



Citizens Advisory Committee

Of the NY-NJ Harbor &
Estuary Program Committee

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Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 4th, 2019

10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

1085 Raymond Blvd

Newark, NJ 07102

Attendees: Michele Langa, NYNJ Baykeeper; Michelle Luebke, BRxA; Nina Hitchings, The River Project; Manuel Russ; Shino Tanikawa, NYCSWCD; Michelle Tracy, FutureCity; Nina Hitchings, Riverproject; Richard Corman, Riverproject; Karen Argenti, BCEQ; Peter Brandt, EPA; Carol Stein, EPA; Dan Gurdak, EPA; Clay Sherman, NJDEP; Bob Alpern, Clearwater; Michelle Doran-Mcbean, FutureCity; Louis Kleinman, WA; Nancy Brous; Chris Girgenti, RIPA; Rosana DaSilva, HEP; Rob Pirani, HEP; Isabelle Stinnette, HEP; Meredith Comi, NYNJ Baykeeper; Moriah Kinber, NJ Future; Drew Curtis, ICC; Joe Reynolds, MCP; Hannah Wolfe, Columbia.

Agenda Item: Program Updates

- HEP program director Rob Pirani discussed a bipartisan bill to protect and restore water quality and ecological integrity. Among other provisions, the legislation increases funding for the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program.
- Additional possible funding would allow for the expansion of public access grants made available throughout the harbor
- Karen Argenti from Bronx Council for Environmental Quality brought up idea of forming a Campaign with talking points in order for her and other interested CAC members can express support for the additional possible funding
- **Next steps:** work with interested CAC members in discussing how to move forward in terms of providing support for the bill including drafting support letters and calling local representatives.

Agenda Item: [No Discharge Zone \(NDZ\): Raritan/Sandy Hook Bays and a portion of the Lower New York Bay outreach](#)

- Rosana DaSilva, HEP Water Quality Manager, announced that NJDEP, NYSDEC, USEPA, and HEP have begun a stakeholder outreach process to help inform the decision on establishing a NDZ in the Raritan Bay.
- Microbial pathogens from sewage wastes pose direct threats to human health and limit shellfishing and recreational uses. While wastes discharged by vessels to surface water are often treated by marine sanitation devices, they still pose some risk and contain

chemical additives, such as chlorine. No Discharge Zone (NDZ) designations are a key component of larger strategies for protecting navigable waters and educating the public about water quality.

- **Next Steps:** HEP will work with the two states, EPA and other partners to advance establishment of a no discharge zone in the Bay. HEP CAC was made aware of upcoming stakeholder meetings and to share it with those interested in the process.

Agenda Item: [Stewardship Highlight: Ironbound Community Corporation's \(ICC\) LTCP Community Involvement Results](#)

- Drew Curtis, senior equitable development manager at ICC, discussed the feedback received from Newark community members as part of ICC's efforts to educate the public through community meetings on the alternatives being considered as part of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's Long Term Control Plan.
- Through the outreach meetings conducted in each Newark ward, ICC was able to reach out to nearly 250 people and received their feedback on what they thought on the alternatives being considered.
- All input received from residents as a result of all meetings was put together in a [community engagement report](#) which was then submitted to PVSC for them to include in their alternatives analysis report.
- Rob Pirani from HEP suggested water conservation methods & practices, one of the many alternatives being considered, is something PVSC should impose on non-CSO municipalities that PVSC serves.
- **Next Steps:** ICC and other community groups & organizations will hold additional community meetings and will ensure that the City takes into consideration resident input. They will also continue to push for the LTCP to include green infrastructure, conservation and that it addresses climate change.

Agenda Item: [Summary & lessons learned of the CSO Evaluation of Alternatives Reports](#)

- Mo Kinberg, New Jersey Future Community Outreach Manager, presented on latest Jersey Water Works efforts & the Sewerage Free Streets & Rivers Campaign to evaluate and score submitted alternative reports.
- Jersey Water Works (JWW) produced a scoring analysis chart in order to summarize each submitted technical report and to concise valuable information for the public that may not easily be able to read through reports with highly technical language.
- In their review process, JWW reviewers found that many of the submitted reports did not expand on the ways they permittees went about securing community input.
- Some of the additional information that the scoring analysis chart identified & strictly look for were:
 - How will the Permittee address CSO discharges? (presumptive or demonstrative)
 - Pollutant of concern to be addressed.
 - Does the report include a description of community and Supplemental CSO Team preferences? If so, what are these preferences, and do these preferences relate to each alternative/project?

- Does the report include the community benefits associated with alternatives evaluated? How were community benefits considered in the evaluation of alternatives?
- Some of the valuable information found through the review of the submitted reports and by using the scoring chart include:
 - Presumptive or demonstrative: seems like most permittees are moving toward 85% capture, which equates to approx. 20 overflows a year.
 - Pollutant of Concern: E. Coli, Fecal Coliform, Enterococcus
 - Only three permittees address effects of climate change in their reports
 - Total alternatives prioritized for LTCP's include:
 - Storage - All
 - GI – All but PVSC and BCMUA 2.5% - 15%
 - Disinfection - PAA - 13
 - Sewer separation - 10
 - I/I reduction - 4
 - Sewer System Optimization - 2
 - Expansion of sewer treatment plant - 2
- **Next Steps:** learn from JWW's best practices, support the Sewage Free Streets & Rivers Campaign and discuss possible CAC joint outreach efforts in NJ CSO communities that also share NY waterways.

Agenda Item: [Harbor-wide WQ Report update](#)

- Rosana DaSilva provided an update on HEP's Harbor-wide WQ report. A report that will better inform stakeholders on what "safe uses" means for the harbor and provide an interpretation on water quality data for shared waters.
- Timeline of comment period for the report includes:
 - Review of Technical Memo by WQWG/STAC (Comments due by September 30, 2019)
 - Draft Report will go under review by WQWG/STAC/CAC/MC beginning November 1, 2019 (Comments due by November 25, 2019)
 - Final Report is expected to be completed by December 2019/January 2020
- **Next Steps:** once ready for review, CAC voting members will be able to provide comments and input on the HEP Harbor-wide WQ report

Agenda Item: Updates

- September 15, 2019 - [Siene the Day by Save Coastal Wildlife](#)
- September 21, 2019 - International Coastal Cleanup 2019 by [BRxA](#)
- September 28, 2019 - Fishing Clinic by [Randall's Island Park Alliance](#)
- September 28, 2019 - Submerge by [Hudson River Park](#)
- November 7, 2019 - Release of the Fishes by [The River Project](#)