

****Draft-Minutes to be accepted at the next
TAC meeting in February 2026****

Peconic Estuary Partnership
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda

November 5th, 2025, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location:

Suffolk County Community College -Eastern Campus
121 Speonk Riverhead Rd.
MLRC Room 107
Riverhead, NY 11901

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/98455327971?pwd=t3fDufcF8VAC9iBcHayYAXjkeVoqas.1>

Join Zoom Meeting

ID: 98455327971

Passcode: 083658

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Passcode: 083658

10:00 - Welcome and sign in

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

10:10 - Old business: vote to accept minutes from previous meetings; Elections for TAC Co-Chairs

Minutes from JOINT August meeting- approved, motion passed; PEP Program Office announces through acceptance of TAC voting members, as well as members of the PEP Management Committee, Dr. Matt Sclafani and Dr. Stephen Heck are the elected Co-Chairs for the PEP Technical Advisory Committee.

Voting for NRSC Co-Chair will take place at the January 7th 2026 NRSC meeting.

10:20 - Dr. Matt Sclafani (*TAC Chair, CCE*) & Dr. Oliver Shipley (*SBU; SoMAS*); Diamondback Terrapins as Catalysts for Estuarine Conservation: Integrating Telemetry and Isotope Analysis to Advance Habitat Protection and Public Stewardship Proposal

Recap of the completed work under the PEP Mini Grant awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension to conduct this work. Proposal to expand from this study utilizing the PEP FY25 NYS budget/PEP FY26 Workplan. This project will continue to use telemetry in tandem with isotope analysis to determine the interactions between diamondback terrapins and their environment.

10:35- Questions

10:40 - Dr. Bradley Peterson (*SBU; SoMAS*), Updates on sub-aqueous groundwater studies in the Peconic Estuary (RAE Coastal Watershed Grant)

Overview of the completed work under the RAE Coastal Watershed Grant. Proposal of work to continue in the FY26 workplan/FY25 NYS budget in order to expand on groundwater refugia mapping throughout the remainder of the Peconics, as well as seagrass restoration and interaction in these areas of the estuary.

10:55 - Questions

11:00 - Marissa Velasquez-Rosante (*PEP*); Peconic Estuary Partnership's Seagrass Strategy Overview

Discussion of the PEP Program Office's seagrass project history and investment in research and monitoring throughout the estuary from the years of 1997-2025

11:20 - Questions

11:30 - Marissa Velasquez-Rosante (*PEP*); Building Capacity and Monitoring Clams in the Town of East Hampton Proposal

PEP Program Office presented a project proposal on behalf of partners for a clam monitoring project to assess the success of local restoration efforts within the estuary. The focus of this project will be in the Town of East Hampton. Goals on the project are to assess restoration efforts, while also building capacity in the Town of East Hampton (provide dive training, support, and scientific practices, etc.) to allow the town to eventually manage and run a monitoring effort independently.

11:40 - Voting on approvals for proposed projects

Projects -

- Diamondback Terrapins as Catalysts for Estuarine Conservation: Integrating Telemetry and Isotope Analysis to Advance Habitat Protection and Public Stewardship Proposal
- Continuation of HEAT Mapping and Groundwater Refugia Studies in the Peconic Estuary
- Clam Monitoring in the Town of East Hampton

Action: motion passed to approve of all proposed projects for PEP Management and PEP Policy Committee approvals to be added to the PEP FY26 Workplan/FY5 NYS Budget.

11:45 - PEP Program Office Updates

- IJJA Bulkhead Removal Project : previous suggestions of bulkheads located on state property will not be moving forward, looking for suggestions of other bulkheads on publicly accessible lands. Please contact the program office with any information.
- Acres to conserve: recap of vote from previous meeting on tiered prioritizations for acres to conserve; updating CLPS too. Any local town GIS data or updated GIS data from Suffolk County would be helpful.
- Project Mapper - please utilize and pass along information to the mapper to any partners conducting work within the estuary boundaries; accessible site to allow everyone to share status of work they are conducting within the estuary
- PEP is hiring two new positions: Outreach Assistant and Project Specialist; one job call is open and will close November 16th 2025.

- Outreach Events: please see PEP website and calendar for upcoming outreach events in November/December
- PEP Committee Dates - please see calendar on PEP website for upcoming committee meetings in 2026

11:55 - Public Comment

12:00 - Adjourn

****Next TAC meeting will be February 4th 2026****

Attendees (in-person): Valerie Virgona (PEP), Marissa Velasquez-Rosante (PEP), Joyce Novak (PEP), Matt Sclafani (CCE), Brad Peterson (SBU), Stephen Heck (SBU), Jason Smith (Central Pines Barren Commission), Oliver Shipley (SBU)

Attendees (Zoom): Adam Starke (TNC), Shauna Kamath (NYSDEC), Della Campbell (NYSDEC), Rebecca Holloway (CCOM), Pete Topping (Peconic Baykeeper), Josh Halsey (Peconic Land Trust), James Duryea (Town of Southampton), Theresa Masin (Town of Southampton), Patrice Dalton (Town of East Hampton Trustees), Alan Duckworth (Town of Brookhaven), Paul Shepson (SBU), Liana Alongi (NYDOT), Alexa Fournier (NYSDEC), Shavonne Smith (Shinnecock Indian Nation), Lynn Mendelman