

*Minutes to be accepted at the next
TAC meeting in August 2025*

Peconic Estuary Partnership
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
May 7th, 2025, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

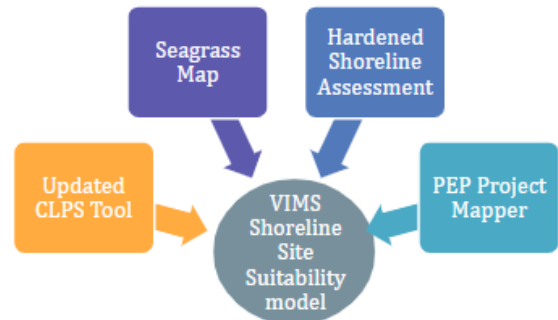
Location: [Montaukett Library](#) (MLRC)
Suffolk County Community College

10:30 – Welcome and Sign-In

Attendance recorded below.

10:35 – Roll Call – Dr. Matt Sclafani (TAC Chair, CCE)

- *Motion passed to approve the January 2025 TAC Minutes.*
- *PEP Program Office announced that TAC and NRSC Chair nominations are open for the October 2025 election.*



10:40 – Presentation: Dr. Jon Lefcheck (UMCES), PEP Seagrass Monitoring Protocols

- *Overview of SeagrassNET program and discussion of applying the protocol in the Peconic Estuary.*
- *Site selections for SeagrassNET monitoring include: Bullhead Bay, Napeague Harbor, Coecles Harbor, Sag Harbor, Orient Point, Gardiners Bay, and two new sites targeting widgeongrass monitorings*
- *Sag Harbor to be launched as pilot site, coming Summer 2025*

11:05 – Questions and Discussion

- *Concern raised about how changing shorelines may impact transect consistency in the monitoring protocol.*
Response: SeagrassNET allows case-by-case flexibility to adapt transect locations as needed.
- *Suggested monitoring frequency is annually, with flexibility for more frequent assessments.*
- *Discussion on widgeongrass increases as potential indicator of changing salinity or other environmental variables.*
- *Consensus on importance of consistent transect placement to maintain long-term data integrity.*
- *Theresa Masin noted that the Town of Southampton has annual aerial imagery (via NearMap) flown each April, available for use.*
- *Clarification that aerial eelgrass surveys are typically flown mid-to-late summer (June–September).*
- *TAC approved Lefcheck's recommendations in its monitoring methodology.*

11:20 – Presentation: Jade Blennau (PEP) & Dr. Sun-Gheel Jang (Stony Brook University), PEP Geospatial Center Project Update

Discussion #1: Updating Critical Lands Protection Strategy

- Reviewed the current status and intended use of the updated strategy.
Discussed need for updated parcel and inundation scenario data, especially from each township.

Data Discussion (Ongoing)

- Questions about availability and recency of parcel data by township: Suffolk County's most recent publicly available data may be from 2023; Jeff Herter (NYS DOS) suggested 2024 data might also exist.
- Datasets are accessible via the NYS DOS Gateway: <https://opdqig.dos.ny.gov/>
- Multiple towns (Southampton, East Hampton, Brookhaven) discussed having local parcel and shoreline data; follow-up needed with representatives from SI, Riverhead, Southold
- Align coding
- NYSDOS "Risk Areas" were discussed, including FEMA SLOSH modeling and sea level rise (SLR) forecasts.
- Carolyn Fraoli (DEC) confirmed DEC's SLR forecasts are updated, but no downloadable GIS dataset currently exists.
- Noted the importance of median scenario selection for SLR predictions to align with NYSDOS practices.
- Coastal Barrier Resources Areas (CBRA) and FEMA flood insurance implications were mentioned.

Solute Transport and Groundwater Data

- Discussion of updated groundwater data across Long Island; resolution may not meet modeling needs.
- The Solute Transport Model contains the most detailed groundwater data currently available.
- Chris Schubert datasets noted for groundwater travel time estimates.
- Groundwater protection areas are only updated through legislation.

Discussion #2: Adapting the VIMS Shoreline Management Model (SMM)

Committee to discuss identifying local data sets to use for model needs. Discuss what data needs to be invested in and possible sources.

Background:

See Model presentation to PEP TAC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhyVG2P2NRs>

Shoreline Management Model (SMM):

<https://www.vims.edu/ccrm/advisory/ccrmp/bmp/smm/>

On this webpage, you can find information about data input, outputs, and different applications.

For more information, publication:

Nunez, K., Rudnick, T., Mason, P., Tombleson, C., Berman, M.

(2022). A geospatial modeling approach to assess site suitability of living shorelines and emphasize best shoreline management practices. Special

Issue: Nature-based coastal defense: developing the knowledge needed for wider implementation. Ecological Engineering. 179. 106617.

