



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

Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 10am-12pm

East Hampton Town Building

159 Pantigo Road, East Hampton



### **AGENDA**

- 10:00AM Introductions
- 10:10 AM Program Office Update, Sarah Schaefer- Program Coordinator  
Elizabeth Hornstein- State Coordinator  
Methoprene use in Long Island wetlands, Helen Roussel, Sierra Club
- 10:25 AM PEP Website Tour  
Christie Pfoertner-PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 10:50 AM CAC Ambassadors- Ways you can be an active CAC member  
Christie Pfoertner-PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 11:10 AM Harmful Algal Blooms and Human Health  
Ryan Wallace- PhD Candidate, Stony Brook University
- 11:40 AM Post Lecture Survey  
Christie Pfoertner- PEP Outreach & Education Coordinator
- 11:50 AM Closing Remarks and Adjournment

### **CONTACT**

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

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

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **CAC Meeting**  
Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> 2018  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
Flanders Community Center  
655 Flanders Rd, Flanders, NY 11901
- **Kelp Aquaculture Feasibility Stakeholder Meeting**  
Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead NY 11901
- **Suffolk County Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay.** Informational Meeting for Prospective Lease Applicants.  
Friday, December 15, 2017  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Second Floor Planning Conference Room,  
H. Lee Dennison Building,

100 Veterans Memorial Highway,  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

**PEP CAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**  
**East Hampton**

- I. Program Office Update – Sarah
  1. Alison, our director, has left PEP. We will look to fill the position soon, but have not yet begun. For now Sarah is acting director.
  2. Fiscal Year 2018 budget passed the senate and we are awaiting a vote in the house. We have high hopes that it will pass as well.
  3. Fish passage contracts have been acquired! We will be installing fish passages at Upper Mills, which is upriver of existing fish ladder at Grangebelle Park, and another one at Woodhull Dam. Both of these will be monitored in citizen events.
  4. Habitat Restoration Project. Some of these will be done as living shorelines, whereas others are wetland restoration sites all around the estuary including:
    - a. Meetinghouse Creek – Riverhead
    - b. Iron Point – Southampton
    - c. Lake Montauk – East Hampton
    - d. Southold
    - e. Greenport in partnership with the Peconic Land Trust
  5. Anchor QEA has been selected to do the climate change study and plan for the Peconic estuary.
  6. CCPM update
  7. Wastewater Treatment Grants (get all the numbers from Sarah!)
    - a. 143 given
    - b. Over 800 applications received
    - c. **Question: How many have been installed already?**
    - d. It was also mentioned that each of the towns have additional rebates available
    - e. There was a lot of interest as to how and when these will be installed as well as some interest in what type of systems are being put in.
- II. Program Office Update – Elizabeth
  1. Hard versus living shorelines. Elizabeth discussed and walked us through some of the details in the Tidal Wetlands Guidance Document, Living Shorelines Techniques, which was released by the DEC this past August.
    - a. Definition of a living shoreline includes a natural shoreline with structural components
    - b. They help with water quality, reduce erosion, and provide habitat
    - c. Can replace old bulkheads with a living shoreline
    - d. These plans all include post project monitoring to determine success
    - e. This document has all the necessary information, requirements, and more

**Questions and follow up points:**

- **Members requested that a copy of this guidance document be sent along with the meeting minutes**  
[\(\[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\\_marine\\\_pdf/dmrlivingshoreguide.pdf\]\(http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\_marine\_pdf/dmrlivingshoreguide.pdf\)\)](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/dmrlivingshoreguide.pdf)

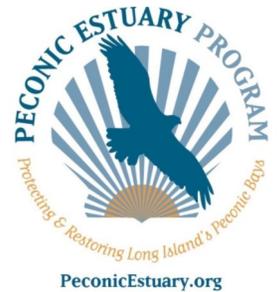
- It was also requested that a copy of Chris Pickerells presentation from the Living Shorelines CAC meeting be send out with the minutes → PEP team agreed to also add this presentation to the revamped website
  - Questions came up about the role of rocks in these projects and what exactly qualifies as a living shoreline
  - Can we post some pictures of completed living shoreline projects? A member mentioned they have photos of a project from St. Augustine. Another member said there is a local example of one by springs school in East Hampton.
  - Lots of questions and discussion about the difference between fiber rolls and geotubes.
  - Somebody asked if all forms of beach replenishment are equal and they were curious about the impacts of dredging for sand as opposed to trucking it in
  - What is the difference in cost between a living shoreline project and a typical hardened shoreline?
  - How long does it take for these living shorelines to stabilize?
2. The Greenport Restoration Project mentioned earlier will be done at Widows Hull as a living shoreline.
    - a. We will do fun educational planting events
    - b. Estimated cost is \$150,000
  3. Habitat Restoration Plan
    - a. We are currently working to update this and will include a list of priority projects
    - b. We have the goals and objectives

