



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

Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Hampton Bays Community Center  
25 Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays



### **AGENDA**

- 6:00PM Introductions, Kevin McDonald- PEP CAC Chairman
- 6:10 PM Recent Activity Update- Harmful Algal Blooms  
Dr. Alison Branco- PEP Director
- 6:25 PM Suffolk County Onsite Waste Disposal Pilot Program  
Dr. Alison Branco- PEP Director Coordinator
- 6:50 PM CAC Ambassadors- Ways you can be an active CAC member  
Christie Pfoertner-PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 7:10 PM Living Shorelines  
Chris Pickerell- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- 7:40 PM Post Lecture Survey  
Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 7:50 PM Closing Remarks and Adjournment

### **CAC MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER**

- ✓ Weekday Evening August  
Peconic Lane Community Center  
1170 Peconic Ln, Peconic, NY 11958
- ✓ Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm  
East Hampton Town Hall  
159 Pantigo Road, East Hampton

### **CONTACT**

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

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

PEP CAC Meeting 5/9/17  
Notes and Follow-Up Points

**Alison Updates**

1. Hab – deep hull Southold  
Citizen Questions
  - What is the frequency of sampling? → not weekly everywhere, play it by ear, they do cell counts and then mussel hangs if they detect something
2. Septic pilot program  
Citizen Questions
  - Are they testing commercial vs. residential units? → only residential so far
  - Have they met the 10/10/10 goal? → turns out we are unsure what it is \$10000/10mg/L/**what is the last one?**
  - Questions about meschutt beach location → had heard lots of complaints from residents
  - **Look up exactly what was installed there, Alison wasn't sure what it was, she thinks it is a scaled up version of the residential pilots**
3. Wastewater treatment grant and loan program (county)
  - Article 6 updates, which would require updates to outdated septic systems
  - Hope to get a vote at the next legislator meeting on Tuesday 5/13 → **Look up the time and location**
  - 25% fund, CPF funds can go to septic upgrades → citizen questions about how the towns decide to allocate this, will be discussed later
  - Is there \$ to expand this program?
4. Clean water infrastructure act  
Citizen Questions
  - How will this be disbursed within Suffolk county since this is a statewide program?

**CAC Ambassador Points**

1. HRP
  - E-mail people about the LINPI dates and times, there was a lot of interest.
  - Add a section with information about how to set up and acquire a rainbarrel, there were some questions regarding how to do so
2. Youth Program Outreach
  - One citizen mentioned he has a contact Collette at the aquarium, hopefully he can reach out to her and set up a contact
3. CPF
  - Reword riverhead into something more specific such as, to balance CPF budget, there were some questions and concerns about how it is currently phrased
  - They asked if there were more detailed plans and also asked for us to upload any additional details that are available for what each of the five towns plan to do with the CPF
4. Monofilament receptacles

- Citizens want to know what specific items the monofilament gets recycled into



# CAC AMBASSADOR TALKING POINTS

May-August 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.

## Encourage Homeowner Reward Program Participation

The Peconic Estuary Program offers up to \$500 reimbursement for residents of the Peconic Estuary watershed who plant native vegetation on their properties or install a rain barrel or rain garden. This program will only be available until 2019 so be sure to encourage your community to apply soon! PEP's new website will have a full plant database and suggestions as to where people can purchase native plants.

## 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.

## PEP's Updated Website

On May 15th PEP will be launching our new website. Upgrades include a native plant database, online submission for the Homeowner Rewards Program, downloadable kids material, best management practices, quizzes to test your estuary knowledge, responsible boating practices and more! The website will have an updated look and will be easier to navigate.

## Youth Program Outreach

The Peconic Estuary Program is reaching out to youth programs to participate in PEP activities or work together to design activities specific to each group. Currently, we can offer rain barrel painting events to teach children about stormwater runoff, special Peconic River Walking Tours to introduce several of PEP's projects and fund native garden plantings at schools and churches within the Peconic Estuary watershed. If you know of a youth group interested please encourage them to reach out to Christie Pfoertner, Outreach Coordinator at [pep-talk@peconicestuary.org](mailto:pep-talk@peconicestuary.org).

## 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.

Town of East Hampton– Financing for septic improvement.

Town of Shelter Island– Water quality improvement, details not yet provided.

Town of Southold– Land preservation for farming.

Town of Riverhead– CPF revenue is being used to balance CPF revenue already spent.

Town of Southampton– Septic improvement.

## CCMP Update Participation

This year the Peconic Estuary Program is embarking on a revision of the Peconic Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). 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)

## 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](mailto:cac@peconicestuary.org) to inform us of locations you are aware of.

## 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).

# 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

**SCDHS-Office of Ecology**  
360 Yaphank Avenue  
Yaphank NY 11980

631-852-5750

**Education and Outreach  
Cornell Cooperative Ext**  
423 Griffing Avenue  
Riverhead NY 11901

631-727-7850

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

Website-  
[PeconicEstuary.org](http://PeconicEstuary.org)

***Protecting and Restoring Long Island's Peconic Bays.***