



Management Committee Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017

Participants

Management Committee: Doug Adamo (NPS) , Peter Wepler (USACE), Karen Greene (NOAA), Clay Sherman (NJDEP), Evelyn Powers (IEC) , Bernice Malione (PANYNJ) , Meredith Comi (CAC) , Shino Tanikawa (CAC), Judy Weiss (STAC) , Dennis Suszkowski (STAC), Phil DeGaetano (WQWG) , Rick Balla (USEPA), Jason Fagel (NYSDEC)

Others in attendance: Rick Winfield (EPA), Nesmarie Negron (EPA), Dana Mecomber (PANYNJ) Chris Zeppie (HEP Consultant) , Nellie Tsipoura (CAC), Greg Alber (NJHDG)

HRF/HEP Office Staff: Isabelle Stinnette Rob Pirani, Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff

The meeting was held by conference call due to icy road conditions and difficult travel conditions.

1. The minutes from the December 13th meeting were unanimously approved
2. Rob announced that Dennis relinquished his role as WQWG chair, and introduced Phil DeGaetano as the prospective new chair. Phil was unanimously approved.
3. Rob gave a brief overview on the rollout of the Action Agenda. Rob is looking for final comments from the MC and PC by March 27th. A draft for discussion will be released and opened for public comment at the May 23rd HEP conference, and then reviewed and revised in the fall.

Action Item: Rob is looking for final comments from the MC

4. Rob gave a review of the Gantt chart/Workplan for specific Action Agenda items and reviewed where the Program might focus its efforts in 2017-2018 workplan:
 - Water Quality
 - Consolidated several water quality efforts into a single action
 - Creation of a harbor-wide WQ report as a focus for 2017-2018
 - Habitat
 - Focus on advancing shorelines and shallows work
 - Two possibilities for focusing our money next year:
 - Prioritization tool for restoration
 - Improving consistency and enabling better monitoring

- Public Access
 - Took out climate change impacts on public access
 - Continuing the small grant program for stewardship
 - Maritime
 - Clarified some of the work on seasonal dredging windows
5. The conversation was opened up to questions about specific actions. The following questions and comments were raised:
- Maritime Objective A seemed more of a water quality issue than a maritime issue to Judith Weiss. Rob responded that while the project is aimed at addressing this specific goal, it is part of HEP's focus to engage the water quality community in this work
 - The final document should be designed so that it is easy to follow
 - Staff should take a look at LISS' interactive guide to their CCMP
 - Shino suggested to include more clarification about what key partners are expected to do. Some workplan elements are not so clear. Partner organizations need to have a clearer indication of what they are responsible for.
 - Rick W: wanted to have within the report a discussion that not everything would be achieved within five years, especially if funding changes. Should include in the preamble a discussion of leveraging.
 - Rob proposed for consideration a signature project for the action agenda
 - Lisa: Restoration decision making tool for restoration opportunities should be done in a shorter timeline. Would be good to develop something for the HRE CRP feasibility study.
 - There was agreement on the overall rollout timeline.
 - CAC is arranging a meeting with Chuck Warren
 - EPA (Rick W) will be having conversations with Catherine next week who represent EPA at the PC meeting.

Action Item: Program staff will seek to address these comments in the final draft Action Agenda

6. Sarah Powell was introduced as the new Ambassador for Bronx/Harlem River. She and Sarah Lerman Sinkoff from the Passaic gave program updates:
- Passaic: Developing Community involvement guide for the watershed
 - Bronx/Harlem: Convening leadership meeting on the Harlem River in April/May. Developing a Harlem River Natural Resources Management Plan
7. Discussion of 2017-2018 Proposed Budget
- Federal gov't passed a budget for 7/12ths of the year
 - Supplemental budget will likely pass in April

- EPA has requested for continuation of outreach coordinator positions
 - There is separate funding for developing metrics and monitoring for resiliency projects (see below)
 - The final draft of budget will be presented at the June meeting
9. Rob noted that there is now an estuary caucus in congress who is working with ANEP. They are having a reception and briefing May 3rd and 4th.
10. State of the Estuary Conference – May 23rd
- HEP is producing this with Hudson River Estuary Program and EPA, NJDEP, NYSDEC
 - Theme is looking back, moving forward. A celebration of successes and discussion of upcoming Action Agenda

Action item: MC members are asked to suggest people or efforts who have been very instrumental to the program in the 30 year history of HEP

11. Program updates

- Update on the metrics and monitoring effort. Did first workshop in January, start of yearlong effort. Going to result in protocols for NYS. There will be regional workshops around the state. Supported by funding from NYSERDA and NOAA.
- Update on floatables citizen science program with Montclair State University. Working on an app to ID where litter is on the street, hotspots that contribute to floatables. Builds on prior work NYCDEP did with Columbia
- Moving forward with partnership with Perth Amboy on Green Infrastructure. Had a workshop with the city's green team. Identified two sewersheds where GI can reduce contributions to their CSO outfalls
- CAC meeting last week – Joe Reynolds' first meeting as NJ co-chair. We discussed the Action Agenda, heard a presentation from Rick Winfield, and further developed the subcommittee working on activities relating to the Action Agenda.

12. Announcements

- a. Public meeting for HRE CRP feasibility study. April 6th 1 PM at Bowling green
- b. HRES – May 3rd. future of energy and its impact on the estuary
- c. Bernice: Dana is going to be representing Port Authority at MC meetings going forward
- d. June 14th next MC meeting