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

August 19th, 2026, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location:
Riverhead Free Library
Stage Room
Riverhead, NY 11901

Join Zoom Meeting
ID: 98386547615
Passcode: 041961
(US) +1 646-255-1997
Passcode: 041961

10:00 - Welcome and sign in

10:05 – Roll call : Dr. Stephen Heck (*TAC Chair, The Nature Conservancy*)

Attendees: Josh Halsey (PLT), Hannah Collins (PEP), Molly Graffam (CCE), Sung Gheel Jang (SBU), Bob Mozer (Citizen Science Learning Center), Jade Blennau (PEP), Stephanie Reifschneider (PEP), Bob Teeman (Southold Trustees), Lynn Mendelman (AMI), Shauna Kamath (NYSDEC), Andrew Walker (NYSDEC), Sarah Healy (NYSDEC), Cassie Bauer (NYSDEC), Kris Mielenhausen (Seatuck), Nancy Pierson (Suffolk County), Jennifer Yeltekin (Suffolk County), Stephen Heck (TNC), Brian Frank (Town of East Hampton), Morgan Slater (Town of East Hampton), Liz Hanley (Town of Shelter Island), Jacqueline Fenlon (Town of Southampton), Michael Iasili (Town of Southampton), Kim Shaw (Town of East Hampton), Ann Welker (Suffolk County Legislature), Alex Caporale (Suffolk County Parks), Sarah Groves (NYSDOS), Bradi Gaer (NYSDOS), Jordan Russo (NYDOT), Bryana Porter-Pompey (SBU), Jennifer Murrary (Turtleback Environmental), Emily Berkowitz (CCE), Emily Efstration (Town of Southampton), Corey Humphrey (Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District), Alexa Fournier (NYSDEC), Sam Apgar (US Fish & Wildlife Services), Melissa McCarron (Town of East Hampton), Alexa Annunziata (Peconic Baykeeper), Nina Leonhardt (LI Pine Barrens Society), Nora Catlin (CCE), Chris Engelhardt (NYSDEC), Joyce Novak (PEP), Valerie Virgona (PEP)

10:10 - Old business: vote to accept minutes from previous meeting

- Motion to accept minutes: Josh Halsey
- Seconded: Shauna Kamath
- Habitat plan last updated in November 2024
    - No new projects contribute to the plan
    - Submissions for habitat nominations are open for 2026 update
        - Please submit to program office by December 2026 for review
        - Updated plan will be presented at the next NRSC meeting in early 2027

10:20 - Dr. Sung Gheel Jang, Stony Brook University Geospatial Center, *Updates and Changes to the CLPS Tool*

10:50- Questions

    - PLT: Is there a way to toggle the conservation easements vs the public parcels? (In relation to public perception)
        - J. Blennau: As of right now, when you physically click on the parcel it will tell you what it is, but there is not a toggle option applicable to filter out the public parcels.
    - B. Mozer: Groundwater model, there's two: Suffolk County and USGS. Which one is being used? What are the differences between the two models?
        - S.G.Jeng: Used the same dataset as the 2019 tool. We could not change that. Model output is County. We have found that there is a new groundwater data by USGS released in 2025, the issue is that there is a model output.
    - J. Blennau: We are looking to find key partners to click around… Also able to look at the entire town or just within the Peconic Estuary boundary.

11:00 - Dr. Joyce Novak, Peconic Estuary Partnership, *Updates to the PEP CCMP & Tracking Tool*

11:10 - Questions

11:15 - Dr. Molly Graffam, Cornell Cooperative Extension, *Tanbark Creek; Long Term PRB Performance Monitoring*