### III. Tour of the Revamped Website and Ambassador Talking Points

1. Homeowner Rewards Program application is now all online, we also have the plant database and the interactive watershed map.
2. Fertilized application ban is now in effect.
3. Monofilament receptacles have all been installed. You can find the map of ours as well as the partner monofilament receptacles. If you know of one or see one in the area please let us know so we can add it to the map.
  - **Questions: How much does each one cost to make? → About \$70**
  - **Members asked if PEP would make an itemized materials and parts list. There is interest in finding funds to buy more parts and have a receptacle making party. They would like to see them at marinas and maybe there is interest in doing the building as a scout program.**
  - **Members asked how much was collected? → Christie said it was about 0.6 lbs, which doesn't sound like much, but is more than it seems.**
  - **Members mentioned that they would also like to know what length of line this is equivalent to.**
  - **There was also a question/comment about whether or not we can find out where the partner locations send off their material for recycling, and perhaps we can recommend that they use the same company.**
4. Explore the website; there are many new and exciting features.

5. Pump outs.
  - **Questions: Citizens asked if we could put pump out information on the talking points in the future and asked for information/education on no discharge zones.**
  - **There were also questions about whether or not people actually use the pump out boats?**
  - **Are they available as advertised?**
- IV. Ryan Wallace Harmful Algal Bloom Presentation (make sure to post and share)
  1. Small percentage of all algae make up the harmful bloom species
  2. He thinks the first documented HAB was a red tide from the “blood” in the Nile River
  3. There has been an increase in diversity and frequency of HAB’s
  4. Local example and photos of dead bunker in East Hampton by the duck farm (about 8 years ago)
  5. Why have these increased in occurrence and what are the main causes of HAB’s. It is most likely a combination of all of these.
    - a. Septic runoff
    - b. Warming
    - c. Predation from zooplankton (or lack thereof)
    - d. Better reporting
  6. They have to be identified by taking a water sample. Visual analysis alone is not sufficient. There was a question about whether or not they can be identified from aerial photos.
  7. Breaches, such as the one in GSB from Sandy, actually help with water quality, but keeping them open is a battle against residents, who worry about flooding from tidal flushing.
  8. HAB’S have been in local live news reports → they have now been documented in every major local water body
  9. There are many different types of blooms (for example brown tide, red tide, rust tide, DSP, etc), each with its own health associated risks and each distinct type has different likelihoods of occurrence in different areas of long island.
  10. Questions: There were comments, questions, and concerns about the bloom situations in Lake Agawam, Georgica Pond, and Fort Pond.

# CAC AMBASSADOR TALKING POINTS



December 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

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.

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

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

## Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program

Thousands of properties are currently served by cesspools and septic systems that will never be connected to a sewer system. Reversing degradation of water quality will depend on replacement of existing systems with new, individual Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A OWTS). Suffolk County has devised the Septic Improvement Program consisting of both a grant and low-interest financing program as a way to assist residents to transition to systems that better protect water quality. More information can be found at [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Planning/ReclaimOurWaterInitiativeUpdate.aspx](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Planning/ReclaimOurWaterInitiativeUpdate.aspx).

## 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.

## Minority Outreach

PEP has been increasing efforts to reach out to minority groups within the Peconic Estuary watershed. Our newsletters and kids materials have been translated into Spanish and our new website will have a translation feature to accommodate the Spanish speaking community. If you know of any organizations interested please encourage them to reach out to Christie Pfoertner, Outreach Coordinator at [peptalk@peconicestuary.org](mailto:peptalk@peconicestuary.org).

## 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.***