



**Peconic Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Summary**

January 8th, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center
20 East Main Street
Riverhead, NY 11901

Attendees: Joyce Novak (PEP), Elizabeth Hornstein (PEP), Lauren Scheer (PEP/CCE), Patricia Aitken (PE Protection Committee), Sarah Schaefer (PEP), Julia Socrates (NYSDEC MC Rep), John Bouvier (Southampton Town Councilman/ Local Government Committee MC Rep), Kristen Kraseski (NYSDEC), Matt Scalfani (CCE/ TAC Chair and MC Rep), Irene Donohue (SC Legislator Bridget Fleming's Office), Michael Jensen (SCDHS), Rebecca Shuford (NY Sea Grant), Richard Friesner (NEIWPC MC Rep), Emma Gildesgame (NEIWPC), Scott Curatolo-Wagemann (CCE), Michael Collins (Town of Southold), Aisha Sexton-Sims (EPA and MC Chair), Aimee Boucher (EPA), Julie Hargrave (Central Pine Barrens Commission)

1. Welcome & Introductions- **Aisha Sexton-Sims** (USEPA Region 2)

- PEP is instituting a Public Comment Period at the public meetings we hold- If you wish to speak during this portion of the agenda please sign up at the beginning of the meeting on the sign-in sheet.

2. Discussion and Approval of the [Summary of Findings, Recommendations and Decisions from the Peconic Estuary Program Leadership Retreat \(10/9/2019\) and Management Committee Meeting \(10/10/19\)](#) – **Aisha Sexton-Sims**

- Approved by the committee.

3. Discuss process for filling the Local Government voting representative on the PEP Policy Committee and the Local Government Committee Chair – **Joyce Novak** (PEP Director)

- The PEP Policy Committee currently has a vacant Local Government rep seat which was formerly held by Town of Riverhead Supervisor Laura Jens-Smith. Joyce proposed attending the next East End Supervisors and Mayors Association meeting to request a new rep. The group agreed this was appropriate.
- The PEP Local Government Committee currently has a vacant chair seat which was formerly held by the Village of Southampton Mayor, Michael Irving. PEP is requesting nominations for the chair seat and will vote on the chair replacement at this Local Government Committee meeting.

4. PEP Program Update Review – **Sarah Schaefer** (PEP Program Coordinator) & **Elizabeth Hornstein** (PEP State Coordinator)

- PEP reviewed the [January Program Update](#). MC was asked to come to the meeting with any questions after reviewing the power point which was sent out prior to the MC meeting.

5. Management Committee Vote to modify FFY 2018 and FFY2019 EPA Funds allocated in NEIWPCC Award for Priority Project Implementation – **Joyce Novak**
- The Meetinghouse Creek Wetland Construction Project for which PEP’s Suffolk County contract finalized a conceptual design (September 2019) will now require Engineering Design prior to implementation. In order to re-allocate funds from implementation to planning and engineering, we will need a Management Committee vote.
 - Group reviewed the attached document **Peconic Estuary Program Memo to the Management Committee on EPA \$320 Funds for Meetinghouse Creek Wetland Project**
 - Joyce requested the MC voting members vote on approving the modification of the funding use. The 5 MC voting members present voted yes: Michael Jensen (voted for John Sohngen), John Bouvier, Richard Friesner, Julia Socrates, and Matthew Sclafani.
6. Draft PEP FFY 2020 Budget Review and Discussion– **Joyce Novak**
- Joyce presented the attached Draft PEP FFY 2020 Budget Proposal document and Draft PEP FFY 2020 Budget Proposal Overview document.
 - Richard Friesner and Emma Gildesgame presented the linked [Peconic Estuary Program Financial Summary and Budget Planning for FY20 presentation](#) to the group. A NEIWPCC Peconic Estuary Partnership Financial Summaries document was distributed to the group for review. The Management Committee requested that NEIWPCC breakdown the funds being allocated to indirect and provide a detailed budget and policy document for the group’s review.
 - Joyce presented to the group the attached Project List for Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee which identifies priority projects that the Partnership would like to fund if there are available funds in this year’s budget. The group approved the draft list, but suggests that cost estimates be added to each project for discussion at the next MC meeting.
 - Joyce presented the attached Peconic Estuary Partner 2019 Grant Awards document which lists the grant awards that PEP partners have successfully received in 2019, through collaboration with PEP. The document includes grants that PEP and our partners anticipate being awarded and other grants that PEP supported.
7. Review CCMP Revision Update and Next Steps – **Joyce Novak**
- The 2020 PEP CCMP is in final stages of review. The new CCMP deadline is Jan 31, 2020.
 - PEP hired a graphic design contractor to develop design template for the 2020 PEP CCMP. The Management Committee has provided feedback on 2 design templates for the CCMP.
 - The Peconic Estuary Program Conference planned for September 25th, 2020.
 - The PEP is updating our logo to state “Peconic Estuary Partnership”. The group was given 2 choices in an email sent out prior by Joyce Novak. The below choices were reviewed by the group and the group voted for #2.



8. New Business, Next Steps and Next Meeting Dates – **Aisha Sexton-Sims**

- 2020 MC Meeting Schedule: April 8th, 2020, July 8th, 2020 & October 14th, 2020

9. Public Comment Period- no requests.

10. Adjourn



Peconic Estuary Program Memo to the Management Committee on EPA §320 Funds for Meetinghouse Creek Wetland Project

Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee Meeting

January 8th, 2020

The Management Committee previously approved allocating \$208,999 of Peconic Estuary Program EPA §320 Funds from FY18 and FY19 to support implementation of the Meetinghouse Creek Main Road Wetland Construction/Restoration project from the 2017 PEP Habitat Restoration Plan.

This site is located at a large wetland area that forms the headwaters to Meetinghouse Creek in Riverhead, New York. Meetinghouse Creek is listed as an impaired waterbody on the NYSDEC Priority Waterbodies List. The wetland vegetation at this site is dominated by Phragmites.

PEP recently completed a Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design for the Meetinghouse Creek project. The conceptual design recommendation is to construct a 1.2-acre stormwater wetland to treat stormwater runoff in the 5.6 acre contributing watershed. This will improve water quality in the downstream wetland and surface waters. Additionally, it will greatly increase the ecological quality of the habitat and improve plant and wildlife diversity. The project will comply with the NYS Stormwater Management Design Manual criteria.

The project size and cost turned out to be larger than originally anticipated. The cost for engineering designs is estimated at \$154K and the cost for construction is estimated at \$530K. As a result, the PEP Program Office proposes to use the EPA §320 Funds for design rather than implementation. Once the engineering designs are complete, PEP will assist Town of Riverhead in applying for a New York State Water Quality Improvement Grant to implement the project. This project remains a priority for PEP and the Town of Riverhead.



NOTES LEGEND

- Edge of existing Phragmites
- Existing wetland boundary
- Property boundary
- Flow

- Existing storm sewer outfall
- Guard rail (proposed?)
- Treatment area forebay (rip-rap lined)
- Treatment area micropool
- Outlet riser structure with trash grate
- Spillway pipe (under embankment)
- Outfall rip-rap pad
- Existing flow path on private property (no improvements)
- Emergency spillway
- Maintenance access entry/egress
- Potential turn-around

B1

PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM
June 19, 2019

DRAFT - Conceptual Restoration Plan
Main Road 1.2 acre Stormwater Wetland (Aquebogue, NY)



DRAFT PEP FFY 2020 Budget Proposal for January 8th MC Meeting

TASKS	COST	EPA \$320 funds Total Funds available \$662,500	ULO		Partner Contributions					TOTAL
			ULO EPA \$320 funds with NEIWPCC	ULO EPA \$320 funds with Suffolk County	NYS DEC (OGL)	Suffolk County	Suffolk County Capital Budget	USGS Cost Share	CPF	
Desc.										
Program Office	\$427,382	\$427,382								\$427,382
Program Director	\$128,792	\$128,792								\$128,792
NY State Coordinator	\$103,183	\$103,183								\$103,183
Program Coordinator	\$103,183	\$103,183								\$103,183
NEIWPCC Program Management (0.20 FTE)**	\$23,280	\$23,280								\$23,280
Office Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$8,555							\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$25,481							\$0
Other	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$9,201							\$3,750
Indirect (18%)	\$65,194	\$65,194								\$65,194
Monitoring	\$584,940	\$100,400	\$62,200		\$200,000*	\$125,000		\$28,010	?	\$584,940
Monitoring - County	\$247,600	\$60,400		\$62,200		\$125,000				\$247,600
Monitoring - USGS	\$147,340	\$0			\$200,000*			\$28,010		\$147,340
Suffolk County Capital Budget Project (New USGS Monitoring station equipment)	\$150,000	\$0					\$150,000			\$150,000
Seagrass Monitoring	\$30,000	\$30,000								\$30,000
NADP Monitoring	\$10,000	\$10,000								\$10,000
Contracts	\$134,718	\$134,718								\$134,718
Homeowner Rewards Program	\$0	\$0	\$10,324							\$0
Education & Outreach	\$102,000	\$102,000								\$102,000
Project TBD	\$32,718	\$32,718								\$32,718
TOTAL	\$1,147,040	\$662,500	\$53,561	\$62,200	\$200,000*	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$28,010	?	\$1,147,040

Light blue cell = NEIWPCC Request

Green cell = Suffolk County Request

\$529,382

\$100,400

Highlighted yellow indicates that the budget information is subject to change

* NYSDEC (OGL) \$200,000 covers cost of USGS Monitoring and remaining funds will be rolled over to future budget years.

** NEIWPCC Program Management positions included are Division Director, Environmental Analyst and Information Officer

PEP FFY 2015-FFY 2019 US EPA \$320 Funds Budget Summary

Tasks	2019 EPA \$320 Funds	2018 EPA \$320 Funds	2017 EPA \$320 Funds	2016 EPA \$320 Funds	2015 EPA \$320 Funds
Desc.					
Program Office	\$416,720	\$284,300	\$375,000	\$380,000	\$358,000
Monitoring	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$125,000	\$120,000	\$110,000
					\$45,000 (due to forward funding)
Education & Outreach	\$102,000	\$102,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Homeowner Rewards Program	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Additional EPA Assistance	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Implementation Projects TBD	\$35,280	\$173,700	\$0	\$0	\$87,000
Total	\$600,000	\$650,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000

Draft Simplified Peconic Estuary Program FFY 2020 Budget Proposal Overview

for the January 8th, 2020 Management Committee meeting

Overview:

The Peconic Estuary is one of 28 estuaries in the country designated by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an “estuary of national significance” under Section 320 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established to protect and restore nationally significant estuaries threatened or impaired by pollution, development, and overuse. The Peconic Estuary was formally accepted as part of the NEP in 1992. Officially commenced in 1993, the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) includes numerous stakeholders, representing citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, academic institutions, and local, county, state and federal governments. The EPA, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) are the sponsoring government agencies for the program. The PEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was approved by the EPA Administrator on November 15, 2001, with the concurrence of the New York State Governor. The PEP has begun the process of updating the CCMP which will be finalized in early 2020. The CCMP will continue to promote a holistic approach to protecting, enhancing and restoring the Estuary and its watershed.

Total EPA 320 Fund Grant Request: \$662,500

Program Office: \$427,382

- Salaries/ Fringe: \$358,438
 - **PEP Program Director**- This task continues support of a full-time program director to work in the SCDHS Office of Ecology. The director leads a team of staff that works on the tasks and activities outlined in the Annual Workplan. The Program Director provides overall leadership to the program office, management and administration to the Program on behalf of the Management Conference.
 - **PEP State Coordinator**- This task continues support of a full-time state coordinator to work in the NYSDEC Bureau of Marine Resources in East Setauket, NY. The incumbent coordinates NYS participation in the PEP, with an emphasis on habitation protection/restoration, stormwater control, and nutrient management.
 - **PEP Program Coordinator**- This task continues support of a full-time program coordinator to work in the SCDHS Office of Ecology. The coordinator is part of a team of staff that works on the tasks and activities outlined in the Annual Workplan.
 - **NEIWPCC Program Management**- Supports staff time for NEIWPCC Lowell staff to continue management of PEP-related grants and contracts and supervision of the program staff. Funding will mainly support the NEIWPCC Project Manager, but also the Director of Water Quality Programs (for oversight of program management support and preparation of grant applications and paperwork) and an Information Officer.
- Supplies, Travel, and Other: \$3,750

Costs associated with the Program Office. This includes funding for office supplies, travel, conference and meeting registration fees, website support, advertising, and printing/publication costs. **For FFY 2020 office supplies and travel are being funded with ULO EPA 320 Funds awarded to NEIWPCC**

- Indirect: \$65,194

An 18% indirect charge by NEIWPCC on the total direct costs less: subawards over \$100,000, equipment, rental space, and participant support costs.

Monitoring: \$100,400

- **Suffolk County Monitoring, Ongoing Activity: \$60,400**

Utilize \$62,200 of ULO EPA 320 funds awarded to Suffolk County. The funding supports 2 Suffolk County personnel monitoring water quality of surface and marine waters within the Peconic Estuary as part of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCHDS) Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program. SCDHS will assess water quality and bathing beach data and provide PEP with an annual water quality summary report. The NADP monitoring station will also be maintained.

- **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Long Term Monitoring and Management (a.k.a. SAV Monitoring), Ongoing Activity: \$30,000**

PEP Long-term Eelgrass Monitoring Program (LTEMP) currently includes thirteen eelgrass beds located throughout the estuary and represents a range of environmental factors. Evaluate success of seagrass restoration efforts. Refine habitat restoration site suitability indices (based on light, temperature, and seagrass extent) used in planning the extensive seagrass habitat restoration program funded by PEP and its partner agencies, primarily NYS and Suffolk County. Additionally, these data contribute to scientific studies and will be used in future seagrass management plan developed through the New York State Seagrass Protection Act.

- **National Atmospheric Deposition Program (a.k.a. NADP Monitoring), Ongoing Activity: \$10,000**

Monitor local atmospheric deposition of major cations in precipitation. Monitor local mercury deposition in precipitation. Evaluate success of Clean Air Act policies and program in reducing atmospheric deposition of nitrogen in the Peconic region. Track progress toward nitrogen TMDL goals.

- **USGS Monitoring, Ongoing Activity: No EPA 320 funds requested**

Utilize \$200,000 of NYSDEC Ocean and Great Lakes Funding. Supports 2 USGS Continuous Water Quality Monitoring Stations in the Peconic Estuary. NYSDEC (OGL) \$200,000 covers cost of USGS Monitoring (approximately \$147,340) and remaining funds will be rolled over to future budget years. USGS provides a cost share of approximately \$28,010.

- **Suffolk County Capital Budget Project: No EPA 320 funds requested**

Utilize \$150,000 of Suffolk County Capital Budget 8235 project funds. Funds will be allocated to equipment for the new USGS Monitoring station to be established at South Ferry on Shelter Island.

Contracts: \$134,718

- **Homeowner Rewards Program, Ongoing Activity: No EPA 320 funds requested**

Utilize \$10,324 of ULO EPA 320 Funds awarded to NEIWPCC . This task supports the Green Infrastructure Homeowner Rewards Program and Residential Nutrient Management activities consistent with the existing program.

- **Public Education & Outreach, Ongoing Activity: \$102,000**

Annual contract supports coordination and conduct of public education and outreach for the PEP.

- **Project TBD: \$32,718**

Project funds are available for a task to be determined with the PEP Management Committee review and approval.



Project List for Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee Review

Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee Meeting

January 8th, 2020

In anticipation that the Peconic Estuary Program may have additional funds available in the FY20 budget, the Program Office has put together a list of priority projects for consideration by the Management Committee.

Technical Contract

In 2020, PEP has committed to developing a CCMP tracking and reporting system and has committed to producing annual water quality reports. Engaging a technical contractor to assist with the implementation of the tracking system, production of the annual water quality reports, data analysis, GIS mapping, and any other technical needs would greatly help the Program Office and free up staff time to carry out other priority tasks.

Habitat Restoration Conceptual Design Planning

PEP has funded several Conceptual Designs for priority Habitat Restoration Projects over the years. This has proven to be highly successful. Once the conceptual designs are created, PEP has been able to work with partners to seek out grant funding for engineering design and construction funds. The PEP 2017 Habitat Restoration Plan currently contains 41 priority projects and an additional 5 projects were recently approved by the Natural Resources Subcommittee. The Program Office would like to fund another round of Conceptual Designs for the top priority projects. Each conceptual design is estimated to cost around 30K.

Eelgrass Enhancement/Restoration

An eelgrass bio-optical and habitat suitability model was recently completed for the Peconic Estuary by Stony Brook University. This model can be used to identify areas where environmental conditions are conducive to eelgrass enhancement or restoration. The Program Office would like to fund an eelgrass enhancement/restoration project based on the results of this work.

Bio-extraction Pilot Project

PEP has been in discussions with LINAP about conducting a pilot bio-extraction project in the Peconic Estuary. The project would build upon the Peconic seaweed aquaculture feasibility study conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension. PEP and LINAP have discussed using kelp for the project and potentially partnering with a farm to use the harvested product as fertilizer.

Economic Valuation Study

The last economic valuation study for the Peconic Estuary was completed in the 1990's. An updated study is needed to understand the current value of the natural resources within the Peconic watershed. The study would be used to help garner support and advocate for funding for natural resources protection and restoration within the watershed.



