

Peconic Estuary Partnership
Joint Policy & Management Committee (PC+MC) Meeting
October 30, 2024
10am – 12:30pm

LOCATION:

Suffolk County Community College, [121 Speonk-Riverhead Road](#), Riverhead, NY 11901

Montaukett Learning Resource Center- Library (MLRC)

Links to: [College Map](#); [Google Map](#)

Briefing Materials Package:

[Link to Briefing Materials Folder](#)

April 17, 2024, MC Minutes

May 15, 2024 PC minutes

State of the Estuary Report

Agenda:

10:05 Welcome

Attendance:

Jennifer Jeungst (Suffolk County), Shauna Kamath(NYDEC), Lisa Broughton (SC Planning), Cassie Bauer(NYDEC), Chris Clapp (SSER), Sue Van Patten (Chair MC), Matthew Sclafani (TAC Chair), Sun Gheel Jang (SBU), Kristen Hutz (SBU Student), Corey Humphrey (SC Soli&Water), Al Krupski (Southold), Tommy John Schiavonni (LGC), Elizabeth Butler (EPA), Mike Flood (EPA), Marissa (PEP), Jill Moretto (PEP), Jade Blennau (PEP), Joyce Novak (PEP), Jack Beglivi (Legislative Aide), Bryanna Porter-Pompey (MCP Student Fellow), Nils Volkenborn(SBU)

Zoom: Patrice Dalton (East Hampton), Theresa Masin (PEP- NRSC), Jeremy Campbell (NYSDOS), Jacquie Fenlon (Southampton CPF), Ken Zegel (SC Health) Catherine Stark (SC-D1), Deborah Van Cott, Anne Welker (SC-D2), Kate Rogers (East Hampton), Paul Shepson (SBU), Kevin McDonald (Citizens Advisory Committee), Mary Ann Eddy (Sag Harbor)

The meeting began with Joyce introducing new staff members including Marissa Velasquez and Jill Moretto. A significant portion focused on staffing challenges, particularly the unfilled part-time equity coordinator position. Joyce suggested either trying again with a revised job posting language or looking into moving the funds to partner with organizations that can directly assist with engaging underserved communities.

The discussion then moved to data management and monitoring initiatives, with a presentation on the creation of a comprehensive data organization system for seagrass monitoring data. Brianna Porter Pompey presented research on oyster valve-gating behavior as a proxy for water clearance. The meeting covered several infrastructure and restoration projects, including updates on the Broad Cove site development and Meeting House Creek restoration. Joyce Novak and Valerie Virgona discussed potential office opportunities for the old Riverhead Upper Mills building through partnership building with the

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Gardner Foundation (RDGL) devoted to historic preservation. Kevin McDonald provided updates from the Citizens Advisory Committee regarding ballot measures for water quality improvements. The meeting concluded with extensive updates on outreach activities, including watershed walks, monitoring programs, and the Home Rewards program. Throughout the discussion, various committee members, including EPA representatives and local government officials, contributed perspectives on project implementation, funding allocation, and community engagement strategies.

Policy Roll Call; *Jennifer Juengst, Policy Committee Chair*

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

Action: MC approve meeting minutes from April 17th, 2024

Motion approved-

Action: PC approve meeting minutes from May 15th, 2024

Motion approved-

10:15 Welcome new Program Office staff and status of Program Office changes

10:20 Review Program Office proposed workplan changes

- FY 23 workplan: project was recorded TBD in NYS funding category. A project recommended by the TAC will be discussed.
- BIL workplans: a part-time position is outlined. The Program Office will present an alternative solution.

Action: *Management and Policy Committees recommend changes of workplans.*

Motion Approved by both Management and Policy committees

10:35 MCP 2023 Fellowship with Volkenborn Lab; *Bryanna Porter-Pompey*

10:50 Eelgrass in the Peconics, presented by *Kristen Hutz, SBU Geospatial Center*

11:10 Potential PEP Outreach Center on the Peconic River; *Joyce Novak, Executive Director*

11:20 PEP Updates

PEP Committee Updates

- Local Government Committee, **Councilman Tommy John Schiavonni, Chair**
- Citizens Advisory Committee, **Kevin McDonald, Chair**
- Technical Advisory Committee, **Matt Sclafani PhD. Chair**
- Peconic Bay Scallop Technical Review Committee, **Marissa Valasquez, Co-Chair**

PEP Active Project Updates, **Program Office**

- [Tracking System Updates](#)
- State of the Estuary Report

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- General Program Office Updates
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funded Project Updates
- PEP Outreach Updates

12:00 Public Portion / Additional Comments

2025 Management Committee Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025
- Proposed Biennial Conference: TBD
- Wednesday, October 29, 2025*

2025 Policy Committee Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, March 19, 2025
- Wednesday, October 29, 2025*