

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee  
**Meeting Summary – June 6, 2018**

**Board Room, Town of Riverhead Town Hall**  
**200 Howell Avenue, Riverhead, NY**  
**10:00am- 12:00pm**

**ATTENDEES**

**Committee Member Representatives**

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice-Chair)  
Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)  
Town of Riverhead | John Vail  
Town of Southampton | Christine Fetten  
Town of Southold | Michael Collins  
Town of Easthampton – (Mark Abrams on phone for part of meeting, Webex Connection terminated)  
Suffolk County | Elyse Jay  
Suffolk County | Frank Castelli  
Peconic Estuary Program | Joyce Novak  
Suffolk County | Sara Schaefer

**Additional Participants**

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee Coordinator | Patricia Aitken  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation & Peconic Estuary Program | Elizabeth Hornstein  
Suffolk Soil and Water Conservation District | Corey Humphrey  
Shared Services | Ed Moltzen  
Town of Southold | Lewis Eastwood (Student Intern)

**Committee Member Representatives Not Present** <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

*Town of Shelter Island*  
*Village of Greenport*  
*Village of North Haven*  
*Village of Sag Harbor*  
*New York State Department of Transportation*

**I. Suffolk County Shared Services**

Ed Moltzen, Director of Shared Services for Suffolk County provided background on the Suffolk Shared Services Plan. Each County is now required to have a Shared Services Plan and Panel, composed of municipal officials and school districts. A portal is being constructed which will provide information on what services or purchasing opportunities are available for those entities who have opted to participate.

The State will reimburse municipalities or districts for a shared service, but it must be something new and accomplished within the year applied for. The County is working off the 2018 plan now, and will be preparing the 2019 plan shortly. Ed familiarized himself with MS4 and stormwater regulations with Cornell and Suffolk County staff knowledgeable about the

program. He suggested that Committee members may want to think about some initiatives which might be relevant to MS4s and include those which will assist municipalities in complying with regulations or those which may relieve burdens on municipalities in implementing requirements of the MS4s. He suggested that a discussion could be had on what the new requirements may be in light of new permit. A suggestion he made included infrastructure costs such as the purchase or use of pump out trucks which could be shared by municipalities. For example, Suffolk County owns three trucks, which could be sent to municipalities for the municipal use. The trucks would not be free, the municipalities would have to pay for County labor, and depreciation of the truck. If municipalities want to purchase pump out trucks, he suggested going to bid for multiple trucks in order to get more competitive pricing.

The County has a contract with Cornell to handle County MS4 compliance, such as producing pamphlets, conducting outreach, water quality monitoring and testing, and GIS work. The County does not have to be involved in each shared service or purchase, as the shared service plan is meant to be decentralized. Every mayor, supervisor or school district votes on the plan, so each entity has the same vote and voice on the Plan. Ed suggested that each municipality track what they are doing for each other (he used the example of Southold doing engineering for Shelter Island) so that matching funds can be obtained from State.

He is currently planning for the 2019 Shared Services Plan and will be having meetings with municipalities and villages to develop general programmatic ideas, which will be reviewed by the Suffolk County Legislature, and voted on by member municipalities. Ed offered to meet with the Committee again or individual members to find ways to reduce costs for MS4 compliance.

Response to questions from members:

An opportunity for a shared service or purchase that comes up during the year that was not included in a prepared plan can be added. The plan was written in a general enough manner that most new projects that come up (different municipalities and school districts have different fiscal years) could be included without a revision.

Goods and services could include engineering design services. If a municipality goes out to bid for anything, that municipality must abide by its own local regulations for procurement.

Michael Collins mentioned there was a potential for shared purchases to reduce the cost of materials for drainage installations. Southold can't piggyback off Southampton's drainage installations, since Southold was not part of that original bid. It is further complicated in that Southampton had two bids – one for east of the Canal and one for west of the Canal. Southold may be able to piggyback off Riverhead. Michael also questioned the logistics of sharing pump out trucks – what would happen if damage occurs during a pump-out using another municipalities' equipment – who would pay for repair of any damage to a drain basin?

The Department of Shared Services will be having a full panel meeting on Wednesday, at West Sayville Golf Course. Members were invited to attend. Ed will follow up with the Committee to see if any initiatives can be put in the 2019 plan, which will be worked on in June and July; with an expectation that the Plan will be finalized mid-September.

