

*to be approved at October Joint PC-MC meeting

Policy Committee Meeting

March 19, 2025

10am – 12:30pm

LOCATION:

LOCATION:

NEW Town of Riverhead Town Hall
4 W 2nd St, Riverhead, NY 11901

[Google maps link](#)

Agenda:

10:00 Welcome

Policy Roll Call- Jennifer Juengst, Deputy County
Executive, *Policy Committee Chair*

Attendance recorded at end of document.

Action: Policy Committee approval of meeting minutes from October 30, 2024

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

10:05 National Estuary Program Update: Review of federal funding- Joyce Novak, PhD, *Executive Director*

10:20 Amendments to Active Federal Workplan

Joyce reported that half of the \$1.8M federal IJIA funding is in-house and ready to be allocated. The remaining amount's availability is uncertain. She confirmed the combined workplan format for ease of approval. Joyce confirmed focus is shifting toward clean water work, and proposed folding unfilled part-time IJIA positions into existing roles for administrative and outreach support. Committee discussed inclusion of this in work plan amendment language.

Review Active Workplans and recommend amendments to align with current federal priorities

- Workplans to review:
 - FY 21-24 - Stony Brook University 320 funds
 - FY21-24 - Suffolk County 320 funds
 - BIL (IJIA) Years 1-3: Stony Brook University
 - BIL (IJIA) Year 2: Suffolk County

Action: Policy Committee approval of the PEP program office to amend existing work plan language as needed to align with federal priorities.

EPA abstain from vote, motion Kevin McDonald, second Jennifer Juengst, Motion Approved

Briefing Materials Package:

[Link to Briefing Materials Folder](#)

October 2024, PC-MC [Minutes](#)

SBU FY25 [Workplan](#)

SC FY25 [Workplan](#)

FY25 [Budget Narrative](#)

SBU & SC [All Active Workplans](#)

***see end of agenda for all links or navigate the Data
Hub**

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10:45 FY25 Workplan Review and Discussion

- Stony Brook University FY25
- Suffolk County FY25
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, formerly BIL) Workplan Y4-5

Discussion included budget allocations for travel, staff, supplies. Kevin emphasized importance of budget for tech transfer to engage town boards and local officials. Joyce agreed to incorporate travel for outreach and engagement.

Data management budget increase noted. Joyce explained it's to enhance accessibility for public and management decisions. Kevin questioned data application and public access. Joyce, Matt, and Jen supported centralized data access via online library.

Committee reviewed proposed work under IIJA Y4-5, with continued investment in clean water and outreach.

Action: Policy Committee approval of Stony Brook University FY25 Workplan

EPA abstain from vote, motion Kevin McDonald, second Jen Juengst, Motion Approved

Action: Policy Committee approval of Suffolk County FY25 Workplan

EPA abstain from vote, motion Kevin McDonald, second Jen Juengst, Motion Approved

Action: Policy Committee approval of IIJA Y4-5 Workplan

It was noted that the Nutrient Outreach Position will assist public understanding and outreach of the new I/A Maintenance Grant program benign set up by suffolk county health. Previously posted part time position was not able to be filled, these funds will be moved into assisting current admin and outreach positions.

EPA abstain from vote, motion____, second____, Motion Approved

11:30 Updates

Policy Committee members update on any items of relevance in the Peconic Watershed

PEP Committee Updates

- Local Government Committee, **Valerie Virgona, PEP Communication & Outreach Manager**

Noted Tommy John Schiavoni moving into state assembly and new LGC Chair to be solidified soon.

- PE Protection Committee, **Corey Humphrey, SCSWCD**
- Citizens Advisory Committee, **Kevin McDonald, Chair**

Advocated for increased public outreach funding and better integration of communication strategy,

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including digital advertising and radio.

- Technical Advisory Committee, **Matt Sclafani, PhD. Chair**

Discussed data-driven shoreline management, adaptive permitting guidance models, and interest in PFAS sub-workgroup formation.

- Peconic Bay Scallop Technical Review Committee, **Marissa Valasquez, Co-Chair**

Provided updates on eDNA, eelpass, and diadromous fish studies with Seatuck. Working on turtle naming, tech transfer, and eelgrass monitoring.

- MC PEP Agricultural Workgroup, **Corey Humphrey, SCSWCD**

Spoke about ag workgroup outreach and how to better include farmers and BMPs in strategy.

PEP Active Project Updates, **Program Office**

PEP Active Project Updates, Program Office

- *Monitoring of Permeable Reactive Barriers (PRBs) discussed. Al Krupski and Cathy Haas requested preliminary results. Joyce will coordinate with Molly Graffam at CCE for a presentation to multiple interested parties including the town, water quality boards, Suffolk County and NYDEC.*
 - *PRB regulatory framework and data sharing challenges discussed. Guidance and monitoring are in development.*
 - *PFAS monitoring efforts expanding, especially in Riverhead/Brookhaven. Discussions are ongoing about bioaccumulation and groundwater monitoring.*
 - *Database development at Stony Brook progressing well and is expected to provide real-time, publicly accessible data to guide decisions.*
 - *Suffolk County Operation Medicine Cabinet in the planning phase and will be tagged for a presentation once solidified. No fixed timeline. Joyce confirmed interest in collaborating with legislators.*
 - *Joyce acknowledged improved permitting processes within state and local government processes due to recent efforts. Anne and Jade highlighted the importance of engaging at the local level.*
 - *The need for respectfully engaging regulators was discussed with an emphasis on providing technical resources and support for data-driven decision-making on Peconic Estuary Shorelines.*
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12:30 Public Portion / Additional Comments

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Important Dates:

June 5, 2025: Save the Date *PEP Biennial Conference: Shoreline Summit* (in Partnership with NYSG)

July 16, 2025: Save the Date *PEP Bay Scallop Symposium* (in Partnership with NYSG)

2025 Policy Committee Meeting Dates:

~~- Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - WORKPLAN APPROVAL~~

- Wednesday, October 29, 2025 (Joint with Management Committee)

Attendance: *attended via zoom

PEP Policy Committee members:

Chair: Jennifer Juengst (Suffolk County Executive Office)

Cathy Haas, Regional Director (NYS DEC, Region 1)

***Al Krupski**, Supervisor, Town of Southold (Local Government Representative)

Kevin McDonald, (Citizens Advisory Committee Chair)

Javier Laureano, Water Division Director (EPA Region 2)

Additional Attendees: *attended via zoom

Ann Welker (SC Legislative District 2), Joyce Novak (PEP), Jade Blennau (PEP), Rachel Friedman (PEP), Marissa Velazquez (PEP), *Nancy Pierson (SCDHS), Jill Moretto (PEP), * Elizabeth Butler (EPA), *Michael Flood (EPA), *Cassie Bauer (NYDEC), *Cate Rogers (Local Govt Rep)

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<u>Data Hub workplans</u>	
	https://data.gss.stonybrook.edu/organization/pep