

*Draft: to be approved at Oct 11th, 2023 meeting

Peconic Estuary Partnership Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

**May 12, 2023
10am – 12:30pm**

LOCATION:

Maxine S. Postal Auditorium, Riverhead
County Center 300 Center Drive,
Riverhead NY 11901

Hybrid Zoom ID:

Zoom recording available upon
request.

[Link to Briefing Materials Folder](#)

Briefing Materials for Review:

Oct 12, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
May Meeting Agenda
FY23 PEP Work Plan(s) for EPA 320 funds a) Overall Budget Narrative b) Suffolk County Funds c) Stony Brook University Funds
BIL 5 Year Plan
BIL Equity Strategy
PEP Finance Plan

Agenda:

10:05 Welcome & Roll Call – Javier Laureano, EPA – Policy Committee Chair

Roll Call * indicates in person, rest via zoom

PEP Policy Committee member:

Javier Laureano, PhD, Water Division Director (USEPA, Region 2)

*Robert Nyman, EPA Region 1 (vote proxy for Javier Laureano, EPA)

*Cathy Haas, Director (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region

*Peter Scully, Deputy County Executive (Suffolk County)

*Scott Russell, Supervisor, Town of Southold (Local Government Representative)

Paul Shepson, Stony Brook University

Additional Attendees: *Joyce Novak (PEP); *Jade Blennau (PEP);* Jeremy Campbell (DOS,SSER); Aimee Boucher (EPA), Liz Butler (EPA), Sue Van Patten (DEC); * Kevin G. McDonald (PEP CAC Chair)

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10:10 Review of Minutes from the October 12, 2022 meeting – Javier Laureano, EPA

ACTION: Policy Committee approves October 12, 2022 Minutes.

Meeting Minutes approved- Peter Scully, Scott Russell

10:15 Presentation of PEP FY23 EPA320 General Budget Work Plan (not including BIL) – Joyce Novak, PEP Executive Director

- FY23 PEP Work Plan: Suffolk County Funds
- FY23 PEP Work Plan: Stony Brook University Funds - Peter Scully & Cathy Haas

It was suggested for PEP to present on the Homeowner rewards program updates & progress. Kevin McDonald suggests taking local government committee members to tech transfer and EPA meetings in Washington. It was noted that this will give a good perspective on how the program connects to other programs.

Peter Scully asked for clarification on marine geo protocol differences. The new Marine Geo protocol gives a more comprehensive look into habitat dynamics to identify drivers.

Kevin McDonald asked for PBR guidance for the estuary and a coherent strategy for their use. Sue Van Patton commented that the DEC is working on common messaging across the island on educating all of the options.

Peter Scully commented that if there is no monitoring, it is a feel-good exercise, if it is not science-based, there is no value. Suggests taking a good look at monitoring as well as reassessing their need in coordination with other efforts.

Cathy Haas asks if the program office can add to presentations which branch of DEC they are working on for each project.

ACTION: Discussion & approval of PEP FY23 Work Plan

Stony Brook: Cathy Haas, Bob Nyman

Suffolk County: Peter Scully, Cathy Haas

10:35 Presentation of PEP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Requirements: – Joyce Novak

- A presentation and discussion of PEP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding 5-Year Plan: 2022-2026
- Equity Strategy: PEP 2023 IDEAS Strategy
- Update: BIL 2022 funds released by EPA, 2023 to be released as early as May 2023.

Joyce Novak noted that if the initially proposed maps are approved by PEP Committees, the DEC then moves forward in finalizing that map, ~45% of these areas within the Peconics are no longer retained in the finalized map. Joyce Novak reached out to DEC to understand the parameters, DEC central office suggested that if PEP uses the parameters from the proposed maps for identifying environmental justice Areas they should continue to do so despite the finalized version. Cathy Haas added that Environmental Justice Areas are separate from the Disadvantaged communities. There is some confusion on which parameters and offers to meet later about DEC info locator web tool for reference. Liz Butler clarified EPA expectations and understanding of how NEPs stakeholders and strategies are different and will come back with comments after the review process.

ACTION: Discussion & approval of PEP BIL Funding 5 Year Plan

Approved Peter Scully, Scott Russell

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11:00 Presentation of PEP Financial Plan – Joyce Novak

- A presentation and discussion of PEP Financial Plan

Scott Russel expressed the need for local government funding to transition to a budget line for planning, PEP cannot plan the future because CPF is based on the housing market and that is not a sustainable amount of funding per year, The program needs a reliable budget to grow.

Scott Russel urges for this transition to budget lines, and that the conversation needs to happen now. Ideally, a plan should be drawn up for contributions with elevations each year, and it is up to the town if they wish to use CPF.

It was noted that East End towns should not be relying on CPF to solve all funding issues, towns have budgets and should find the budget line to support the program along with a plan for the future. Reasonable appreciation of the budget for PEP is needed in the form of a stable local government contribution.

Joyce Novak agrees and will be focusing on these conversations.

ACTION: Discussion & approval of PEP Financial Plan

Approved: Cathy Haas, Scott Russel

11;10 PEP Brief Program Updates – Joyce Novak

11:18 Public Portion / Additional Comments

- Next meeting is the **Joint Management and Policy Committee meeting on October 11, 2023**

1120 Adjourn- Javier Laureano, EPA