



## Management Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2018 (DRAFT)

NJTPA, 1085 Raymond Blvd., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07105

### Participants

**Management Committee:** Chris Daggett (HRF Board), Rob Pirani (HEP), Ursula Howson (NOAA, by phone), Jason Fagel (NYSDEC), Dana Mecomber (PANYNJ, by phone), Dennis Suszkowski (STAC, by phone), Margaret Flanagan (PAWG, by phone), Clay Sherman (NJDEP), Peter Brandt (EPA, by phone), and Lisa Baron (USACE, by phone)

**Others in attendance:** Fran Dunwell (NYSDEC/HREP, by phone), Rick Winfield (EPA), Kristina Heinemann (EPA), Greg Alber (NJHDG), and David Yozzo (Glenford Environmental Science)

**HRF/HEP Office Staff:** Rosana Da Silva, Isabelle Stinnette, Elizabeth Balladares

#### 1. Review and approval of minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Rob Pirani reviewed the June 13<sup>th</sup> draft minutes. The committee approved the minutes.

#### 2. Final 2018-2019 Workplan and Budget

Rob Pirani announced the approval of the HEP workplan and budget starting October 1, 2018 for an award of \$845,000 in Section 320 funding. The workplan includes funding for the two Urban Waters Federal Partnership ambassadors and additional funding to support Trash Free Waters (TFW) projects being led by Rosana Da Silva working with the ambassadors. The TFW projects focus to expand citizen science and implementing solutions in the Bronx/Harlem River Watersheds, Passaic River Watershed, and expanding into the Hackensack River Watershed working with local community groups.

#### 3. Climate Vulnerability

Rob Pirani provided an update on the Climate Vulnerability report. Working with both Dennis Suszkowski and Jim Lodge from the Hudson River Foundation, a seminar will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Foundation. Jason Fagel announced that the NY Governor released a press release regarding the establishment of an [Ocean Acidification Task Force](#) that will evaluate impacts on the state's coastal waters. Jason will regroup with the committee in December regarding an update to the task force.

David Yozzo, Glenford Environmental Science, presented on his summary of existing research on potential impacts of projected temperature and precipitation changes on estuarine biota. If interested in reviewing the full report, please contact Rob. A discussion was held on the electric utilities fish survey and the importance of continuing this study. Dennis Suszkowski stated that the electric utilities will continue the survey ending this year and run on a 2 million dollar budget. Fran Dunwell state NYSDEC has looked into the monitoring program and with some efficiencies, DEC could continue the program with \$500,000 per year. Outreach to the NY Governor's office has been made and several groups did send requests to continue the pressure on continuing this program. Rob suggested the Management Committee to extend support for the continuation of the fish monitoring program to the Governor's office.

Chris Daggett suggested the report expand on the New York and New Jersey water quality regulations and acknowledge the issues or challenges between water quality and its impact. EPA recently provided an update on the shared waterways roadmap at the last Water Quality Work Group meeting and the presentation can be shared with the Management Committee.



**Action:**

- Management Committee members to extend their support for the continuation of the fish monitoring program to the Governor's office.
- Rob will share the EPA Shared Waterways Roadmap presentation with the Management Committee.
- David will make the literature review documents available to HEP/HRF with the final report.

**4. Release of Action Agenda/Approval of CCMP Revision**

Rob Pirani provided an update on the CCMP revisions and the plans for final adoption by the Policy Committee for release of several documents at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Conference. The Policy Committee has approved the Action Agenda and several other reports that make up the CCMP. A draft memo was shared with the Management Committee for support to send the memo to the Policy Committee. Jason Fagel and Clay Sherman both stated they would give an update to their upper management that sit on the Policy Committee prior to the memo being released from the Management Committee. Fran Dunwell requested the previous documents that were approved are given one more opportunity for review such as the options for funding program priorities report. Chris Daggett, Kristina Heinemann, and Dennis Suszkowski suggested revising the letter to clearly state the reports as a package is the revised CCMP, but not losing the nomenclature of the reports. Kristina also suggested showcasing an expanded binder of the many reports that make up the new CCMP and displaying this at the conference.

