

*\*Draft TAC/NRSC minutes; to be approved  
in the November 2025 meeting (TAC),  
and the next NRSC meeting in 2026\**

**Peconic Estuary Partnership**  
**JOINT Technical Advisory Committee & Natural Resources Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Agenda**

**August 20th, 2025, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Location:**

Riverhead Free Library  
Stage Room  
330 Court Street  
Riverhead, NY 11901

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/91666281355?pwd=9yTHXHDKbEY7LVlvVjR3BGacFWyxMy.1>

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**ID: 91666281355**

**Passcode: 891290**

**10:00 - Welcome and sign in**

**10:05 – Roll call : Matt Sclafani (TAC Chair, CCE)**

**10:10 - Old business: vote to accept minutes from previous meetings (TAC & NRSC) and discussion of nominations for both the TAC and NRSC in November 2025.**

Prev Minutes: All in favor, no members abstained, none opposed- Motion Approved

Nov 2025 Minutes: All in favor, no members abstained, none opposed- Motion Approved

Notes on the need for hardened shoreline monitoring to retain the goal of halting shoreline hardening. Discussion was had on the need for expanding this goal to go beyond stopping hardening to the goal of increasing natural shorelines by hardened structure removal. This need will be addressed in future adaptations and updates of the PEP habitat plan.

Active TAC Co-Chair Dr. Bradley Peterson will be stepping down from his role as Co-Chair. Members thank Dr. Peterson for all of his work in chairing the Technical Advisory Committee. Co-Chair elections will be held in October 2025. Nominees for the PEP TAC are Dr. Matt Sclafani & Dr. Stephen Heck.

Co-Chair nomination for PEP NRSC is Theresa Masin.

**10:20 - Marissa Velasquez-Rosante (PEP Program Office), Discussion of utilizing the CLPS tool to assess acreage to conserve in the Peconic Estuary**

Agriculture was noted as tier 1 priority and voted on in the previous February NRSC meeting.

Discussion was had on if there was an ability to expand the tiers based on the groundwater travel time beyond 2years. It was noted that the next ranking is 2-25 years and expands the map.

Tier 1 for parcels that do not have these categories but for areas that have known rare or endangered species communities such as Atlantic white cedar swamps, or portions of the longpond green belt.

The committee discussed a way to include developed parcels that have been prioritized for development but are good candidates for re-naturalization.

Vote with the inclusion of threatened and endangered species. As well as explore the Vote Matt, second Theresa, motion passed.

All in favor, no members abstained, none opposed- Motion Approved

**10:40** - *Seatuck, Enrico Nardone Horseshoe crab workgroup, Seaturk Shell Recycling.*

Both projects are moving forward. Horseshoe Crab Workgroup will be meeting on 9/5/25 for one final meeting before providing a draft proposal.

Suggest Reaching out Tom Hauten, municipal works in which transfer stations are run, very interested in food waste recycling programs specifically for a recycling program in the Town of Southampton.

Conversation on if other nonprofits can act as a leader when it comes to connecting the shell recycling program with local restaurants. There will be a workgroup of all the entities working in this arena to share information. There is a large demand for this.

Retail level collection - volunteers are working with the restaurant staffs

Without volunteers the program breaks down, always needs assistance, the program is running and needs to move shells to curing sites.

Riverhead town very proud of the shell recycling program

Suggestions of engaging with CCE - spat program at Tiana Beach?

Setup buckets for shell collection in many areas but personpower to pick them up regularly is needed. Town participation will be a large help.

**11:10** - *Jade Blennau (PEP Program Office), Discussion of previous data discussion for CLPS/VIMS: Model & bulkhead removal*

Southold site: NYDEC shared background of the site, history as a restaurant, and its updates under NYS water access. A discussion was held on the need to retain.

Southampton site: appears to have naturalization occurring therefore the site most likely will not be selected

East Hampton site: located in Napeague Harbor (the old fish mill), there are issues with the location and openness (wind, fetch, etc.), which might make it a difficult location for bulkhead removal.

**11:25** - *Joyce Novak, Water Quality App*

Parameters of the water quality app were discussed. The app will be available in the fall for both Android and iOS users.

Suggestions of a beta test were mentioned to determine all glitches and limitations of the water quality app to make it more user friendly. The program office and the Geospatial Center will be working to try and provide this for future users.

**11:45** - *Project Updates*

- SeagrassNET
- Aquaculture Impact Studies
- CHANGEs
- Shoreline Summit and Active Shoreline Project Work
- Diamondback Terrapin & Horseshoe Crabs
- NYMRC and Sea Turtle/SAV Interaction
- Stormwater Plans

**11:55** - *Public Comment*

**12:00** - *Adjourn*