

PEP Management Committee Meeting

January 11th, 2023 – Minutes,

Hybrid meeting, held at Suffolk County Community College Campus, Riverhead

Recording available upon request

10:05 Welcome & Roll Call – Bob Nyman, EPA – Management Committee Chair

*Indicates attended in-person

| Committee Organizations | Individual |
|---|--|
| US EPA Region 2 (Chair) | *Bob Nyman |
| DEC Division of Marine Resources | Cassie Bauer |
| DEC Division of Water | *Sue Van Patten |
| New York State Department of State | Jeremy Campbell |
| Suffolk County Dept of Health, Office of Ecology | Ken Zegel |
| Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development and Planning | *Camilo Salazar |
| Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District | *Corey Humphrey |
| Suffolk County Legislator District 1 & 2 | Al Krupski –office representation by Gwynn Schroeder |
| Bridget Fleming official MC representative | |
| Local Government Rep to the MC | Councilman John Bouvier |
| PEP Chair Local Government Committee | *Jim Colligan |
| PEP Chair Technical Advisory Committee | *Matt Sclafani, PhD |
| PEP Chair Citizens Advisory Committee | Kevin McDonald |
| Stony Brook University (SBU) | *Paul Shepson, PhD |

Additional Attendees: *Joyce Novak (PEP), *Valerie Virgona (PEP), *Sara Cernades-Martin (PEP), *Barry Volson (PEP), Jade Blennau (PEP), *Aimee Boucher (EPA), *Valerie Askinazi (EPA Region 2), *Barbara Branca (Former NYSG), *Bob Nyman(EPA), *Josh Halsey (PLT), *Jessie McSwane (PLT), *Shavonne Smith(Shinnecock Nation, Natural Resource Depart.), *Gavin Cohen (Shinnecock Nation, Nat Resource Depart.), Jeremy Campbel (NYSDOS, SSER), Gwynn Schroeder (Legislator Al Krupski Office), John Bouvier (Councilman of Town of Southampton), Angela Noncarrow (NYS District 1), Rebecca Shuford (NYSG), Scott Curatolo-Wagemann (CCE), Atifa Hoque (EPA), Cassie Bauer (NYSDEC), , Ken Zegel (SCDHS), Paul Shepson (SBU), Theresa Masin (Town of Southampton), Lynn Mendelman (Association of Marine Industries), Ann

Welker (Southampton Town Trustees), Mary Arnold (NYSDEC/NEIWPC), Cathy Haas (NYSDEC) (Cathy Haas), Diana Lynch (SC Parks)

10:10 Review of Minutes from the October 12, 2022, meeting – Bob Nyman, EPA – Management Committee Chair

ACTION: Management Committee approved October 12th, 2022, Minutes.

10:20 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) 2023 funds – Joyce Novak, PEP Executive Director

- A presentation and discussion of the BIL2023 Work Plan for approval

ACTION: Discussion & recommendation of BIL 23 to Policy Committee for approval.

Broad Cove-

Jessie McSwane (PLT) noted that this is currently under PLT ownership, and they are working closely with NYSDEC to work out property ownership in the future. In addition, the historic Bell Town community is adjacent to this area and has historically used this property. Bell Town is an area bought by two brothers and created a community for family & friends to live. In the last two years, it has earned historic designation and state recognition.

Aimee Boucher (EPA) asked if it is a four-year plan, are they hoping for four years of BIL funding? Jessie McSwane noted that this is a hope and Joyce Novak added that this is something that will be reviewed each year and we hope that money can be leveraged to access new opportunities.

Bob Nyman (EPA) asked about concerns of legacy duck farming. Josh Halsey (PLT) noted that remediation of water quality issues from legacy duck farming is a hope for the future but not within the scope of this first year of funding. Joyce Novak echoed that we are focusing on access in this first year but have hopes for future bio-extraction possibilities at this site.

Camillo Salazar asked about the surrounding waterways of Terry's and Meetinghouse Creek as well as phragmites stands surrounding.

Joyce thanks the Land Trust for having the vision and ability to acquire this parcel.

Shavonne Smith (Shinnecock Nation, Natural Resources) asked what the definition of a disadvantaged community is and how you create access for this community.

Joyce Novak recognized the tools at hand are the NYS proposed Environmental Justice areas as well as, Suffolk County's economic ranking of low-middle, and low-income households used of IA system upgrade program as well as EPA recognized justice area. Joyce Novak noted the development of IDEAs (inclusion, diversity, equity, and access) strategy to be further developed for PEP from Stony Brook University's internal use. This document will better identify tools for defining these terms. In this context, access refers to physical access to this site & waterway, noted railroad tracks creating unsafe conditions.

Corey Humphrey (SC, SWCD) asked about future plans, invasive species management & easement statuses.

