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Peconic Estuary Partnership Special Policy Committee Meeting Summary  
March 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 10:00am – 1:00 pm  
Zoom Conference Call

### **Welcome and Introductions** -Javier Laureano, US EPA

- Javier Laureano called a role call of Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP) Policy and Management Committee voting members, PEP staff and all other participants on the call.

Attendees: Joyce Novak (PEP), Elizabeth Hornstein (PEP), Lauren Scheer (PEP/CCE), Sarah Schaefer (PEP), Peter Scully (Suffolk County (SC) PC Rep), Tony Leung (NYSDEC PC Rep), Javier Laureano (USEPA and PC Chair), Dawn McReynolds (NYSDEC MC Rep), Kevin McDonald (TNC/CAC Chair and MC Rep), Matt Sclafani (CCE/ TAC Chair and MC Rep), Ken Zegel (SC MC Rep), Richard Friesner (NEIWPC MC Rep), John Bouvier (Town of Southampton Councilmember and Local Government MC Rep), Bob Nyman (USEPA and MC Acting Chair), Aimee Boucher (USEPA), Peter Brandt (USEPA),

### **Purpose of Meeting**

- Javier discussed the purpose of this ‘Special Policy Committee Meeting’
  - Introduction of Paul Shepson, PhD, Dean School of Oceanic, Marine, and Atmospheric Sciences as the representative of the new Host: Research Foundation SUNY Stony Brook
  - Dean Shepson expressed the commitment of Stony Brook to move forward as the PEP host and their dedication to supporting PEP into the future.
  - **Discuss the important timelines for PEP transfer**
  - **FY21 Stony Brook: 3/31** Grant Submission
    - Funds received 7/1/21
  - **FY21 Suffolk County: May** Grant Submission-will contain all match certification
    - Funds received 9/30/21
  - **ULO NEW FY21 Supplemental Workplan and Budget: 5/31** Grant submission (via Stony Brook)
    - Funds received 9/31/21
  - FY22 will follow the normal PEP schedule.
  - Objectives today:
    - Discuss FY21 budget,
    - Approve FY21 budget

### **FY21 Workplan and Budget** -Joyce Novak, PEP Director

- Joyce presented the FY21 Budget and Workplan
  - Discuss Key Changes
    - New federal grant amount: \$700,000
    - New Host-this FY21 grant application will be submitted by Stony Brook (\$522,537) and Suffolk County (\$177,463)



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- Match Certification for Stony Brook submitted with Suffolk County application (this year only)
  - Outreach Coordinator is a direct hire
    - Includes the coordination of Stony Brook activities in this role
  - Stony Brook Grant
    - Budget includes 75% of three Coordinator salaries and 100% Director salary
      - Outreach is a direct hire
    - Funding for Supplies and Homeowner Rewards will be taken from the ULO budget (presented at the May meeting)
    - Funding for Travel and Other budgeted here and detailed in the Workplan
  - Suffolk County Grant
    - Budget includes Monitoring: Water Quality, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, and National Atmospheric Deposition Program
  - Review of NYS EPF Funds and other DEC funds for PEP priorities
  - Review Suffolk County Capital Funds for PEP Priorities
  - Review of anticipated ULOs to be included in the *PEP FY21 Supplemental Budget*
  - Review of the FY21 Workplan: New and Ongoing PEP initiatives
  - Discussion of FY22 Projections
    - Joyce outlined the federal budget for PEP during the years FY16-FY22 and discussed the history of PEP funding and that it has only included EPA funding for operational purposes. The FY22 projection will only cover employees and will leave a deficit in the long established Suffolk County water quality monitoring program PEP has helped to run. Joyce cited the past program evaluations and that this has been identified as something PEP needs to rectify. It is essential that PEP diversify and increase funding. Javier agreed that it was essential that PEP Diversify funding. Joyce also added that the program has been working toward this end and that there are some developments that are extremely promising:
      - NEPs have been reauthorized until 2026 for up to \$1 million dollars – these funds have been approved NOT appropriated.
      - CPF Funds have been approved for operational use by PEP from Southampton Town - \$206,850
        - Workplan will be developed for these funds
  - Javier asked for clarification on outreach becoming a direct hire of the program and voiced concern about the finances of the program.
  - Javier asked if there was approval for the FY21 Workplan and Budget
    - All approved
  - The next PEP Policy Committee Meeting will be May 5<sup>th</sup> 10-12:30 on zoom
    - This will be our regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting and discuss:
      - Approval of the FY21 Supplemental Budget and Workplan
      - PEP Updates
      - New Business
  - Adjorn

