

**Peconic Estuary Partnership
Management Committee Meeting**

August 6, 2025

10:00am – 12:30pm

***BONUS EVENT: TURTLE RELEASE WITH NYMRC 6PM**

See below for details*

LOCATION(s):

8:45AM - Stopping at [BROAD COVE PRESERVE](#) Trail walk & Site Visit

[Overlook Dr](#)
[Aquebogue NY, 11931](#)

9:20AM - Depart for MC Meeting at Group for the East End offices

9:50AM- Arrive to Group for the East End

[Group for the East End Office](#)

[54895 NY-25, Southold, NY 11971](#)

11:30AM - Group trip to:

[CENTER FOR ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, TRANSFORMATION \(CAST\) Headquarters](#)

[53930 Main Rd. Southold. NY 11971](#)

Agenda:

10:05 Welcome

Thank you to our partners at Group for the East End for hosting our meeting space!

Management Committee Roll Call: *Sue Van Patten, Management Committee Chair*

Action: MC approve meeting minutes from May 14, 2025

All in favor, no members abstained, none opposed- Motion Approved with an amendment noted by Cassie Bauer regarding WQIP clarity.

Management Committee Chair: Program Office recommends NYS DEC Division of Water to continue as Chair for the next term of the Management Committee leadership and asks Suffolk County EDP if they wish to continue as vice-chair. Please reach out with additional nominations by September 14, 2025. Voting will take place at the PEP October joint policy & management committee meeting.

10:10 National Estuary Program Major Project Updates (IIJA & Bond Act): Joyce Novak, PhD PEP Executive Director

The committee discussed the Upper Mills fish pass project with LIPA, which is actively working toward a land use agreement. Members spoke about the viability of a Stony Brook Southampton Campus greenhouse buildout for seagrass. Due to the PEP relationship with SBU as the fiscal host, the PEP looks to assist in identifying funding and plans for the Seagrass greenhouse. The history of the estuary

program boundary line in the area was discussed. Carrying out infrastructure work outside the PEP boundary was discussed, and any formal application will be carried out closely with SSER. A follow-up meeting will be coordinated across SSER, Southampton, PEP, NYS, and other partners once a cost estimate and full agreement from Stony Brook University have been completed. The group considered whether PEP could contribute to operational costs and how to ensure SSER is included to leverage program funding.

10:25 Discharge Removal in Southold (Goose Creek, Town & Jockey Creek): Michael Collins, Town of Southold Engineer

Michael Collins provided project updates and presented the GIS map available on the town website.

[LINK to Map](#)

Members reviewed progress on active and eliminated outfalls, with the town cutting four and PEP funding three more. It was noted that 59% of identified outfalls have been removed since 2019, with a goal to eliminate 90–95% in the next 3–4 years. The committee examined strategies such as focusing waterbody by waterbody, working upstream, and installing catch basins and drywells. Explanations were given about sewersheds, drainage areas, and use of LiDAR elevation data. Outfalls are either cemented shut or physically removed. Goose Creek has had four outfalls removed and two still in use, with plans of no municipal point source discharge once work is complete. An overview was provided of a marsh restoration project at Goldsmith's property, with \$50,000 in planning funds and \$150,000 Bond Act funds identified.

10:45 NY Sea Grant Law Fellow Preliminary Review Southold Shoreline Code: Mia Frasure, J.D. Candidate, Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law

NY Sea Grant Law Fellow, Mia Frasure, shared her review of Southold Town shoreline and wetland code to improve resiliency and support the work of PEP's Shoreline Adaptation Initiative. Conversation centered on updating code language for clarity, defining key terms, and making permitting more efficient. It was suggested to add nature-based features to existing definitions modeled after model local laws or surrounding towns rather than creating entirely new language. The group considered incentives for adopting nature-based solutions. Trustees were noted as proactive, but the importance of informing them ahead of meetings was emphasized. It was shared that this work came out of 2020 PEP priority discussions, and Sea Grant emphasized the value of partnerships. Trustee turnover due to elections was mentioned, and a dedicated meeting on this topic was suggested. The LWRP and working with Department of State was discussed. Mia is to share a spreadsheet outlining a comparison between Southold Town and East Hampton Town code language regarding coastal erosion hazard area, shoreline code, LWRP, and general summary. Trustee engagement and support were described as well-timed as this is an election year.

11:00 PEP Updates

PEP Committee Updates

- Local Government Committee, **Valerie Virgona, PEP Communication & Outreach Manager**
- Citizens Advisory Committee, **Chris Clapp, CAC Co-Chair**

- Technical Advisory Committee, **Matt Sclafani PhD. Chair**
- Peconic Bay Scallop Technical Review Committee, **Marissa Valasquez, Co-Chair**

Local Government Committee

Michael Iasilli reported on septic improvement rebate programs and challenges in expanding priority zones. It was noted that outreach meetings are scheduled in multiple hamlets, and collaboration with Sea Grant and Mia on town code was discussed.

