members prior to the next meeting to collect and organize questions for DEC.

- MCM 1&2: Public Education, Outreach and Participation
 - i. Veronica mentioned that she uses the Town Board meetings to fulfil this MCM. She lists the SWMP on the agenda which makes it available for public comment. Posting all SWMP on their website also. Most municipalities do the same.
 - ii. Corey offered to host a public meeting after hours, which would be open to the public to come in and ask any questions related to the MS4. This meeting would represent each municipality.
- MCM 4: Construction Inventory
 - i. Tom mentioned he is having trouble getting contractors to do the pre-construction meeting. He has a letter stating the contractors responsibilities sent out with the permits, but he said by the time the Town follows up, construction has already started.
 - ii. Veronica mentioned that TOB uses a contractor to do all the site inspections. They have used the same contractor for the last 10 years. They receive inspection summaries every 2 weeks for construction sites.
 - iii. Survey123 – free add on to ArcGIS Online. Brookhaven, Riverhead and CCE all mentioned they already use this and that it is a great tool for conducting surveys. It could be helpful in getting construction site data.
- MCM 5: Post Construction
 - i. Brookhaven Town does not permit connections to its MS4 through design standards, which results in no post-construction inspections
- Part 8: Pathogen Areas
 - i. Brookhaven: No dogs allowed in town parks
 - ii. Southampton and Riverhead: dog waste bag stations at dog parks and walking trails
 - iii. Suffolk County: Bird population prediction models – can find the flocks, and oil the eggs
 - iv. Lasers for bird mitigation is gaining popularity in agriculture – Corey and Kaitlyn will look more into this

III. DEC Construction Permit:

- The new permit is due to come out at the end of January.
- Kaitlyn will make a bullet point list of new updates to the permit and distribute it to the Committee.
- This new information would be good to discuss in the March meeting with DEC.

IV. Outreach Plans:

- Coordinators still plan to develop and produce signs for Bird pathogens

V. Upcoming Trainings and events:

- Suffolk SWCD ESC Training to be held December 18th at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. Another training course for Suffolk will be planned for January.

VI. 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

VII. Member Updates:

- Tom Houghton mentioned he had some issues with waste oil in his town. Their contractor stopped taking the waste oil for free, so now they must pay a new contractor to haul it away. Liana (DOT) mentioned their waste oil is taken care of by the Maintenance department (John Greene).

VIII. Next PEPC Meeting: February 5, 2024 VIRTUAL via Microsoft Teams

- Erik Swenson will be invited to this meeting to represent Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee (HHPC)