



PEP Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday January 25, 2017

Cornell Cooperative Extension

423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead NY, 11901



AGENDA- WINTER 2017

- 1:00PM Introductions, Kevin McDonald- PEP CAC Chairman
- 1:10 PM Recent Activity Update- CPF, LINAP, and state/county updates
Dr. Alison Branco- PEP Director
- 1:25 PM CAC Ambassadors- Ways you can be an active CAC member
Christie Pfoertner-PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 1:50 PM Overview of 2016 CCMP public input surveys
Christie Pfoertner-PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 2:10 PM Pathogens in the Peconic Estuary
Scott Wagemann- Stormwater Specialist Cornell Cooperative Ext.
- 2:40 PM Post Lecture Survey
Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 2:50 PM Closing Remarks and Adjournment

CAC MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Tuesday May 9th 6-8pm
Town of Southampton Community Center
25 Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays
- ✓ Monday August 14th 6pm-8pm
Jamesport Community Center
466 South Jamesport Avenue, Jamesport
- ✓ Tuesday November 7th 5pm-7pm
East Hampton Town Hall
159 Pantigo Road, East Hampton

CONTACT

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

Kevin McDonald-PEP CAC Chair started off the meeting with introductions.

Alison Branco-PEP Director gave an overview of major topics and outside organization plans relevant to the PEP including the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, the Community Preservation Fund and Governor Cuomo's announcement to invest \$2 billion in critical water infrastructure across New York State.

Discussion: Many members had questions concerning how the \$2 billion will be allocated across New York State and specifically what the money would be spent on.

Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach Coordinator handed out the CAC Ambassador Talking Points and discussed some of the new talking point/action items.

An overview of Proposition One and the Community Preservation Fund was given. Legislature Al Krupski was in attendance and spoke about Southold Town's plan to use CPF revenue toward water quality.

Members were encouraged to fill out a CCMP update survey if they had not already done so and to take one to give a local business owner, family or friend to fill out.

Members were given an overview of the fishing line receptacle workshop that was held in December 2016. Members were asked about their knowledge of where receptacles should be installed based on the popularity of the fishing location. Members were also asked about their knowledge of other fishing line receptacles on the east end to be included in an interactive map to be uploaded to PEP's website and used by the recreational fishing community.

Action Item: Send a follow-up email to remind members to email their responses.

A brief overview of the Suffolk County Fertilizer Application Ban was given and members were asked to visit a local store they know sells fertilizer to look for mandatory signage informing consumers about the local law.

Action Item: Include a photo of the mandatory signage in the follow-up email so members know specifically what they are looking for.

Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach Coordinator gave an overview of the 2016 CCMP public input survey results that were acquired by the CAC members and the general public. The results showed people associated a healthy estuary with healthy fish/shellfish stocks, the main reason for people wanting to protect the Peconic Estuary was for recreational purposes and people were most concerned about the sewer/cesspool/septic system issues around the estuary and whether the 5 east end town's ability to coordinate their efforts with each other to accomplish restoring the estuary.

Comment: One member wants to see an aquaculture specific question included on the CCMP public input survey.

Comment: A member wanted to bring attention to the fact that people need to be aware of increased development on Long Island as we are trying to solve the nitrogen issues. The new development must adequately treat nitrogen containing wastewater as well as update existing systems if we want the overall net nitrogen input to decrease.

Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach Coordinator asked members to answer a pre-lecture question about pathogens.

Scott Wagemann- Cornell Cooperative Extension Stormwater Specialist gave a presentation on Pathogens in the Peconic Estuary and Tracking Bacteria via DNA Analysis followed by a question and answer session.

Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach Coordinator had members participate in a post-survey poll via text message.

An announcement was made that the May 11th date had been changed to May 9th but was still at the same time and location.

Meeting adjourned.

A video of the meeting can be found at <https://vimeo.com/201303493>



CAC AMBASSADOR TALKING POINTS

January-May 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

Fishing Line Receptacles

In December 2016, volunteers helped assemble monofilament fishing line receptacles to be installed around the Peconic Estuary. We are now looking for all fishing line receptacles to be included on an interactive map for the recreational fishing community to utilize. Please e-mail cac@peconicestuary.org to inform us of locations you are aware of.

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 therefore 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 homeowners, landscapers or other parties risk fines of \$1,000. Watch and share our Nitrogen Reduction video on Facebook.

Fertilizer Application Ban Sign

Any establishment that sells fertilizers in Suffolk County are required to post a sign about the lawn fertilizer application ban. You can help gather information by stopping by a local business that sells fertilizer from now until March 31st to check that the required sign is posted. Please e-mail cac@peconicestuary.org with your results. Riverhead Lowe's and Riverhead Home Depot have already been visited.

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.

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 Grangebelle 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

Contact Us

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Protecting and Restoring Long Island's Peconic Bays.