

Introduced by Presiding Officer on request of the County Executive and Legislators Anker, Hahn, Fleming

RESOLUTION NO. 1137-2021, EXECUTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK FOR PECONIC ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP STAFF SUPPORT

WHEREAS, Suffolk County is dedicated to the improvement of water quality on Long Island, including, in particular, those areas in Suffolk County that are facing ongoing water quality issues, such as the Peconic Estuary; and

WHEREAS, the Peconic Estuary was formally accepted into the National Estuary Program (“NEP”) in 1992 and the Peconic Estuary Partnership (“PEP”) was established to protect and restore the Peconic Estuary and its watershed in accordance with the mission of the NEP; and

WHEREAS, consistent with this, and in order to work toward the goal of improving water quality in Suffolk County, Suffolk County is a voting member of the PEP Management Committee (“Committee”), which Committee was established to support management of the PEP, including providing recommendations regarding workplans, budgets, Action Plans, and the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, as part of its role as a Committee member, Suffolk County and the Research Foundation at the State University of New York Stony Brook serve as a “Co-Host Entities” for the Committee, providing staff and resources to assist the Committee’s work; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has provided the Research Foundation at the State University of New York Stony Brook (“the Research Foundation”), a private, nonprofit corporation under contract to the State University of New York, with funds that may be used to provide up to six (6) employees to assist the County and the Committee in PEP work, such assistance to be at no Cost to the County; and

WHEREAS, consistent with this, the PEP has requested to place such Research Foundation employees in County office space located at 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Research Foundation desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to permit Research Foundation personnel to utilize County office space and equipment for purposes of providing staff support for the PEP and to set forth the responsibilities of each party; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the County Executive, or his or her designee, be and hereby is authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding in order to permit Research Foundation employees to utilize County space and certain County resources consistent with this Resolution; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"), N.Y. Environmental Conservation Law Article 8 and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS ("NYCRR") in that the action constitutes routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: December 21, 2021

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: December 28, 2021