



Peconic Estuary Program Local Government Committee Meeting April 17, 2019 Summary

A Shared Vision for the Peconics

The Peconic Estuary Program April 2019 Local Government Committee established three fundamental priorities for our watershed:

1. Water quality improvements to our surface waters;
2. Water quantity issues in the aquifer on the East End; and
3. Ability to access funding to tackle these issues.

Out of these three priorities, several actions were established by the Committee that would be goals that each member sought:

- A reduction of Nitrogen in the surface waters of the Peconics and issues related to this such as Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), fish-kills, impacts on tourism and local business, and impacts on fisheries.
 - Wastewater improvement was a key component of the discussion with all parties wanting wide spread septic improvement and sewerage in concentrated areas as the solution most preferable.
 - Communication of water quality monitoring results for use by Towns.
 - Develop a plan for agricultural sources.
 - Funding is the biggest barrier to this goal.
- Addressing the problem of 1-4 dioxin and Per- & Polyfluoroalkyl compounds in the groundwater and the complexity of finding a solution to this issue.
 - Is pumping and treating the answer?
 - Re-establishment of a consistent groundwater monitoring program and mapping results for Town use.
- Establishing region-wide planning and zoning for:
 - Climate resiliency;
 - Land preservation;
 - Inform Town Comp Plans – creation of a Peconic-wide Comp Plan a possibility;
 - Increased prospects and methods for Collaborative Opportunities.
- Develop a comprehensive approach to water quantity issues.
 - Water re-use where feasible;
 - Initiate a water charge a possibility.
- Increase public awareness about:
 - issues surrounding existing septic systems to facilitate more people upgrading their systems;
 - Summer residents about all water quality issues.
- Comprehensive storm water management.
 - Address direct discharges to Peconics.



Peconic Estuary Program Local Government Committee Roundtable

Riverhead Town Board Room- 200 Howell Avenue Riverhead, NY 11901

Wednesday, April 17th, 2019

1:00 -3:00 pm

The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) works to preserve and improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the Peconic Bays. The 28 National Estuary Programs in the U.S. were designed to work in partnership with State and Local governments, driven by the distinct needs of the local geography within which each estuary resides. Having a robust Local Government Committee to identify regional actions is essential for the success of individual Estuary Programs. Efforts like a region-wide No Discharge Zone, the expansion and extension of the Community Preservation Fund, and the establishment of an intermunicipal affiliation, the Peconic Estuary Protection Committee (PEPC), are just some regional efforts arising from local watershed-based collaboration. The Peconic Estuary Program seeks to strengthen the partnership and resultant guidance with the six East End Towns within the watershed. Led by a strong Management Conference which includes a cohesive and well represented Local Government Committee, the PEP seeks to aid in the guidance of planning decisions, ecological preservation and the protection of all waters within the estuary for the future use as one of the East End's most valued resources.

The PEP is currently revising our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which will guide the priority actions of the Program and our partners for the next 10 years. The PEP Local Government representatives invite you to a collaborative roundtable meeting to incorporate your local interest in the development of a comprehensive, regional, watershed-based National Estuary Program.

RSVP is required. Please RSVP to Sarah Schaefer, Program Coordinator, Peconic Estuary Program at Sarah.Schaefer@suffolkcountyny.gov

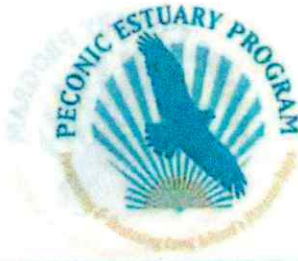
Draft Agenda:

- ❖ Introductions of Local Government Officials Serving on the Peconic Estuary Program Committees
 - Policy Committee Representative: Riverhead Town Supervisor, Laura Jens-Smith
 - Management Committee Representative: Southampton Town Councilman, John Bouvier
 - Local Government Committee Chair: Village of Southampton Mayor, Michael Irving

- ❖ Open Discussion: What are the priority needs of Local Government officials to address environmental issues and how can PEP and the local governments better collaborate?

Items to address:

- *Develop efficient communication between PEP and your municipality to ensure distribution of information throughout the municipal structure.*
- *Incorporate PEP as an advisory member for municipal committees, to guide planning decisions where appropriate. The development of guidance for regional resource management.*



- Climate change adaptation and planning- How are towns and villages preparing for impacts of climate change- how can the Program help?
- Nitrogen and pathogen pollution management- What are the most important issues facing towns on nitrogen and pathogen load reductions objectives and other water- related challenges- what else is needed by local governments to do this with greater impact?
- Critical lands protection- What are the town and village critical lands protection efforts- what else is needed by local government to efficiently protect lands for groundwater, surface water, and habitat conservation?
- Set PEP Local Government Committee bi-annual meeting schedule.

❖ Next steps: PEP Local Government Committee on TBD date.

Sincerely,

Michael Irving
Southampton Village Mayor
PEP Local Government Committee Chair

Honorable Laura Jens-Smith
Riverhead Town Supervisor
PEP Policy Committee Representative

John Bouvier
Southampton Town Councilman
PEP Management Committee Representative

Joyce Novak, PhD
Program Director, Peconic Estuary Program



SIGN-IN SHEET:
 PEP LGC Meeting
 Riverhead Town Board Room
 200 Howell Avenue
 Riverhead, NY 11901
 April 17, 2019
 1PM

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