



## **PEP Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting**

Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00pm

Floyd Memorial Library

539 1st St, Greenport, NY 11944



### **AGENDA- FALL 2016**

- 6:00PM Introductions, Kevin McDonald- PEP CAC Chairman
- 6:10 PM CAC Ambassadors- Ways you can be an active CAC member  
Christie Pfoertner-PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 6:30 PM PEP Program Overview  
Dr. Alison Branco- PEP Director
- 6:50 PM Menhaden Lecture  
Special Guest: Bill Wise, Director of New York Sea Grant
- 7:20PM Event Ideas and Guest Lecture Topics for 2017  
Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 7:40 PM Closing Remarks and Adjournment

### **2016 CAC DATES TO REMEMBER**

- ✓ Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:00am Fishing Line Receptacle Workshop
- ✓ Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup> Audubon Marine Bird Count. There are multiple times and locations to choose from.
- ✓ Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 1:00-3:00pm Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County 423 Griffing Avenue Riverhead, NY 11901

### **CONTACT**

[cac@peconicestuary.org](mailto:cac@peconicestuary.org)

Christie Pfoertner, PEP Outreach Coordinator 631/727-7850 ext. 337

Christie Pfoertner, Outreach Coordinator started off the meeting with introductions. After CAC Ambassador Topics were discussed for the upcoming quarter.

Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant Effluent to Irrigate Indian Island Golf Course Completed.

Comment- The effluent is only used to irrigate the golf course during golfing season and is shut off in December until the spring.

Proposition One: The Community Preservation Fund (CPF)

Comment- This doesn't apply to first time homeowners, used as a way to keep younger generation on Long Island

Question- What are the East End Towns planning to do with the available revenue?

**Action Item:** Will send a follow up e-mail including each Town's plan (some more detailed than others)

Comment- Attendee was concerned about how future funds will be spent in relation to sea level rise and private property owner's influence.

Share Peconic Estuary Posts on Facebook

CCMP Update Participation

**Action Item:** Additional surveys will be e-mailed since supplies ran out at the meeting

Inform People about the Local Fertilizer Law

Question- When are the dates? November 1<sup>st</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup> in Suffolk County

**Action Item:** Attendees were asked to sign up to visit one store known to sell fertilizer and check for mandatory Local Law Application Ban signage to inform consumers

Clean Sweep Program and S.T.O.P.

Clarification was made between Clean Sweep (for industrial/commercial harmful substances eg. Fertilizers, mercury-containing devices) and S.T.O.P. (a collection hazardous household items eg. Paint, batteries, drain cleaners)

It was noted that some towns hold regularly scheduled drop-off dates and times while other are held a handful on times throughout the year.

Fishing Line Trash Receptacles Workshop

Questions: Where are there recycling centers? Many tackle shops and marinas will accept fishing line. The PEP will be placing recycling containers around the estuary to fill this void.

Comment- An attendee showed concern about balloon pollution and the damaging consequences.

**Action Item:** PEP will make educational posts about how balloons harm the environment to increase education

Audubon Marine Bird Count

Comment- There are several branches of the Audubon society and the Christmas Bird Counts last from Christmas until New Years at various locations not only around the east end but all of Long Island.

PEP on Cablevision Public Access

Question- Cablevision Public Access channel 20 is only available in the Town of Riverhead, not all East End Towns.

Sarah Schaefer, Program Coordinator gave an overview of the CCMP update process. A discussion occurred asking for clarifications of the process.

Open Discussion: CPF revenue spending

Water quality testing from the time of the first CCMP (2001) until now (2016).

How has the water changed, what is to blame to continued poor water quality?

Bill Wise gave a presentation on the Origins and the Development of the Menhaden Fishery on Long Island

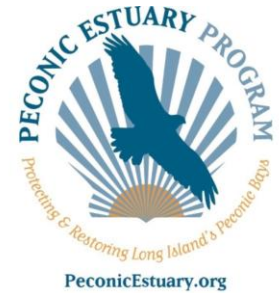
Christie Pfoertner, Outreach Coordinator asked for any feedback for future meeting topics, ideal times and locations.

**Action Item:** A survey will be e-mailed asking for feedback.

Meeting adjourned

# CAC AMBASSADOR TALKING POINTS

November 2016– January 2017



## CAC Ambassador Program

The purpose of the Citizen's Advisory Committee Ambassador Program is to provide members information about the Peconic Estuary Program, upcoming meetings and scheduled events to share with your community. Together we can spread the message of healthy ecosystems, clean water and ways in which people can participate to reach this common goal.

## Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant Effluent to Irrigate Indian Island Golf Course Completed

After 15 years, upgrades to the Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) have been completed! This project upgrades the STP to the newest technology treating water at a high enough level to safely irrigate the Indian Island Golf Course. Grass and soil will remove additional Nitrogen reducing the need to fertilize. This \$24 million dollar project reduces the Nitrogen input from the STP by more than half which, will help to prevent fish kills and harmful algal blooms and improve water quality for eelgrass fish, and shellfish. Watch and share our Nitrogen Reduction video on Facebook.

