



PEP Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting

Saturday February 27, 2016 10am-12pm

Southold Town Community Center (Schoolhouse Rm #1)
970 Peconic Lane, Peconic NY 11958



AGENDA- WINTER 2016

- 10:00 AM Introductions and Goals for 2016
Kevin McDonald- PEP CAC Chairman
- 10:15 AM Program Office Updates
Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan revision
Dr. Alison Branco- PEP Director, Sarah Schaefer- Program Coordinator
- 10:30 AM Which Estuary Issues are Important to your Community?
Let's Hear from You! CCMP Discussion by CAC members
- 11:30 AM CAC Ambassadors- Ways you can be an Active CAC Member
Sherryll Jones- PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 11:45 AM Closing Remarks and Adjournment

2016 CAC DATES TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Thursday March 10th Alewife Monitoring Training Workshop
6-7pm Cornell Cooperative Extension 423 Griffing Ave. 1st fl. Riverhead, NY
- ✓ Saturday March 12th Community Stormwater Stewardship Training Workshop 10am-12pm SCMELC 3690 Cedar Beach Rd. Southold, NY
- ✓ EARTH DAY Saturday April 23rd Riverhead Raingarden Planting Event 10am Heidi Behr Way (Riverfront Park parking lot behind Main St.) Downtown Riverhead
- ✓ Regularly Scheduled CAC Meetings Wednesdays May 18th and Nov 16th 6-8pm Special CAC Summer Sessions Thursdays July 14th (NOFO) and 21st (SOFO)

CALL-IN INFORMATION

Web Conference <https://cornell.webex.com>

Teleconference: (855) 244-8681 Call-in toll free number (US/Canada)

WebEx meeting number and access code: 647 572 766

Password: 2016PEPcac

Attendee number: Not applicable

CONTACT

cac@peconicestuary.org

Sherryll Huber Jones, PEP Outreach Coordinator 631/727-7850 ext. 353

Alison Branco (PEP Director) and Kevin McDonald (TNC, CAC Chairman) gave introduction, updates from the program office, and a background on the current CCMP- comprehensive conservation and management plan in place for the Peconics.

Issues facing the Peconics: (From Alison)

Hypoxia, fish and turtle kills, HABs- too much nitrogen, waste water, onsite disposal. 90% of the area is serviced this way. Temp, acidification, nitrogen, development, all affecting. Focus on N2 relating to eelgrass, shellfish, wetlands

CAC Action → People want forwarded to them the map about nitrogen and more details on the N2 model for the estuary. Outreach coordinator will email it and it is attached at the end of this document.

Historical CAC importance- PEP was started by a citizen response to brown tide events in the Peconics. CCMP origins. The plans were based on reactionary information. Commit to a long term plan the things that we have learned, better science, temp pH nitrogen (scientific data and things that affect the bay). Current topics include: Harmful algal blooms, nutrients, habitat and living resources, pathogens, toxic pollutants, and critical lands protection, public education and outreach.

Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan- New York State's attempt to come to the table- plans not happening parallel, but been done together and linked. \$11M in water resources money.

What is the public participation going to be in the N2 Action Plan?

State driving the conversation, subsidizing development instead of caring about water quality. No public hearings held, no public input. DEC wants to have to get the public support for it to be successful. Important to keep our eyes on the process and be sure govt. officials plan to include open meetings.

CAC Action → Long-term conversation and how can CAC be involved in that process. Write a letter?

Important to continue focus on smaller estuary programming as well as the Nitrogen issue. Do not flush the Rx, copper-based paints in the boating industry. Southold issue- agriculture, stormwater runoff code- exempt the Ag people. Fertilizer/Pesticide companies saw this coming and made changes for slow release etc.

Get the local governments to not allow the Ag exemption—all stakeholders showing/having the responsibilities. Governor and development groups very interested in infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc.) How do we involve the same in the conversation about sewerage infrastructure? We need to use recent data to support our claims. Show overall trends, not just use last year's scallop numbers (for example). We are used to comfortable living and it is time to have difficult conversations about giving up luxuries/rights (?) in the name of resource protection.

CAC Member comment: (organic landscaper) From a "regular person perspective", people need to be fired-up about this stuff. Direct impact on themselves need to be understood. People want to help, just don't know how to.

What we have been doing caused this problem. The result is the problem we have now. How do we dial back culturally and learn new techniques? How to get industry and homeowners to do more? (Willingness is there, they don't know how).

Incentives on renewable energy => money. Rebate 2007 in some small oil tanks were very successful. What is the \$6M being used for? How do we do the same thing for septic tanks 50=60% in the 0-10 year zone close to the water first. "Legacy N2" may not show the immediate rebound from the estuary. PEPs role is to be sure good science comes into the management plan.

CAC Action → Ballot issues come November, CPF funding will be voted on. Figure out a way for the CAC to help with this without it conflicting with lobbying restrictions.

Managing the incentives- getting septic systems that don't have such a high cost of monthly maintenance- selling incentive/marketability of different systems. Marketing it to the public-getting the civic associations involved in educating the public, the "everyday person", not just at CAC meetings, we are all outside of the normal for understanding these issues.

CAC Action → Local NPOs doing public polling to get understanding of the issues (TNC, GFEE, Peconic green growth?) Be on the lookout for these, conduct outreach to our neighbors about this

Going to the developers so they can pay for these according to the impact they have. What are homeowner's responsibility for water quality? What it's the developer's responsibility? Showing improvement right away to be shown will be impactful.

*CCMP development as it relates to nitrogen issues and loading (zoning boards: approving new developments).

Original CCMP was reactionary, we didn't know why things were happening, now we have research to back it up. Ideas for the CCMP:

- 1) Land use to be tied to water quality in a way where public isn't actually paying for development
- 2) CAC, demand better science about development local campaigns about this.
- 3) Marketing, beach closures, bacteria -> pathogens is a current CCMP topic- take it in a new direction. State regulates shellfish bed closures and stormwater. Look at the other systems management, GI, Stormwater mitigation. What are the new septic technologies? Rx and cosmetic concerns (microbeads?)
- 4) Basing plans on good science- money put into testing of the water. DEC water testing program. Writing a letter from the program office to change the regulation and ask for more funding to the water quality testing program.
- 5) Data sharing agreement being discussed for 10 years. Getting accurate data \$5M action \$6M. Does the CAC have any pull on this?

CAC Action item → A CAC petition online and in person. A letter to the state. What are we asking for? Money to do testing- establish a baseline. Letter can be signed electronically. Thanking politicians for getting the money for us. Draft something about the CAC general concerns and send it out to multiple governments for 2016. Pen the letter and present it to town board members. Opportunities to citizens of region can express concerns. Financial opportunities of resources- baseline water quality for NYSDEC to consider, etc.

Oyster farming group and Peconic Bay Sailing Association to add to the list of stakeholders and CCMP feedback groups. Citizen Science, PEP events are big- CAC members expressed interest in that for themselves and think it will attract politicians and media as well.

Kevin McDonald: March 8th Albany trip before the NYS budget vote. Opportunity for CAC members to get involved outside of PEP. Kevin to provide everyone with more information in advance of the budget. Kevin will send an email to the CAC list.

CAC Action → Be a PEP CAC Ambassador
PEP CAC: Ways to actively participate in your community.

- Be PEP Ambassador: Discuss the Peconic Estuary Program with neighbors, friends, colleagues, and socially.
- Distribute PEP brochures and flyers to your favorite local business, homeowner association meetings, places of employment, or throughout your neighborhood.
- Recruit neighbors to attend CAC meetings.
- Collect and provide feedback from people you know on CCMP issues.
- Provide PEP outreach coordinator with contact you have to different stakeholder groups.
- Attend a stakeholder meeting as a PEP CAC Ambassador to discuss CCMP update.
- November ballot issues.
- Pass petitions around for signatures.