## **II. Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model**

Pat and Sarah gave an update on the development of the Solute Transport Model.

Michael Collins stated that USGS has not contacted Southold yet to follow up on the Town's offer of assistance at the Solute Transport Meeting. Sarah will follow up with Don Walter at USGS. USGS is compiling a list of all their data needs to provide to PEP, and PEP will send that information to the municipalities. Sarah distributed a copy of USGS work plan to members for information.

Solute transport meetings will be held after each Technical Advisory Meeting (quarterly) and all members are invited to attend. USGS is using assumptions from the Suffolk County subwatershed management plan for residential fertilizer use.

## **III. Grants**

Members have a backlog of projects, and may not apply under this round of grants. (Follow up note: The Town of Brookhaven has applied for a grant to purchase two vacuum trucks.)

Elizabeth mentioned there is a Green Innovation Grant Program grant opportunity available.

#### **IV. Water Quality Monitoring QAPP**

Suffolk County is still in the process of reviewing the contract with TetraTech.

#### **V. Committee Dues:**

All members have paid their dues, except for NYS DOT.

#### **VI. Member updates:**

Brookhaven is constructing a central truck wash facility at their Coram yard, and has been discussing the possibility of a second location.

Suffolk County met with Cornell, which is proactively working to comply with new (permit?) requirements.

Southold is working with Shelter Island to conduct their stormwater compliance. Michael Collins met with Bob Withers and Ethan Sullivan of NYSDEC on Shelter Island. The Village of Dering Harbor will be deregulated, as they have no outfalls. During this visit, Bob Withers stated that road ends and boat ramps are not considered to be outfalls, which contradicts what municipalities had previously been told. Bob Withers said road ends and launch ramps only count if there is a conveyance such as ditch or pipe. Michael said if this is the case, 40% of their outfalls will fall off their list. Veronica said that during her audit, she was told by a representative of the EPA that she should remove boat ramps and road ends without conveyances. The runoff from a road end or boat ramp may still be managed, depending on the Town's decision, such as repairing erosion, or installing green infrastructure. (Follow up note: Michael Collins shared, via email, the written opinion of DEC staff regarding boat ramps and road ends as outfalls.)

According to Bob Withers, the 303D list is delayed because the agency is going to rescind every pathogen TMDL on LI, and every waterbody will be returned to the list as impaired. Twelve waterbodies will then be given TMDLs. The reason twelve will be done is USGS is doing the study, and the state will fund twelve.

This led to a discussion of the TMDLs and the frustrations with the current process of developing a TMDL. Michael is not aware of which twelve waterbodies will be chosen.

Riverhead is starting to do outfall inventories and facility assessments using Town staff. Michael asked if he had a facility assessment form. The original EPA source document is no longer available on the EAP website. Drew will share a copy with Michael.

Suffolk County Soil and Water District is currently relocated due to air quality issues in the building. Corey will be doing at least two or three Soil and Erosion control trainings in the fall. If the Cornell building is not available, he will be looking for other locations. Veronica offered the use of Brookhaven Town Hall.

Pat Aitken – A Blue Plan is being developed for Long Island Sound, which will not have any regulatory impact for New York State, but will in CT.

CCMP Update – Sarah and Elizabeth have been conducting public outreach meetings on North and South forks, and on Shelter Island. PEP will continue to have more meetings with user groups throughout the summer. Joyce said she would like to meet with mayors, supervisors and planners from each Town. Some key businesses, such as marinas, did not respond to a request to participate in the CCMP update and will be contacted again.

Sarah said the PEP is conducting an updated hardened shoreline analysis for Peconic Estuary, with assistance of two interns. She asked municipalities with relevant information to share their data with PEP..

Southampton is receiving CPF applications. The Town is working with Cornell on installing a PRB in Iron Point, and may put one in Flanders near the NY Rising properties. The Sustainability Committee is doing education and outreach, and had a successful energy efficiency car/home show. The Town is looking at alternatives for Styrofoam and plastics to keep them out of the waterways

## **VII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings** (all at 10:00, Cornell Cooperative Extension 423 N Griffing Avenue, Riverhead – need to confirm availability): (Note change in Aug 1<sup>st</sup> meeting location.)

August 1

November 7