

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Meeting Summary – October 17, 2019

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

ATTENDEES

Committee Member Representatives

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)
Town of Southold | Michael Collins
Village of Sag Harbor | Maryann Eddy
Suffolk County | Frank Castelli

Additional Participants

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator
Sarah Schaefer, Peconic Estuary Program
Jamie Richter, Village of Sag Harbor
Corey Humphrey, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

I. Discussion and Approval of 7/31/19 Meeting Summary

The Meeting summary will be circulated to members for electronic votes.

II. Increasing PEPC Member Attendance

The discussion centered around how to encourage more members to attend meetings. It was suggested that the clarification of roles and responsibilities being done for the Peconic Estuary Program by Coastwise may assist in this. It is felt that moving meetings to different locations may make it harder for members to attend, as it could make distances even farther for members to travel. Call in options have been difficult since the Cornell staff are not present on site, and Webex conferences are not available. Corey Humphrey subsequently offered the use of the Soil and Water Conservation District conference room, which has a conference phone. Physical meetings will still be held, but this will be another option for members.

All member dues have been paid. Due to the emergency situation on Dune Road caused by the recent storms, Southampton was not able to provide an update on the balance. (Note: as of 1/15/20, the balance is \$121,986.22).

III. Peconic Estuary Program Updates

Sarah Schaefer provided the following updates:

- PEP is doing an organizational assessment with CoastWise to examine the PEP's relationship with all partners and agencies in order to strengthen programs and partnerships. There was a good response to survey that was sent out by CoastWise. This survey was followed by phone interviews with some partners. The results of the surveys and conversations were compiled. A meeting was held to discuss these findings and develop recommendations, which will be discussed with partners and assessed for implementation. The next joint meeting of the PEP

committees will be in beginning of February 2020. It is hoped that the PEP will have new draft bylaws, etc. for review at this time.

- The final draft of the CCMP update is available on the PEP website. Three public meetings are upcoming for gathering comments on final draft. Sarah asked that any comments from PEPC members submitted to the PEP.
- PEP is also doing a water quality monitoring strategy update which will fit with the goals of the CCMP. CoastWise is assisting by doing an assessment of the water quality monitoring currently being done in the Estuary. Draft plans will be posted on PEP website. The CoastWise meeting will conflict with the upcoming PEPC meeting on December 5. A solute transport model meeting is also scheduled for December 5. (CoastWise travels to New York from Florida and December 5 is the only day they and the solute transport representatives are available). The December 5 PEPC meeting will be cancelled unless some urgent business occurs in the meantime.
- There was discussion about the scenarios which will be done as part of solute transport model and what information had been provided to the USGS for developing those scenarios.

IV. Outreach Initiatives Update

Pat attended street fairs in Riverhead and Bridgehampton and felt that many attendees of street fairs are looking for entertainment, not for education. The tables that received attention were giving away promotional items to the public, or had some kind of game, activity, etc. as a draw. People were not that interested in getting educational literature.

Social Media Campaign

- Social media seems to be more effective and less costly than doing street fairs. Literature which was based on posts on Facebook and Twitter was printed in postcard size, which seems to be a popular size.
- The Facebook page for the PEPC generated 78 page likes, 2132 impressions (individuals who looked at the content) and the page was content shared 287 times.
- Twitter produced 3524 impressions.

Aquarium Sign

The sign to be placed at the Long Island Aquarium sign is close to being finalized. Lauren Scheer is working with a design person at the Aquarium.

V. Participation in the PEP Management Committee

There was a discussion about what participation in the PEP Management Committee would be appropriate for the PEPC. The issues included whether the PEPC should be a voting member, or should it be on the committee at all? There will be further discussion after CoastWise assessment is completed and recommendations are made.

VI. QAMP Development

Pat spoke with John Hochheimer of Tetra Tech, who said that a draft QAMP should be out next week for review. The PEPC members will be able to use the approved QAMP to do QAPPs. DEC and EPA are participating as part of the technical review committee so hopefully it will not be held up to due to problems with review. The QAMP will give generic protocols, templates for different commonly used procedures and will create a framework for how to do sampling and testing procedures. The members of PEPC will not have to do MOU to participate in the QAMP, as they are participants and the structure is in place in document. Individual municipal members will sign the QAMP. It is anticipated that Pat

will be the Manager, Scott Curatolo-Wegman will be QA/QC person, and PEP will hold the QAMP and QAPP documents.

VII. Member Updates

Pat asked for suggestions for other people who should be participants or invited to PEPC meetings.

The meeting ended with a general discussion regarding the TMDLs, the use of cameras for assessing pipes, and methods of replacing failed or failing culverts.