

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
Progress Report: September 10, 2018 – March 9, 2019
Prepared by Committee Coordinator Patricia Aitken

March 10, 2019

Listed below are activities of the Peconic Estuary Protection Committee during the period September 10 – March 9 for tracking Committee and Coordinator Work Plan progress. The list of activities is organized by the six “Minimum Control Measure (MCM)” activities required by the New York State Department Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) to facilitate reporting, and includes a section, “Other Committee Activities”.

This document succeeds the following previously issued reports:

- *Progress Report: April 2015 – December 2016; and*
- *Progress Report: January – March 2017.*
- *Progress Report: April – December 2017*
- *Progress Report: January – March 2018*
- *Progress Report – March 2018 – September 2019*

This Report is complemented by the recently issued report:

- *Report on the Education and Outreach Program Plan: September 10, 2018 to March 9, 2019*

MCM 1: Public Education and Outreach

1. PUBLIC EDUCATION: COMMUNITY EVENTS. See the report titled, *Report on the Education and Outreach Program Plan: Period: September 10, 2018 – March 9, 2019* for a description of education and outreach activities on water quality including both nitrogen and pathogen pollutants.
2. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS. The Coordinator has developed presentations regarding nitrogen impacts on water quality, focusing on impacts from stormwater and septic systems. These presentations provide a general background on the composition of the Committee and its activities to facilitate intermunicipal cooperation.
3. WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT. The Committee website was launched on the PEP server in September 2017. The site has educational resources for use by the general public on stormwater management and an e-library for Committee members consisting of educational resources and training tools. The website provides training materials for municipal staff on illicit discharge detection, information on stormwater management, landscaping best management practices, as well as stormwater pollution prevention plans, coastal erosion, climate change impacts and goose management. The Coordinator researches and adds information to the website as appropriate.

MCM 2: Public Involvement and Participation

1. MEMBER MEETINGS OPEN to the PUBLIC for SHARING EXPERIENCES. Committee members convene bi-monthly in a public forum to share lessons learned on stormwater best management practices. Meeting Summaries are publicly posted on the Committee website. Recent meeting sub-topics have included:
 - a. The October 2018 meeting of the PEPC was opened to the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, Manhasset Bay Protection Committee, Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee, Setauket Harbor Task Force, Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, Friends of the Bay and municipal officials island wide to facilitate a discussion between these entities and representatives from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the TMDLs, and the TMDL rescission process.
 - b. Subsequent meetings of the PEP Committee have included discussions regarding obtaining funding for a new shellfish laboratory on Long Island, and updates on the TMDL Workgroup and MS4 Permit Workgroup processes.

- c. In collaboration with program partners, the PEP Committee will develop a series of messages to be shared on social media regarding stormwater, septic systems, trash and floatable debris, and other issues impacting the Peconic Estuary during the summer tourist season. The timing of this campaign during the summer season, from Memorial Day to Labor Day will provide an opportunity to have the greatest impact, as this is when summer residents are present in addition to year round residents.
2. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OUTREACH. The Coordinator gave presentations to the Riverhead Rotary Club (November 7) and the Village of Sag Harbor Harbor Committee (March 6). These presentations focused on impacts from stormwater and outdated septic systems.
3. WATER QUALITY MONITORING QAPP DEVELOPMENT. The Coordinator will collaborate with the contractor once the contract is executed and will provide assistance in developing the QAPP and building partnerships to implement the water quality monitoring program.
4. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LONG ISLAND PROTECTION COMMITTEES. The Committee collaborated with other Long Island Protection Committees, specifically Hempstead Harbor, Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor, Manhasset Bay, Setauket Harbor Task Force, Friends of the Bay, the Long Island Sound Study, South Shore Estuary Reserve, Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan and Long Island Council on Aquifer Protection to keep abreast of Long Island-wide water quality initiatives and legislation. Committees communicated on the status of federal funding for national estuary programs, and advocacy in Washington D.C. for funding and regional water quality events and conferences. The Coordinator is working with the other protection committees to develop updates to the "GetPumpedLI" website to reflect information for Suffolk and Nassau Counties on septic upgrade programs.

MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

1. The Coordinator researched and uploaded training materials to the PEP Committee website for the Committee's use in training staff and employees in IDDE. Relevant materials are added to the website as they become available.

MCM 4 & 5: Construction Site Run-Off Control & Post-Construction Stormwater Management

- The Coordinator has received Soil and Erosion Control training, and will continue to work with municipal officials to provide oversight of stormwater runoff from construction sites.

MCM 6: Good Housekeeping

- The Committee agreed to focus on MCM 6 in 2019. The Coordinator will help plan and participate in municipal staff training events on MCM 6: Good Housekeeping topics, including maintenance of facilities, streets and parks; goose oiling and more, and will add educational resource materials to the website.

Other Committee Activities

1. NYSDEC 303(d) LIST. The TMDLs were rescinded by the NYSDEC in November of 2018. The Coordinator is a member of the TMDL Workgroup, and has attended meetings held by NYSDEC on December 5 and February 28. In between these meetings, the Coordinator participates in discussions with NYSDEC regarding TMDL development, and keeps the Committee informed of these discussions and solicits input from municipal members to be shared with NYSDEC. The Coordinator will review the 303(d) List when the revised list is released by NYSDEC.
2. PROPOSED CHANGES TO MS4 GENERAL PERMIT. The Coordinator was appointed to the MS4 Workgroup and attended a meeting of the workgroup in Albany on September 21 to further discuss these changes. The Coordinator will continue to participate in discussions with NYSDEC regarding the permit and possible impacts on municipalities that may be incurred by permit revisions.
3. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES EVALUATED. The Coordinator continues to add grant opportunities available from federal, state, county and private organizations to the database as they become available. The Coordinator will provide assistance to Committee members in the development of grant applications.
4. WEBINAR PARTICIPATION AND SUMMARIZATION. The Coordinator has developed a database of webinars relevant to committee activities such as stormwater, green infrastructure and riparian assessments. The database provides notice both of upcoming webinars, and links to recordings of past webinars. The Coordinator reviews webinars as appropriate and provides summaries of these webinars to municipal members.
5. PROJECT SUMMARIES. The Coordinator is in the process of developing a database summarizing all active projects within the Peconic Estuary area.