Citizens Advisory Committee

Chris Clapp shared updates on communication strategy work, with Marstel Day analyzing survey data. An online survey link will be included in post-meeting notes.

Technical Advisory Committee

Matt Sclafani reported on eelgrass monitoring, the GIS database for projects, shoreline management modeling, and shoreline summit outcomes. The next joint Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting is planned for November 20. Discussed shoreline summit success and value of investing in the Shoreline site suitability model - quantifiable and useful approach to make more informed decision making for shoreline adaptation management in Peconics.

Peconic Bay Scallop Technical Review Committee

Marissa Velasquez reported on the recent symposium co-hosted with Sea Grant, updates from guest speakers, and research into more resilient scallop strains. While population recovery is slow, partnerships are helping move the work forward.

MCP Fellow

Victoria shared updates on the no-discharge zone, marina outreach, and possible increases in larger vessels. Education strategies such as distributing informational tags and flyers were discussed.

Joyce Novak, PhD PEP Executive Director: Updates

Check out calendar for events

Discussed septic outreach and the roll-out of our community septic outreach program and upcoming community meetings.

Update of CCMP requirements, communications plan, finance plan, and review of CCMP actions.

Mentions terrapin turtle tagging Matt Sclafani mini grant, species specifically mentioned in CCMP, keystone species, wants to expand the project.

PEP Active Project Updates & CAST Project Overview, **Program Office**

11:15 PEP Management Committee Member Updates

Discussion was limited by time, and participants were encouraged to connect on the field trip.

11:25 Public Portion / Additional Comments

11:30: Pack up and head over to CAST to visit the Native Plant Garden

Jade reported on the CAST native plant garden project, educational programs, QR code tours, and potential funding expansions for FY26. The committee recognized that the 2023 Original award was funded from Southold Town and was leveraged for an increased FY25 Federal investment.

Funds supported CAST's Native plant garden and an educational, bilingual, QR code garden tour, a seed library, and STEM activities.

12:15: Wrap up at CAST, Goodbyes, & Van leaves!

The group visited CAST headquarters and discussed success of native plant garden, seed library, and experimental garden plots.

Next Management Committee Meeting:

- **Wednesday, October 29, 2025* Joint MC-PC**

TODAY: August 6th, 2025

Turtle Release – New York Marine Rescue Center

6PM, [TIANNA BEACH, HAMPTON BAYS](#)

PEP is supporting ongoing work by the [New York Marine Rescue Center](#) to track the movement of rehabilitated sea turtles in the Peconic Estuary using satellite tags.

Join us to watch rehabilitated sea turtles be released!

Voting Members:

*attended via Zoom

Committee Organizations	Individual	email
US EPA Region 2	Liz Butler *	<u>Butler.Elizabeth@epa.gov</u>
DEC Division of Marine Resources	Cassie Bauer	<u>cassandra.bauer@dec.ny.gov</u>
DEC Division of Water (Chair)	Sue Van Patten	<u>susan.vanpatten@dec.ny.gov</u>
New York State Department of State	Jeremy Campbell	<u>jeremy.campbell@dos.ny.gov</u>
Suffolk County Dept of Health, Office of Ecology	Mike Jensen	<u>michael.jensen@suffolkcountyny.gov</u>
Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development and Planning	Lisa Broughton (representing Sarah Lansdale)	<u>Lisa.Broughton@suffolkcountyny.gov</u> <u>Sarah.Lansdale@suffolkcountyny.gov</u>
Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District	Corey Humphrey (office rep present on zoom)	<u>Corey.Humphrey@suffolkcountyny.gov</u>

Suffolk County Legislator District 1 & 2	Catherine Stark (office rep present) & Ann Welker	Catherine.stark@suffolkcountyny.gov Ann.welker@suffolkcountyny.gov
Local Government Rep to the MC	Councilwoman Gate Rogers	CRogers@ehamptonny.gov
PEP Chair Local Government Committee: Southampton Rep	Michael Iasilli*	miasilli@southamptontownny.gov
PEP Chair Technical Advisory Committee	Matt Sclafani, PhD *	ms332@cornell.edu
PEP CAC Vice-Chair Citizens Advisory Committee	Chris Clapp	chrisclapp2@gmail.com
PEP Host (Stony Brook University)	Paul Shepson, PhD *	paul.shepson@stonybrook.edu
Shinnecock Indian Nation	Shavonne Smith	ShavonneSmith@shinnecock.org

Zoom:

Elizabeth Butler (EPA)	Cass Ponds (EPA)
Jack Baglivi (LD01 Stark)	Lauren McGrath (Farm Bu
Paul Shepson (SBU SoMAS)	Matthew Sclafani (TAC Ch
Lynn Mendelman (AMI LI, SEA Inc)	Josh Halsey (PLT)
Michael Iasilli (Southampton Town Council)	Kaitlyn Boyle(SC SWCD)