



## **Peconic Estuary Partnership**

### **Monitoring Collaborative Meeting**

**March 29, 2021 9:30am- 10:30am**

Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Sarah Schaefer (PEP), Lauren Scheer (PEP), Elizabeth Hornstein (PEP), Aimee Boucher (USEPA), Marcus Beck (TBEP), Matthew Sclafani (CCE), Chris Clapp (TNC), Pat Aitken (PEPC), Michael Jensen (SCDHS), Michele Golden (NYSDEC), Ken Zegel (SCDHS), Anthony Caniano (SCDHS), Joy Sauer (SCDHS), Matt Richards (NYSDEC), Brad Peterson (SUNY Stony Brook), Gerold Morrison (CoastWise Partners, LLC.), Cassie Bauer (NYSDEC), Maureen Dunn (Seatuck), Nancy Pierson (SCDHS), Steve Schott (CCE)

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions –Sarah Schaefer (Monitoring Collaborative Chair)**

- Review of the [January 29th, 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative meeting](#).

#### **2. PEP Updates**

- New USGS Continuous Station on Shelter Island
  - Suffolk County Capital Budget funds (\$150,000) appropriated for water quality equipment for the new USGS station.
  - Next Steps: The equipment will provide continuous water quality monitoring capabilities to the mid-Estuary providing real-time information on these parameters- WQMC and TAC will guide what parameters are added: Dissolved oxygen, Water temperature, Chlorophyll, pH, Nitrate, Phycoerythrin (algae indicator), Specific conductivity, Salinity, Turbidity, Fluorescent Dissolved Organic Matter (fDOM)
- Peconic Estuary Program Quality Assurance Management Plan (QMP)/ Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) approved in February 2021.
  - Developed a NYSDEC and EPA approved Quality Assurance Management Plan (QAMP) and QAPP template to be used to identify and prioritize subwatersheds in the Peconic Estuary that should be targeted for water

quality improvement activities; ensure water bodies are properly listed on the NYS Impaired Waters list.

- Help the PEPC members and partners assess the current baseline in water quality, and effectiveness of water quality improvement interventions over time. PEPC and PEP will work with the municipalities to roll out implementation.
- WQMC Updates
  - WQMC Roles and Responsibilities document sent to the EPA.
  - 2020 WQ data uploaded to R package, Pathogen graphic updated, Estuary segments updated to PWL.
  - Comments received on draft 2020 Peconic Estuary Water Quality Report by end of February.

### **3. Draft Peconic Estuary Partnership Water Quality Report**

- Draft Peconic Estuary Partnership Water Quality Report (attached)
- Action: Group was asked to review and submit comments on the document by April 2nd, 2021.
- Next Steps: After finalization the Peconic Estuary Partnership Water Quality Report will be presented during the virtual PEP Biennial Conference on April 14<sup>th</sup>- 16th.
- Discussion:
  - Michele Golden: Suggests including the PWL for the eastern extent of the Eastern Estuary segment- Michele will email me an updated shapefile. Update the color for the central estuary to a more visible color. Move the Estuary Segment legend to the bottom.
  - Matt Richards: NYSDEC sampling is conducted out in the eastern section of the Estuary segment.
  - Mike Jensen: Concern with including Flanders and Bull Head Bay in the western estuary- Move forward with current segmentation for 2020 WQ Report. WQMC can review the estuary segmentation for the 2021 WQ Report.
  - Ken Zegel: Suggest for a future report to categorize open water, embayments and streams for reporting.
  - Chris Clapp: Suggestion to include inner embayment and creek monitoring data and include citizens in data monitoring for future iterations of Report.

- Michele Golden: Suggest adjustments to the Chlorophyll-a and Water Clarity section text to make it clear the correlation of parameters and reason for representing them in the Stop Light Graphic together.
- Marcus Beck: Option to create a more detailed dashboard with interactive graphics in future years.
- Mike Jensen: Include information about nitrogen pollution and relation to other parameters analyzed in report.
- Changes to be made to the Report based on comments:
  - Update Eastern Estuary segment on map, central estuary segment color, location of estuary segment legend.
  - Add text to water clarity and chlorophyll-a section to clarify correlation. Include a link to more information.
  - Develop a webpage on PEP website for more information on the Report and how it was developed.
  - Include information about nitrogen loading/ pollution and connection to parameters in the report.

#### **4. Next Steps and Next Meeting Dates**

- TAC meeting – TBD – Conference Call
- PE WQ Monitoring Collaborative – May/June- Conference Call
- Next Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model meeting- April 29th, 2021 2-3:30pm

#### **5. Adjourn**