11:35 - Questions

- J. Blennau: WHen you take your samples are you able to measure the flow rate at that time?
    - Relation to extreme rain events of the last 24 hours.
    - M. Graffam: We do not measure it at the specific times of sampling, the travel times come from the subwatershed grant. We typically do not want to sample after a major rain storm.
- B. Mozer: What was the interest in measuring iron, sulfate, and sulfides in respect to nitrogen concentration?
    - Iron would follow along the same lines as manganese. We did not end up measuring manganese, would be good to add. We settled on iron, sulfate because these were the analytes most interested in. Other biogeochemical reactions can occur beyond denitrification, which we do see in downgradient wells.
- S. Heck: Do you have to recharge the wells often?
    - M. Graffam: A part of why we are looking at longevity. Lasts 5 - 7 years with emulsified vegetable oil. On this site we use injection wells so that we may be potentially reinjected down the line if we see that the PRB is no longer functioning.
    - S. Heck: Also, it sounds like it's hard to monitor further away from the shoreline. Theoretically, do you think they would have a similar impact on the shoreline?
        - M. Graffam: Same reactions would be happening. Most bang for buck at shoreline. Closer you get to the surface water body, the aquifer is being compressed so you do not have to inject as deep. The closer you are, the less deep you have to inject. A few miles inland, you would be much deeper in the aquifer.
- C. Humphrey: You mentioned natural hydrology. Is there any work being done on pressurized systems?
    - M. Graffam: We use passive natural groundwater flow. The extraction and treatment process bringing it to the surface can be quite expensive, which is why we do a lot of

work to find where these high flow areas are.
    - C. Humphrey: Active carbon. Is there any work that you see in your future using these different sources?
        - M. Graffam: Looking at a pilot that would use activated carbon. Can be mixed with other things to treat carbon.
- J. Halsey: Working with Molly on PRB projects along other sides of LI. Extends thanks to Peconic Estuary for supporting this project.

11:45 - PEP Program Office Updates

- CCMP Five Year Review
- SeagrassNET Updates + PEP Seagrass Workshop
    - If you have not signed up, registration for the Seagrass Workshop on September 26th, 2026 can be found here: Peconic Estuary Seagrass Workshop Tickets, Saturday, September 26 • 9 AM - 3 PM | Eventbrite
- Updates on eDNA study of diadromous fish in the Peconic River
- Horseshoe Crab Action Plan
- Upcoming Outreach Events

11:50 - Public Comment

J. Blennau: Please get in touch with Marissa for Habitat Plan Projects to be Integrated to be considered for future prioritization and funding!

12:00 - Adjourn

Peconic Estuary Partnership

PROTECTING AND RESTORING LONG ISLAND'S PECONIC BAYS

Peconic Estuary Partnership Mapper Tool Instructions

REMINDER: Ongoing projects & Map ID.

- **Voting organizations : Add projects within PE Boundary**
  - Red= Not initiated
  - Yellow= In progress
  - Green= Done
  - Light Green = Continuous monitoring

https://earth.google.com/earth/d/1MWCbWLeptEv6gC3QfcmIF1Z8GgOSNkxA?usp=sharing

How to Use PE Project Mapper:

1.) Scan QR Code or follow Google Earth Link:

https://earth.google.com/earth/d/1MWCbWLeptEv6gC3QfcmIF1Z8GgOSNkxA?usp=sharing

2.) Open up the Drive File "Active PE HabitatsProjects 2024"

3.) Click "Add Placemark" and move Placemark to Project Location

4.) Categorize placemarkers as green (completed), yellow (in progress), or red (not initiated)

Peconic Estuary Partnership
PROTECTING AND RESTORING LONG ISLAND'S PECONIC BAYS

Habitat Restoration Site Nomination Form

Please provide as much information as possible for each site/project. A contact person must be identified on each nomination form. List only one (1) site per form. If you have questions about filling out this form, please email: Marissa Velasquez, Peconic Estuary Program Natural Resources Program Manager: marissa.velasquez@stonybrook.edu

Please email completed forms to barry.volson@stonybrook.edu **by January 13th, 2027**. Site nominations will be reviewed at the January 27th, 2027 Natural Resources Subcommittee Meeting.

****

SITE NAME:
LOCATION/ADDRESS:
LATITUDE/LONGITUDE:

CONTACT INFO
CONTACT NAME:
ORGANIZATION:
ADDRESS:
PHONE:
EMAIL:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (general description of restoration work, size in acres, level of disturbance, justification, etc.):

HABITAT TYPE (tidal wetland, freshwater wetland, eelgrass, beach/dunes, intertidal flats, coastal forest, coastal grassland, riverine habitat/migratory corridors, shellfish/shellfish habitat):

PROJECT BENEFITS (please describe the ecosystem benefits of the proposed restoration work and explain why the project is a priority):

OWNERSHIP (public, private, utility, other):

PROJECT STATUS (not initiated, conceptual design/feasibility study, engineering design, permitting phase, construction):

CONTRIBUTABLE RESOURCES (planning, design, funding, labor, equipment, technical assistance/oversight, etc.):

COST/FUNDING NEEDED:

ADDITIONAL INFO: