

**Farmer Representative Roundtable Meeting  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Tuesday, May 22 2018**

**Public Comments**

**Outreach/ Expand Audience**

Engage our Central American population (they love to fish and clam and crab, but they don't know the rules).

Develop educational opportunities within Hispanic community. Introduce ideas and rules to their children, interact with individuals while they fishing, walking on the beach, actually engaging in the activity. Communicate effectively by utilizing a translator.

Can the Peconic Estuary Program work with Natural Resources Conservation Service?

**Habitat**

Develop programs to reintroduce salt water to diked-up wetlands.

Keep invasive species managed.

Deer population needs to be managed. Need to cull and thin the herd on the Island.

**Climate Change**

Could time and money be spent on other topics?

Should not be addressed as to prevent or stop climate change, but rather "how do we prepare?"

Test/pilot ideas to prepare for climate change.

**Water Quality**

Educate homeowners on the use of fertilizer.

Educate residential landowners to reduce use of fertilizer and increase use of native plants (especially young farmers).

Educate homeowners on the use of fertilizer.

Educate homeowners and farmers on over watering, and the effects on groundwater.

Educate suppliers (retail stores, landscapers) on plants and types of fertilizers.

Enforce existing fertilizer law in Suffix County.

Not all issues should fall on the backs of agriculture... there are bigger fish to fry. If farming goes away, what could it be replaced with? Farmers are the stewards of the land. Change the mindset of some to understand the value of farms. Homeowners are harder to manage.

Educate the farmers about the importance of nutrient and pest management.

Natural Resources Conservation Service can help with cost share programs.

Track what fertilizer is being applied.

More education on pet/dog waste

<b>Operations/To Do</b>
Set realistic goals for implementation of projects to improve overall estuary health.
Prioritize projects into categories - make it easier for project partners to help participate i.e. fishing, or SAV, or habitat.
Partnership is very important, not overlapping, but working together.
When is enough enough? When are we done?
Take stock of common issues, and what has been done well. Identify CCMP shortcomings, what worked and what did not.
Bio extraction may require rule change to expand.
Develop a unified front on issues, and one clear statement on issues.
Management overhaul is important to do - how are different plans and projects going to work together? i.e. bio extraction, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Peconic Estuary Program, oyster growing and water quality improvements as a joint project.

<b>How to Engage Farmers</b>
Agriculture Advisory Committees
Farm Bureau - Facilitate visits with specific questions when it is time to review projects.
Visit the farms.

<b>How to Engage/Educate Homeowners</b>
Master Gardeners for homeowners education
Master gardeners, land trusts, public