Joyce- PLT has plans but long-term planning is not formal. PLT successfully manages many sites and they will continue to be on this beautiful parcel.

Corey Humphrey added invasives do not care about funding years and suggested the need for a management plan.

Joyce Novak noted that through new partnerships PEP has done a field site walk of the property with Long Island Invasive Species Management Area alongside PLT Stewardship to create a base invasives

management plan to address this concern. PEP has noted the need for funding for maintenance and monitoring for all sites and we are noting this in budgeting for the future.

Riverside, Southampton- wetland restoration

Bob Nyman asked to clarify if this was dredge material and it was confirmed.

Legislator Bridget Fleming noted the Riverside overlay district that was created and noted that there should be a large amount of concept planning done already and hopes for it to be used.

Joyce Novak noted PEP is working closely with Janice Scherer (Southampton Town Planning) to build on existing information and noted that tidal wetland restoration data needs are being addressed through this project. Also added that PEP is to participate in the Feb 8th FRNCA Community Association meeting. We are using it as a foundation for a consultant to focus on this wetland and what restoration concept.

What sort of restoration do you see?

Leg. Bridget Fleming asked for details of restoration and if it was to be based on plantings or contamination mitigation and the ultimate goal of the project.

Joyce Novak noted that this is different from legacy issues with runnels and ditches of a subsiding marsh. This area is made up of improperly graded dredge spoils. Camillo Salazar (SC) noted that surrounding areas such as Indian Island have the presence of DDT and arsenic. These may be present in these dredge spoils. Joyce Novak noted goals of passive recreation, responsible trails, and connectivity to already planned trails nearby reiterating that community access main goal, as in parking and trail.

Joyce added that funds will be passed directly to the town of Southampton, and they will manage any RFPs and contracts needed to get this work done.

Leg. Bridget Fleming noted that cleanup should be a priority if we aim for access.

John Bouvier (Town of Southampton) added that the town is working with original plans and confirmed Joyce and Leg Fleming's notes and assessment of the property are correct.

Jeremy Campbell (NYS DOS) asked if this is incorporated within the Riverhead revitalization project and if it is in connection with the existing project.

Joyce noted that this is not a PEP connection, but town discussion is outside of our knowledge. John Bouvier noted that discussion is happening between towns, but nothing is decided.

Peconic East Blue Carbon Shoreline Protection Project:

Joyce Novak presented project outline and tasks covered in years 1 and 2 as well towns and communities involved (Sag Harbor, North Haven, and Shelter Island).

Corey Humphrey asked if commercial aquaculture be engaged in this project?

Joyce Novak responded that ideally yes, but this must be developed further perhaps with LIOGA and community coordinators with hopes to engage as many people as possible doing related work in this area.

Matt Sclafani (CCE) Asked if there were any set of tools that people could use if they want to engage in bio extraction or if this is something that PEP could deliver to stakeholders with an example such as shoreline work of demonstration site.

Joyce responded that PEP would love to come up with guidelines for restoration techniques as well as demonstration. We would like to feed the results of the project into the community.

Jeremy Campbell commented that through working with Sea Grant, there is information on monitoring of living shorelines around the state that should be tapped into

Joyce Novak noted that this work requires a very specific set of skills, so PEP targeted the ShiRP scientist that have successfully implemented this in Shinnecock Bay. It was noted that Chris Gobler, Brad Peterson, and Mike Doall are set to be the leads. In addition, first year work is dedicated to siting work to decide best locations and practices for kelp farming. We would like to involve any local kelp farmers that are interested including Shinnecock Kelp Farmers and any local operations.

Rebecca Shufford (NYSG) noted that NYSG is happy to provide any research that she has access to on livign shorelines and data related to the success of this.

I/A Systems

Joyce Novak presented the plan for \$50,000 of funding 2 additional years of maintenance to low-middle income and low income identified households.

John Bouvier noted that Southampton town currently has a rebate program has been updated to be accessible to low-income households within the town of Southampton.

Joyce Novak noted that there is an estimated \$300-350/household per year for maintenance but exact numbers are being discussed with Suffolk County. Also, these funds will be coupled with 320 funds and be a total of \$95,000 towards this project initiative.

Kathy Haas thanked PEP for work and funding associated with the Broad Cove project. In regards to Environmental Justice, suggests use of the DEC info locator, that's the best map to use. Link: <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>

Bob Nyman made a motion to approve both work plans for recommendation to the Policy Committee; Paul Shepson and Matt Sclafani → Second; motion approved.

