



Minutes
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
November 17th, 2023 10:00 am
Zoom Recording - <https://youtu.be/fkIxxT6Udrw>

10:00 AM Welcome and Roll Call –*Sara Cernadas-Martin (PEP WQ Program Manager, TAC Coordinator)*
In-person: Isaac Nikolic(SBU-MCP), Tom Iwanejko (Suffolk County), Corey Humphrey (SCSWCD), Valerie Virgona (PEP), Sara Cernadas-Martin (PEP), Pete Topping (Peconic Baykeeper), Bob Mozer, Kathleen Fallon (NY Sea Grant), Mary Ann Eddy (Sag Harbor)
Zoom: Theresa Masin, Eileen Keenan, John Aldred, Royal Reynolds, Josh Halsey, Michele Golden, Jennifer McGivern (Claudia Fabian), Nina Leonhardt, Alexa Fournier, Matt richards, Nancy Pierson, Sam Apgar, Allan Duckworth, Chris Engelhardt, Nora Catlin, Maureen Dunn, Lynn Mendelman

10:10 AM Presentation: Shoreline adaptation workgroup: Overview and update – *Kathleen Fallon (NY Sea Grant)*

Partnership between NY SeaGrant and PEP. Goal is to identify barriers to implementing shoreline adaptation methods across the estuary. The Peconic estuary shoreline is highly susceptible to coastal erosion and flooding. Traditionally, shorelines were stabilized with hardened structures in Long Island. This method is not ideal, due to the need for repairs, replacements and other ecological issues. Over the last 15 years Long Island has been transitioning into natural shoreline stabilization methods. Natural shorelines not only provide protection but also offer ecological benefits as well as social ones (beautification of the shoreline). Natural shorelines are site specific and will not work anywhere, those proper siting must be performed before considering installation of one in order to secure success.

The Peconic Estuary Shoreline Adaptation Initiative aims to identify barriers in current state and municipal policies to implementing shoreline adaptation methods and to develop education and outreach materials to assist policymakers, contractors, homeowners and other stakeholders. This will also include a review of guidelines and codes and drafting potential changes to existing codes as well as creating permitting guides in collaboration with academia (Dr. Tara Rider).

Progress so far:

- One-on-one interviews with towns and state to discuss project, current hurdles and needs, and applicable deliverables
- Developing Town and State Permitting “Road-maps”
- Walk through process from application submission to approval
- Identify codes and policies that are involved
- Discuss areas that are hurdles and opportunities for change
- Convening first meeting in January



Pete Topping- When advocating for natural shorelines, will there be a Cost Benefit Analysis to show homeowners? Otherwise great work, useful having such a thorough analysis
Kathleen- Will not likely be a deliverable of this project.

The group had a short discussion about story maps and how they present information to the public. Story Map example to reference is the CLPS tool on the PEP website:

<https://hub.gss.stonybrook.edu/arcgis/apps/storymaps/stories/4175f91a3a5d437fbf1d334465b7fc0a>

10:35 AM Presentation: A story map for homeowners on natural Shorelines – *Isaac Nikolic (SBU-MCP)*
Nature based protection is the use of natural materials to reduce the risk of erosion or storm damage to a shoreline. This is in contrast with hard protection methods such as seawall or bunkheads which do not allow for natural processes or provide an ecological benefit.

There are multiple options for natural shoreline approaches. In order to narrow down the list, the use of a flowchart is recommended, such as the one shown in the slides. Once the options have been narrowed down, the specific characteristics of the site will dictate which method is the most appropriate (sea level rise, wave energy, wave crest height...).

Brief overview of different options for natural shoreline protection such as marsh sills, living reefs, joint planted revetments or breakwaters. The overview covers the requirements for each of these methods to be effective and lasting, for more detailed information please see the presentation recording and the slides.

This process can potentially be streamlined with the use of available models (ArcGIS), these models are great tools for method selection and for even creating educational materials. The handicap is that for this model to be accurate it needs an extensive database of shoreline conditions which might not always be available (additionally the data has to be presented in an spatial format, which adds another layer of complexity).

Mary Ann Eddy asked if grants would be available for data gathering for the model.
Isaac answered that he does not know what source further funding would come from. NOAA-Virginia Sea Grant has performed a similar model project. More funding is being pursued.

11:00 AM TAC Organizational Items - *Sara Cernadas-Martin (PEP) and Tom Iwanejko (Suffolk County)*

- Recommendation for use of Suffolk County Unliquidated Obligations (ULOs)

Eelgrass Survey was not able to be performed this past summer due to meteorological conditions (Canada fires smoke). PEP has \$60K of ULOs in Suffolk County that need to be repurposed. Possible project to redirect the funding to would be: [Indian Island County Park restoration project](#).

The Indian Island County Park is a former intertidal wetland that was filled with dredge material. Some of the items included in the restoration project include box culvert, tidal channel, increased berm, hydroseed bare areas. All these have the purpose to allow for marsh restoration and expansion.



The County is short \$20,000 for the lowest bid, and will likely need a total of \$150-200K to complete the project that started +20 years ago. With PEP support, this project would be completed in winter/spring 2024.

PEP can commit the \$60K of Suffolk County ULOs plus \$100K more in 2024 of the Suffolk County PEP budget, for a total funding of \$160K. TAC members are requested to cast a vote for recommending this funding allocation to the PEP Management Committee. **TAC Voted - YES**

11:20 AM TAC Organizational Items - *Sara Cernadas-Martin (PEP)*

- Comments and Recommendation to move for Management Committee Approval
 - PEP Ecosystem Status Report
 - PEP Habitat and Wildlife Monitoring Strategy

Sara will be taking suggestions and comments for two weeks from Monday November 20th to December 4th . Sara will send out an email with the documents in case anyone could not access the documents attached to the calendar invitation (in Google Drive).

Table the Motion to approve last week's minutes. Sara reminds the group that they are available on the PEP website, and will also send via email.

11:40 AM PEP Updates - *Sara Cernadas-Martin (PEP)*

Sara will include a larger group in planning for next year's EJ Fishing trip planning, Pete has suggestions for locations and NYSeagrant has more information on food safety to share with participants.

Peconic Bay Scallop TRC meeting Nov 29. Grant application for funding for a Fall 2024 Symposium has been submitted.

Peconic USGS Solute Transport Model completed, Nov 17th at 1:30PM scheduled update meeting to review deliverables, dashboard appearance, capabilities and needs as well as division of priority waterbodies for scenario input.

11:50 PM New Business / Public Comment

The EH Trustees are considering some changes to our dock policies. Details are on the trustee website (ehtrustees.com), but the most important consideration is whether to extend the prohibition on the construction of any new docks to the northern portion of Three Mile Harbor, the only portion of any trustee waters not currently subject to this prohibition. We are accepting comments on these considerations until the end of the day, November 27th. Email comments to Trustees@ehamptonny.gov.

12:00 PM Adjourn