## Proposition One: The Community Preservation Fund (CPF)

Since its establishment in 1999, the Community Preservation Fund's (CPF) revenue has been used primarily for land preservation. The amount of land left available for protection on the East End is decreasing. Proposition One will allow a portion of the funds to be spent on water quality improvement projects, decided upon by each East End Town (Shelter Island, Southold, Riverhead, East Hampton, and Southampton)

Proposition One passed in all five towns: The CPF 2 % real estate transfer tax will be extended until 2050 and each town will be able to spend up to 20% of the CPF revenue on water quality improvement projects.

## Share Peconic Estuary Posts on Facebook

This is an easy way to help PEP spread the word about what is happening in our estuary. When you share or like our Facebook posts we reach and educate more people.

## CCMP Update Participation

This year the Peconic Estuary Program is embarking on a revision of the Peconic Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The Peconic Estuary is a changing system and the issues that plague it have evolved over the past decade. It's been 15 years since the Peconic Estuary Program first released our plan to conserve and restore the Peconic Estuary. Much has changed since the first plan was written and it is your turn to be a part of molding the new CCMP. Improving water quality in the Peconic Estuary is a complex issue and requires the cooperation and coordination of multiple groups. Help us refocus our efforts on the latest threats to the waterbodies of the Peconic by filling out a survey online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7HCVXB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7HCVXB)

## Inform People About the Local Fertilizer Law

Local Law 41-2007 prohibits lawn fertilizer application between November 1st through April 1st in Suffolk County. During this time period, lawn grass doesn't grow and there-ore fertilizers are rendered useless. The purpose of this law is to reduce the amount of nitrogen released into our groundwater and surface water. Retailers are required to post signs near fertilizer displays notifying customers of the date restrictions. Violators, whether it be home-owners, landscapers or other parties risk fines of \$1,000. Watch and share our Nitrogen Reduction video on Facebook.

## Clean Sweep Program and S.T.O.P.

CleanSweepNY is a NYSDEC environmental benefit project that provides for the environmentally safe and economic collection and disposal of unwanted or unusable pesticides, golf course chemicals, and mercury-containing devices. S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) is a program where you can drop off your household hazardous materials for proper disposal instead of throwing them away. A list of accepted items for drop-off can be found at [toh.li/sanitation-depa.../stop-throwing-out-pollutants](http://toh.li/sanitation-depa.../stop-throwing-out-pollutants).

## Fishing Line Trash Receptacles 12/03

Excess fishing line is one of the most common and deadliest forms of marine trash to wildlife. Join PEP as we build monofilament waste receptacles to be distributed at beaches and fishing sites around the Peconic estuary. Cornell Cooperative Extension 423 Griffing Avenue 1st floor Riverhead, NY 11901

## Audubon Marine Bird Count 12/31

Join PEP and the Audubon Society for the annual Christmas Bird Count. With your help, the data will fuel important science and conservation work. This nation-wide collaboration occurs at many locations within the Peconic Estuary. Choose your site preference (Greenport, Southold, Shelter Island or Orient Point)

## The PEP on Cablevision Public Access

The Peconic Estuary Program recently received a time slot on Monday's at 7:30pm for half hour segments from October 2016– October 2017 on Cablevision Riverhead Channel 20. We will be broadcasting documents, short videos, PSAs, CAC meetings and our conferences.

# About the Peconic Estuary Program

The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) is one of 28 National Estuary Programs around the country under section 320 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Clean Water Act. The program is responsible for creating a management plan to protect the estuary. The PEP was established November 1992 after citizen groups formed in response to the Brown Tide algal bloom events in the mid 1980's and early 1990's. At that time, it became the 20th National Estuary Program in the country.

The PEP is comprised of all stakeholders within the estuary. Committee members from each stakeholder group meet quarterly to discuss concerns and solutions with the PEP program staff: "CAC" Citizen's Advisory Committee- citizens, business leaders "TAC" Technical Advisory Committee- scientists, environmental groups "MC" Management Committee- program staff, USEPA, NYSDEC, Suffolk County, local townships and east end incorporated villages. The PEP program office is located in Yaphank at the Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services, Office of Ecology. Public outreach and education is contracted annually, currently to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

## PEP Accomplishments

- Development of Critical Lands Protection Strategy and implementation of Community Preservation Fund to protect land from development
- Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant effluent to irrigate Indian Island Golf Course
- Enactment of the Suffolk County Fertilizer Reduction Law (Local law 41-2007)
- Development and implementation of sub-watershed specific management plans
- Continuous long-term monitoring of water quality and sea grass distribution
- Peconic River Rock ramp passage in Grangebél Park, Riverhead and installation of eel and fish passage Edwards Avenue, Calverton
- Implementation of Peconic Estuary nitrogen and pathogen pollution reduction plans and upgrades of Sewage Treatment Plants
- Support bay scallop restoration efforts