10:55 Introduction of PEP FY23 EPA320 general budget – Joyce Novak, PEP Executive Director

- A presentation and discussion of the PEP's plans for 2023 general funds.
- A review of important events in 2023 - Joyce Novak
 - PEP will be turning 30 in 2023! We will be holding a conference event on May 11th and other events throughout the year.
 - The EPA Program Evaluation will be happening in 2023 -what does this mean for our MC?

Joyce invited MC members to join our mini grant review committee.

Noted the PEP May conference and the PEP program evaluation.

In relation to the CCMP Tracking system, once complete, will present the tracking system.

11:10 NYSDEC Funding Finder – Mary Arnold, Long Island Sound Regional Coordinator

- Presentation of NYSDEC Grant Database Tool

Joyce added that stakeholders have been asking for this tool for a long time. PEP very excited for the tool and happy with the LINAP partnership.

Mary noted her suggestion to subscribe to the LINAP newsletter as it will have information on grants. You can email grant notifications to the official email for the LINAP instead of Mary's just in case she is out of the office (liwaterquality@dec.ny.gov)

Link: [Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan \(LINAP\) - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#)

- An outline of on-going outreach progress and plans -Valerie Virgona, PEP Outreach Coordinator
- Bay Scallop Technical Review Committee - Sara Cernadas-Martin, PEP Water Quality Program Overview of results from the last Scallop meeting (December) indicating bad news for the fisheries, major collapse as well as spawning collapse. It was noted that predation not the cause, it is a mix of environmental variables: dissolved oxygen, Temperature stressors plus disease. There was emphasis on continuing reseeding efforts until we find a better solution.

Jim Colligan (SI town) asked if the fishery doomed or is there still hope? Should we keep investing money in a dying fishery? Maybe just bring southern species that are able to withstand temperature stresses.

Sara noted the committee is unsure if we can legally bring these southern subspecies. SBU Researcher Bassam is looking into the hybridization of these species to create a new strain with heat resistance. Joyce noted that there are no guaranteed results and more research is needed to move this forward. Research indicates that reseeded is necessary.

Jim Colligan notes that there are questions on funding this initiative. Joyce added that Suffolk County has seeded for fifteen years, highlighting that this has always been an assisted fishery. It is in question now of how much more support is needed to subsidize this fishery.

Matt Sclafani noted that disaster money is going to research this and that Cornell is working with Stonybrook for reseeded. Matt noted the efforts by towns such as east Hampton are helping to create robust recruitment.

Leg. Bridget Fleming-added that the Suffolk County legislature is supportive. \$760,000 from disaster reclamation is going to research. After speaking to baymen that it is understood that that amount of money split amongst 500-600 baymen is not making impactful difference to them. They prefer for this money to go to research to bolster the future of the fishery. Seeding in Moriches Bay, where there are slightly lower temps, Ed Warner has recorded some success.

Sara Cernadas-Martin added that Bassam's lab at SBU has isolated a specific strain of this parasite specific to our bay scallop but more molecular research is needed.

- IDEAs Project: Community Fishing Access -Sara Cernadas-Martin, PEP Water Quality Program Manager

It was noted that this initiative is partnering with ifish NY program, further developing it, targeting a different audience (IDEAs) and expanding the lecture session to cover topics relevant for our watershed. Matt Sclafani asked if catch and release can be part of this effort and it was noted that this will be part of the recreational fishing and DEC regulations info session.

12:05 PEP Project updates – PEP Program Office & Committee Chairs

- Local Government- Jim Colligan; Technical Advisory- Matt Sclafani; Community Advisory- Kevin McDonald

Matt Sclafani: TAC quick list of topics covered:

- 1- Microplastics project with Gordon
- 2- Chris Goble: Blue Carbon Project overview
- 3-Michele Golden: LI hydromodification → Document with results will be distributed to municipalities when ready
- 4- Target numbers for acreage conservation → still ongoing
- 5- Shoreline hardening issues and permitting
- 6- USGS Solute Transport Model update and finish up

Jim Colligan- LGC, quick list of topics covered:

- 1- Noted great timing for this work & PEP enthusiasm
- 2- BIL funds is only one funding source; Mary Arnold's funding tool shows the opportunity available, noted the success of Shelter Island town grant writer as well as the importance of prioritizing projects.
- 3- Noted some SI projects such as wastewater projects in the center of Shelter Island, SI heights treatment plan, and Fresh Pond.

- PEP 2023 Mini Grant - Valerie Virgona, Outreach



ACTION: Discussion & organization of a mini grant review subcommittee.

It was specified that, “organization” is any entity capable of receiving the funds including nonprofits, municipalities, and tribal nations.

Follow up for mini grant review committee- assembled and met 03/24/23.

12:15 Public Portion / Additional Comments

- Next Management Committee meeting April 19, 2023.

No comments

12:30 Adjourn- Bob Nyman, EPA – Management Committee Chair

Thank you all!