**Action:**

- Rob will share the draft memo with the Management Committee for final comments by September 28<sup>th</sup>. The following reports can be reviewed for copy edits/typos, etc. but we may not be able to address major comments at this time. Please send comments by October 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - [2017-2022 Action Agenda](#)
  - [Options for Funding Estuary Program Priorities](#)
  - [Climate Change and It's Impact on the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program](#)
  - [1996 CCMP Objectives Assessment Summary & Relationship to Action Agenda](#) (this technical document will be reformatted with a cover memo for public posting)
- With comments from the Management Committee, Rob will send the memo to the Policy Committee the week of October 1<sup>st</sup>

**5. HEP Annual Conference**

Isabelle Stinnette provided an update on the draft agenda for the November 16<sup>th</sup> conference. Catherine McCabe, Basil Segos, Commander Thomas Asbery, and Peter Lopez have agreed to participate in a panel that will be moderated by Chris Daggett. Chris suggested that we have clear goals for the conference and each of the sessions and the Management Committee should be in agreement of those goals. Jason Fagel suggested to keep in mind the timing for the VIP panel as the most reasonable train from Albany gets in at 9:20 AM.

**Action:**

- Management Committee members to send suggestions or comments to Isabelle by October 3<sup>rd</sup>

**6. State of the Estuary Report**



Isabelle Stinnette provided an overview of the final draft of the State of the Estuary report and summary brochure. David Yozzo, Kristina Heinemann, Chris Daggett agreed that the NA and insufficient data trend can be combined as one trend symbol as long as the symbols are described in the document. Fran Dunwell will be sending comments to soften the dam removal discussion in the report as there are no agreements as to whether some of the dams should be removed due to their importance to the public. Dana Mecomber mentioned that the port & maritime operations section only focuses on toxic contamination and there is a disconnection to the goal description. Chris Daggett also shared this comment under the executive summary and suggested either consider economic indicators or that HEP is working towards identifying economic indicators for this goal. During the discussions of the Action Agenda, Rob Pirani stated dredging becomes more economic with the reduction of toxic materials and it was agreed that HEP focus on the toxic indicators. At this stage of the report, Dana will provide language to understand the cost/benefit of dredging that would make the connection to the toxic indicators. Rick Winfield stated that the cost of dredging drops by a factor of 8 when the sediment is less toxic. Rob will include language from the Action Agenda to make the State of the Estuary more relatable and HEP will look to add additional indicators in the future. Kristina Heinemann suggested moving or connecting the NDZ action from the water quality goal into the port & maritime goal as it is more related to port activity. Other economic indicators suggested for the future include seafood and other businesses that open or close due to toxic contamination.

**Action:**

- Management Committee members to send suggestions or comments on the full [State of the Estuary report](#) to Isabelle by September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Dana Mecomber to provide language specifically on the executive summary and the port & maritime goal introduction to make linkages of NDZ and the economic-toxic contaminants linkage. A table of the cost of dredging in the last three years or the cost for cubic yard relationship would be beneficial to HEP/HRF to make those linkages.

**7. Environmental Monitoring Plan**

Rosana Da Silva presented on the latest draft of the Environmental Monitoring Plan and the timeline for the three tools to be completed. The three tools consist of a GIS online map to serve as an inventory of monitoring programs (active, continuous, and non-active) in the Hudson Raritan Estuary; an ESRI storymap will serve as the cornerstone of the plan to highlight the indicators, monitoring programs, and gaps that exist; a memo will identify the monitoring program priorities.

**8. Other Updates**

Lisa Baron shared that a 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation for the harbor boat inspection has been released and will take place on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Lisa also provided an update that on September 5<sup>th</sup>, the agency achieved its milestone approval from headquarters for 22 out of 33 restoration sites recommended in the February draft report. The ACE spent the last 4 months conducting additional cost benefit analysis with a total cost estimate of \$496 million. By March, detail designs and cost estimates are due for submission in June. A final report will be reviewed and then turned into a report for authorization.

HEP/HRF's report from Drs. Philip M. Orton (Stevens Institute of Technology) and David K. Ralston (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) on the evaluation of possible physical influences of storm surge barriers on the estuary has been posted to the HRF website: <http://www.hudsonriver.org/> and a seminar will be held at HRF on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP on the website.