

Peconic Estuary Partnership Management Committee Meeting Summary July 14th, 2021, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Joyce Novak (PEP), Elizabeth Hornstein (PEP), Bob Nyman (USEPA, MC Chair), Dawn McReynolds (NYSDEC MC Rep), Kevin McDonald (TNC/CAC Chair and MC Rep), Ken Zegel (SCDHS MC Rep), John Bouvier (Southampton Town Councilmember/Local Government MC Rep), Dean Paul Shepson (SUNY Stony Brook University, MC Rep), Richard Friesner (NEIWPCC MC Rep), Emma Gildesgame (NEIWPCC), Aimee Boucher (USEPA), Holly Sanford (PLT), Al Krupski (SC Legislator District 1), Gwynn Schroeder (SC Legislator Al Krupski's office), Theresa Masin (Town of Southampton), Irene Donohue (SC Legislator Bridget Fleming's office), Peter Topping (Peconic Baykeeper), Rebecca Shuford (NY Sea Grant), Brian Frank (Town of East Hampton), Chris Gobler (SUNY Stony Brook University), Jim Colligan (Town of Shelter Island), Cassie Bauer (NYSDEC), Susan Filipowich (SC Planning), Corey Humphrey (SCSWCD)

- 1. Welcome and Introduction- Bob Nyman (USEPA, MC Chair)
 - Management Committee Voting Member Role Call was conducted.
- 2. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 21st 2021 MC meeting Bob Nyman
 - The meeting summary from April 21st 2021 was approved by the MC.
- 3. Review and finalize workplan and budget for local government funds and NYS Funds (Joyce Novak, PEP Director)
 - The outline for all work using funds from the East End Town was presented and discussed. This included:
 - i. Funds to support the program office including staff salaries, supplies, and travel,
 - ii. Funds to support the Homeowner Rewards Program
 - iii. Funds to support continuing eelgrass work to target sites for restoration
 - iv. Funds to support a contract for PEP's Diversity and Inclusion Initiative
 - The CAC Chair suggested that a Diversity and Inclusion contract should work directly
 with our communities and suggested a mini-grant program as a way of engagement.
 Direct engagement with organizations, such as Ola to work directly with our minority
 communities is explored.
 - Requested that a workgroup is formed to guide the Diversity and Inclusion initiative
 - Councilman John Bouvier stated that the Town of Southampton is carrying out their own diversity initiative and maybe the Town and PEP can work together on this.
 - The program office gave more detail on the eelgrass work, outlining the project location and explained that this work is the next step after the bio-optical model using aerial technology to identify areas with fresh groundwater intrusion and begin test plots for restoration sites.
 - The program office clarifies the process for future approval of Local Government funds:



- i. Future funds will be a section of the regular PEP workplan and approval will follow PEP's normal course of action. This year, the timing of Town funds did not allow for this. The Policy Committee will be engaged via email after this meeting for final approvals. FY22 Budget and Workplan will include all funds.
- The use of the Local Government Funds was approved by unanimous vote of approval
- New York State EPF Funds were presented and discussed
 - i. NYSEPF funding has increased to \$450,000 this year
 - ii. A plan for these funds was discussed and includes:
 - Continual support for the USGS Water Quality monitoring stations –
 there are current issues with some sensors at existing sites. The WQ
 Monitoring Collaborative has made decisions regarding the purchase
 and installation of new sensors for the Shelter Island site and the N
 sensors at existing sites. The TAC has to review and make a formal
 recommendation.
 - Funding the aquaculture impact assessment project that was previously submitted for grant funding under the Saltonstall-Kennedy NOAA grant (unsuccessfully). This will provide partial funding for this project and complete funding will be applied for under the Suffolk County WQPIP grant program.
 - 3. Habitat project coordination in the Peconics
 - 4. Mini-grants for projects in our watershed
 - iii. PEP Program Office presented on the current state of the USGS stations and the proposed new sensors to be purchased and installed at the Shelter Island Station. Purchase and installation will be funded using Suffolk County Capital Funds. Operation and Maintenance will be carried out using the NYS funds and continue under the existing DEC contract with USGS. This will retain our USGS cost-share for these sites.
- The Town of Southampton MC rep requested that PEP work with Southampton growers. The program office said we would welcome the added coordination but it was envisioned there would be a range of sites across the Peconics and we would reach out to LIOGA. SH will help to build these partnerships.
- Sea Grant now has an aquaculture specialist on-board that can provide input to this project, Emma Forbes. Program Office to make contact with Emma.
- NEIWPCC reminded the group that Kristin Krasinski is now in the role of Bioextraction Coordinator for NYS.
- Program office will flush out a formal Scope of Work based on the grant proposal.
- Final recommendation on sensors (and therefore final budget for USGS stations) will be decided at the August TAC meeting on August 18th.
- 4. The Governance Document was discussed
 - There are several items still under review in this document. In lieu of a long discussion at this time, a workgroup was formed to finalize the Governance and Organizational Document. This will be circulated via email for final decision on recommendation to the Policy Committee in October. A few items were noted:



- i. DEC suggested clarification of which office within the NYSDOS should be included.
- ii. Language surrounding any existing MOUs should be reviewed.
- iii. Rotation of the TAC Chair.
- iv. NEIWPCC wanted clarification on their named inclusion as a voting member. To date, only the PEP Host is referred to in the document. This will be reviewed by the workgroup.
- 5. East End Town Priority Sub-Watersheds
 - The Program Office has proposed a plan to prioritize work in specific sub-watersheds in each town. The plan outlined the following areas:
 - i. Accabonac Harbor
 - ii. Sag Harbor Cove, including Haven's Beach
 - iii. Riverside, Southampton
 - iv. Meetinghouse and Terry's Creek
 - v. Town and Jockey Creek
 - vi. Mattituck/James Creek
 - vii. West Neck Bay and Creek
 - viii. Shelter Island Heights
 - Chris Gobler suggested we add Three Mile Harbor
 - i. Suffolk County Agreed
 - ii. There was consensus to add Three Mile Harbor
 - There was robust conversation on how to proceed one note from Southampton was that the tax issue (1099) for grants related to new I/A Systems is holding up our ability to get them installed.
- 6. Program Office Updates
 - Included an update of Federal expiring funds
- 7. Meeting Adjorns