

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – February 7, 2018

Cornell Cooperative Extension
423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY
10:00am- 12:00pm

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice-Chair)
Town of East Hampton | Mark Abramson
Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)
Town of Shelter Island | Robert DeStefano
Town of Southold | Michael Collins (on phone)
Village of Sag Harbor | John Shaka (for Robert Stein)
Suffolk County | Elyse Jay (on phone), Sara Schaefer

Additional Participants

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee Coordinator | Patricia Aitken
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation & Peconic Estuary Program | Elizabeth Hornstein
Peconic Baykeeper | Sean O'Neill
Cornell Cooperative Extension | Scott Curatolo-Wegemann
US EPA | Sheri Jewhurst

Committee Member Representatives Not Present^[SEP]

Village of Greenport | George Hubbard, Paul Pallas
Village of North Haven | Dianne Skilbred
New York State Department of Transportation | Gregg Williams

I. QAPP Development Presentation by Sheri Jewhurst, USEPA

The meeting went out of order to allow the phone participants to hear Sheri Jewhurst's presentation on QAPP development, as Michael had to leave early for another meeting. Unfortunately, technical difficulties cut off the webex access to the presentation. It was decided later in the meeting, that if all committee members are in agreement, when a meeting is held in the second floor meeting room, the webex will not be used, and only a call-in option will be offered, as the internet service in the second floor room is not reliable.

Sheri's presentation (attached) outlined the steps in the development of a QAPP. Much of the initial work will be done by Tetra-Tech, the consulting firm chosen. Sheri explained that there will be a lot of back and forth between the EPA and the consultant, with input from the Peconic Estuary Program and Protection Committee.

In discussion after the presentation it was stressed that citizen science programs are NOT used to open or close shellfish beds (only DEC testing can do). They can be used to track long term water quality trends, can assist municipal managers in making management decisions, determine areas where water quality conditions are improving or deteriorating, and strengthen partnerships among organizations. TetraTech's contract with the County is in the approval stages now, and it

is anticipated that the timeline for QAPP development will be 18 – 24 months so that a monitoring program would be begin in late 2019 or early 2020.

II. The November 7 and February 7 meeting minutes will be submitted for approval at the March 28 meeting.

III. Outreach

Pat Aitken briefly reviewed the previous outreach efforts. In the future, she said she would like to focus on meeting with specific groups (Rotary, Civic Associations, Garden Clubs, landscapers) legislators and program partners.

There is an abundance of printed materials available to the municipalities, and it is an ongoing challenge to consolidate and present the materials in a manner that is not overwhelming, or duplicative. The PEP website is a vast repository of information and should be the focus for educational materials.

Training materials for the municipalities to use have been posted on the PEP website, and can be accessed at <https://www.peconicestuary.org/pepc-committee-member-portal/>. The password to access the portal is PEPC2017. Pat offered to assist municipalities in arranging or conducting trainings for workers and will edit the quizzes/answers for municipal use. A BMP tracking tool is also available. (ATTACHED)

Another resource which may prove helpful is a presentation done by CCE on bluff erosion: <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/SoilWaterConservationDistrict/UsefulInformation.aspx>

This can be loaded to the PEPC website, if desired by municipal partners.

The three municipal protection committees on the north shore of Nassau County together with Friends of the Bay have developed a website providing education on cesspools and septic maintenance <http://www.getpumpedli.org/>. It may be possible to expand the website to include information on the new systems being approved and include information relevant to Suffolk County.

Pat also discussed the possibility of developing an educational video highlighting the restoration efforts, aquaculture, etc being done by the municipalities, which would be informative for both the general public and municipalities. She will look for a funding source.

Website – much of the updates for the PEP Protection Committee have been done by Sarah on the website. Pat will be trained on updating the website and will continue to add relevant materials.

Follow up:

- Committee to discuss participation in the Getpumpedli.org website
- Pat to look for funding sources for educational video, if Committee is in agreement.

Press: announcements about Pat's hiring have appeared in:

East End Beacon 2/7/18 - online and Facebook

Patch.com 2/8/18 – multiple municipalities

Peconic Bathtub – 2/20/18

IV. Committee Dues:

Pat will communicate with the Town of Southampton to get the member dues notices mailed out.

V. Member updates:

Veronica King (Brookhaven) said that the MS4 reporting period ends in March. As no new permit has been issued, she believes there will be no changes in reporting requirements for this period.

John Shaka (Sag Harbor) informed the Committee that the Community Preservation Fund approved ten projects in the East Hampton portion of the Village. The projects will include raingardens and permeable pavement. Some of the projects will take place in the Azureth neighborhood of Sag Harbor and will be aimed to improve water quality in Havens Beach. Dr. Gobler of Stony Brook University is conducting water quality sampling in Sag Harbor.

Robert DiBenedetto (Shelter Island) said the Village has approved seven applications for upgrading to septic systems using new technology have been approved. They are being funded by Suffolk County and Village funding.

Sean O'Neill (Peconic Baykeeper) reported that an AOWTS is being installed at the Baykeeper office in Quogue. It is the first commercial installation approved in the Town of Southampton.

Next Meetings (all at 10:00, Cornell Cooperative Extension 423 N Griffing Avenue, Riverhead):

March 28

June 6

August 1

November 7