



Peconic Estuary Partnership Local Government Committee (LGC) Meeting

April 6th, 2022; 10am – 12pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Zoom Meeting Information

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/97404672398?pwd=dGhBNmxHQkhxOEhkekhESXB4eXc4UT09>

Meeting recorded: [LINK](#)

Participants: (15) Joyce Novak (PEP), Valerie Virgona (PEP), Sara Cernadas-martin (PEP), Jim Colligan (Shelter Island), Kevin McDonald (TNC& PEP CAC chair), Alan Duckworth (Town of Brookhaven), Angela Noncarrow (Palumbo Office), Fred Thiele (State Assembly, District 1), Jodi Giglio (State Assembly, District 2), Legislator Al Krupski (SC District 1), Gwynn Schroeder (Al Krupski's Office), John Bouvier (Southampton Town Council), Tommy John Schiavoni (Southampton Town Council), Liz Gillooly (Southold Trustee), Mark Woolley (Lee Zeldin's Office)

Welcome & Introductions (*Jim Colligan, PEP Local Government Committee Chair*)

PEP Updates (*PEP Program Office*)

Alan Duckworth gave Town of Brookhaven update on Forge Rd Dam fish passage: project went out to bid, all overbudget of DEC funds by 130k, looked for additional money, will be passing town board resolution to shift money to allow the project to go forward. Project from July-Aug.

Kevin McDonald highlights the role of PEP in successfully accomplishing work initiatives that cross town boundaries.

Review of 2022 Funding & Priority Projects over next 5 Years (*Joyce Novak, PEP Executive Director*)

- Projects & continued expansion of PEP communications
- Alignment of PEP and Local Government Priorities
 - Climate Adaptation
 - Eelgrass Restoration



- Nitrogen Pollution Reduction
- Wetland Restoration

John Bouvier noted Southampton town interaction with Build Back better, goal to reduce GHG emission by 50% in 10 years and encourages municipalities to engage with this program. Will send links for more information.

Al Krupski stated he would love to be a part of our natural shorelines committee. Noted to include marine contractors as a resource.

How towns can best prepare for accessing funds & how PEP can help

Jim Colligan expressed his hope for possible future funding for Shelter Island ferries & road raising, although it sounds as though federal money seem to be for larger projects such as bridges/tunnels etc.

- Mark Woolley answered that lots of funding is coming out. Smaller projects use RAISE grant DOT funding, Community project funding FY 23. Woolley will send information over for opportunities, note: Jitney ferry is looking into RAISE grant due middle to end of this month- must move quickly, only getting guidance on this now.

Joyce Novak offers a possibility for workshop for middle of May to compile funding sources- Jim Colligan agrees.

Fred Theil highlighted the interdependence of Estuary, notes CPF & thanks town match to funds.

- Theil explained that state budget is late- hopefully soon to be finished. He shares that work done from 90s forward has set us up for receiving money for important projects, hopeful that voters will support state bond act. Expresses that PEP budget will most likely be 450k, trying to get \$ for SC for sub watershed plan.



- o Noted lots of funding opportunities: Bond Act, CPF, EPF, Water quality infrastructure funding
- o Al Krupski noted that little mention of land preservation. Thiel responded that the bond act dedicated funding for farmland & open space funding, end of the day CPF generates more funding than the EPF, noted that it would be good for the county.
- o Al Krupski: SC manages the debt, 100 mil bond for land. Thiel stated that if bond act passes; CPF funds & SC funds can be used to leverage federal funds.
- o Kevin: Suggest a meeting with himself, A. Krupski, & Joyce to work on proposing critical lands to be acquired next 5-10 years and making campaign moving forward. Krupski confirms will meet with the group.

Septic System Upgrade Outreach (*Valerie Virgona, PEP Outreach Coordinator*)

- o PEP plans to hold one community outreach event in each town focused on septic system upgrade grants.

John Bouvier (Southampton) stated the county is ordering the upgrade of systems that have been put in, are looking to figure out how many of these systems there are & Joyce Novak volunteered to reach out to DOHEalth,

Jim Colligan noted that people who have put these new systems in place did the right thing & now they have to upgrade. Hopes that upgrade is fully grant funded.

Kevin McDonald: notes that he hopes to know what the septic technology is, that the program is manufacturer specific but not many implemented.

Bouvier stated that the manufacturer will bore the cost of upgrade although he holds the fear of dis-incentivizing the program.



Jim Colligan wants campaign for less harmful fertilizers on farms, suggests maybe more research into more green fertilizers, not all or nothing fertilizing their lawns.

Kevin McDonald suggested starting slow & have follow up meeting.

Joyce Novak suggested coordinate our efforts for fertilizer issues with LINAP, across SSER & LISS as well as the role of seaweed aquaculture being used as soil amendments.

Al Krupski added that CCE must be a part of this effort, homeowner fertilizer use is not regulated,.

Kevin McDonald claimed his stance that CCE does not use the lens of impact on groundwater when talking about fertilizer.

Al Krupski stated that all players should be in the room for the conversation; McDonald agrees

Joyce Novak shared that Long Island Blend Fertilizer with "Slow release" is an option and noted lots of work was put into it & its availability needs to shared.

Back to Valerie presentation on Septic Systems

Jim Colligan stated that cleaning up SI nitrogen pollution in center of town is their #1 priority.

Valerie offered outreach support on septic & nitrogen pollution

John Bouvier stated his concern with CPF funds, giving rebates to systems, brought up that we have not yet experienced severe weather. Brought up the question of who owns these systems? If they were granted/given through rebate system. K. McDonald asserts homeowner owns it. John Bouvier stated that there has been questions about this. K. McDonald suggested a state department of insurance meeting with him and Fred Theil.

Looking Forward: Consecutive 2022 LGC Meetings will be held in person, location TBD



- July 20, 10am-12pm
- October 5, 10am-12pm

Kevin McDonald recap:

funding in cycle & the need for a workshop soon

Al Krupski & Kevin McDonald will come up with master land acquisition game plan for the east end 5-10 years

Follow up with John on insurance question in case of system failure

Liz Gillooly noted small tracts of lands with wetlands that people are trying to build on, want to highlight how we can help to protect these smaller parcels of wetlands.

Mark Woolley commented on dealing with IRS, hopeful to get straightened out.

John Bouvier will send out information on Better climate challenge”

Joyce Novak mentions NYSACC mission to corral town CACC’s and will share information moving forward.

Better Climate Challenge: Links & email below 4/13/2021:

Per the discussion during today’s PEP Local Government Committee meeting, here is the link to the FY23 Community Project Funds program (the old earmarks). You can apply online and it is best to make your town’s application by April 15, 2022. The link also contains a separate link for the necessary guidance: [Fiscal Year 2023 Community Funding Requests \(google.com\)](#)

I’m also providing a link to Federal DOT’s FY22 RAISE grant program. This program has \$1.5 billion available to be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. As in prior years, capital and planning projects are eligible. The deadline for submitting an application is April 14, 2022: <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>. I also have looped in members of our DC team who can provide information about the Community Project Funding process. Thank you.

*Regards,
Mark Woolley*