Peconic Estuary Program Partner 2019 Grant Awards

Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee Meeting

January 8th, 2020

PEP collaborated with our partners on the following successful grant awards for work within the Peconic Estuary watershed:

Village of Greenport Sewer Expansion- \$390,000 Empire State Development Grant

The Village of Greenport was awarded \$390,000 from the Empire State Development Grant to design and construct an expansion of their municipal sewer system to provide a sewer extension to the Stirling Basin Marina properties and the Sandy Beach residential area in order to reduce the nitrogen and pathogen pollution inputs from the existing septic systems serving the area nutrient input to Stirling Basin and the nearby Peconic Estuary.

Regional Aquifer Protection Land Acquisition Program Phase III- \$3,656,370 NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) Grant

The Peconic Land Trust, in coordination with PEP, was awarded \$3,656,370 from the NYSDEC WQIP Grant to implement the next phase of its Regional Aquifer Protection Land Acquisition Program (RAPLAP) to acquire land or development rights to protect Long Island's sole source aquifer. This year the program will focus on acquiring land in the towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead, Southold, Shelter Island, and East Hampton. This is the 3rd year that the PLT and PEP have successfully been awarded WQIP funds to support land acquisition through the RAPLAP program.

Greenport Sewage Treatment Plant Effluent Reuse Study- \$26,240 from the Environmental Facilities Corporation Engineering Planning Grant

The Village of Greenport was awarded \$26,240 from the Environmental Facilities Corporation Engineering Planning Grant to complete an engineering report to identify the requirements, technical and capital needs, estimated costs and maintenance and operation needed to redirect 300,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater going to the Long Island Sound from the Greenport Sewage Treatment Plant to be instead reused at an adult care facility and a golf course for irrigation.

PEP and our partners have submitted the following projects for grant funding:

Woodhull Dam Fish Passage and Peconic River Connectivity: Project Implementation and Monitoring- WQPRP Award notification expected January 2020, ACFHP and USFWS Award Notification expected spring 2020

Suffolk County Parks Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, in coordination with PEP, has applied for \$250,000 from the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program and Land Stewardship Initiatives (WQPRP) grant opportunity. In addition Suffolk County Parks and PEP applied for \$50,000 from the Atlantic States Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Grant and \$50,000 from the USFWS- National Fish Passage Funds. The project involves the installation of a fishway and eel passage at the Woodhull Dam on the Little River, a major tributary to the Peconic River, to provide 95 acres of freshwater spawning habitat.

Assessing Ecological Impacts of Aquaculture Operations in the Peconic Estuary- Award notification expected April 2020

The PEP, through NEIWPC, has applied for \$231,553 from the FY20 NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy Competition. The objective of this study is to use innovative technology and scientific research to assess the impacts of aquaculture operations on the Peconic Estuary environment. Fish abundance and behavior, and water quality will be monitored at aquaculture sites and compared to the natural environment to determine the benefits of aquaculture operations. Partners include: Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning & Environment, Long Island Oyster Growers Association, Peconic Bay Keeper, and Town of East Hampton Department of Aquaculture & Habitat Management Shellfish Hatchery.

PEP supported the following grant applications:

Town of Shelter Island Wastewater Re-Use for Goat Hill Golf Course Irrigation- Award notification expected January 2020

The Town of Shelter Island applied for grant funding from the from the Suffolk County WQPRP grant opportunity to fund an engineering report for the Shelter Island Heights Property Owners Corporation Sewage Treatment Plant Wastewater Re-use project. The project aims to redirect treated effluent away from the Sewage Treatment Plant owned and operated by the Shelter Island Heights Property Owners Corporation (SIHPOC) and provide for beneficial re-use of the effluent by using it to irrigate the Town-owned Goat Hill golf course.

Town of Shelter Island Center Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System- Award notification expected January 2020

The Town of Shelter Island applied for grant funding from the from the Suffolk County WQPRP grant opportunity to fund an engineering report for the Shelter Island Center Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System. The project would involve establishing an innovative/alternative wastewater treatment system to serve Town facilities, the Public Library, and Shelter Island Fire Department headquarters.

Village of Sag Harbor Bay Street Stormwater Management Improvement Project- Award notification expected January 2020

The Village of Sag Harbor applied for grant funding from the from the Suffolk County WQPRP grant opportunity to fund the installation of twelve rain gardens ranging in size between 200-800 square feet on Bay Street to reduce stormwater runoff into Sag Harbor Bay.