Current Input Data	New Input Data
Bank Height	Bank Slope
Beach	Wave Energy
Canals (navigable)	Proximity to Narrow Creeks
Fetch	Federal Channels
Nearshore Bathymetry	RTE species
Permanent Structures	Agriculture land use
Public Boat Ramps	Site suitability for oyster structures
Riparian Land Use	
Roads	
Sand Spits	
Shoreline Protection Structures	
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) or Mangroves	
Tidal Marsh	
Tributary Designation	

- *Discussed local dataset requirements to effectively run the SMM model for the Peconic region.*
- *Suggested datasets: bank height, bank condition, upland geology, sediment texture.*
- *Shoreline and tidal marsh inventories noted as valuable resources.*
- *Wave energy and fetch models discussed.*
- *Subaqueous soil info (to 2m depth) available to inform oyster/aquaculture siting.*
- *Include subaerial soil data to support carbon sequestration and shoreline type classification.*
- *Marsh migration corridors being mapped using NOAA Lidar topo-bathy and SLAMM.*
- *Narrow creeks (<8.1m wide) discussed as areas with limited boat access but ecological relevance.*
- *Andrew Walker (DEC) noted the agency still uses the 1974 tidal wetland map for regulatory purposes.*
- *Suggested identification of oyster grounds to get an aquaculture understanding and digitize boat ramps to look those impacts*
- *Rob noted subaqueous soils information to a depth of 2m, and there is a soil inventory and subaerial lands can be included, along with carbon sequestration and hardened shorelines; these datasets exist and can be added into the model*
- *Discussion on incorporating salt marsh vulnerability data and shellfish leasing zones into mapping.*
- *Historical shoreline imagery needed to assess erosion trends.*
- *Jeff emphasized the importance of a user-friendly interface.*
- *Rob noted project delays due to staff turnover and funding; tentative restart in 2026.*
- *Email contact for geospatial data coordination: pepgis@stonybrook.edu*

11:50 – Questions

- *Lynn requested the inclusion of current commercial shellfish leasing areas in mapping products.*

12:20 – Public Comment

12:30 – Adjournment

***Data links shared in meeting chat:**

- [Explore: Sea Level Rise](#)
- <https://hub.gss.stonybrook.edu/arcgis/apps/storymaps/stories/4175f91a3a5d437fbf1d334465b7fc0a>
- [Coastal Risk Areas | New York Geographic Information Gateway](#)
- [Map Viewer](#)
- [New York Geographic Information Gateway](#)
- [National Wetlands Inventory](#)
- <https://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/>

In Person Attendees:

Matt Sclafani (CCE), Marissa Velasquez (PEP), Jade Blennau (PEP), Joyce Novak (PEP), Shauna Kamath (NYSDEC), Chris Clapp (SSER/DOS), Brad Peterson (SBU), Steve Heck (SBU), Adam Starke (TNC), Valerie



Virgona (PEP), Jonathan Lefcheck (UMCES), Chris Schubert, Carlos Vargas (VHB)

Zoom Attendees:

Alan Duckworth (Town of Brookhaven), Alexa Annunziata (Peconic Bay Keeper), Alexa Fournier (NYSDEC), Ali Farhadzadeh, Andrew Buck (VHB), Andrew Walker (NYSDEC), Ann Welker (Suffolk County Legislator), Bob DeLuca (Group for the East End), Braden Fleming (USDA-NRCS), Theresa Masin (Town of Southampton), Carolyn Fraioli (NYSDEC), Cassie Bauer (NYSDEC), Corey Humphrey (Suffolk County Soil & Water), Danielle McCulloch (USFWS), Deanna Sullivan (NYSDEC), Della Campbell (NYSDEC), Emily Efstoration (SH CPF), Gabriella Asher (DOT), Gavin Cohen (Shinnecock Indian Nation), Henry Bokuniewicz (SBU), James Gormley, Jamie Carroll (Suffolk County EDP), Jeff Herter (DOS), Jennifer Burton, Jennifer Juengst (Suffolk County), Jill Moretto (PEP), Karinna Nunez (VIMS), Kathleen Fallon (NYSG), Lynn Mendelmann, Mary Arnold (NYSDEC), Matthew Charters (Town of Riverhead), Matthew Dorman, Maureen Dunn (Seatuck), Michael Flood (EPA), Michele Golden (NYSDEC DOW), Nina Leonhardt (Pine Barrens Society), Rob Tunstead (USDA-NRCS), Sally Kellogg (SSER/NYSDOS), Sam Apgar (USFWS), Tamia Rudnicki (VIMS)



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