



New York - New Jersey
Harbor & Estuary Program
www.harborestuary.org

RESTORATION WORK GROUP

of the New York – New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

Chair: Lisa Baron (Army Corps of Engineers)

www.HarborEstuary.org

Restoration Work Group

Meeting July 17, 2013

10:00-12:10

290 Broadway, 27th Floor

- I. **Introduction and minutes from last meeting (Lisa Baron):** Minutes from the last meeting will be approved pending review and any edits two weeks from this meeting date (July 31).
- II. **Plans for an upstream Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan** – (Lisa Baron, Dan Miller)
 - The USACE, Hudson River Estuary Program, The Nature Conservancy, and others are collaborating on a restoration plan for the Hudson River Watershed north of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan. A draft habitat restoration plan **will be posted in a notice during late July/early August** that lays out priorities but not specific locations or projects.
 - The preparation of an ecosystem restoration plan feasibility study was authorized in 1996 for the upper Hudson River by the US Army Corps of Engineers and included \$3 million (\$1.5 million match of primarily in-kind services, \$.5 million directly available for restoration planning).
 - The group is beginning a first phase of work which will include taking the tasks proposed and developing them into a more detailed scope of work. At a minimum, the group will accomplish a Comprehensive Restoration Plan for the upper Hudson River.
- III. **Army Corps updates on Sandy funding**
 - Lisa Baron updated the group on Corps projects that will receive federal funds via Sandy appropriation. These are detailed in the Interim 2 report: [http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Emergency%20Ops/Second Interim Report FINAL.pdf](http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Emergency%20Ops/Second_Interim_Report_FINAL.pdf). Some project areas will be completed via 100% funds (e.g. Rockaway Inlet) and others will follow the 65:35 rule (e.g. Jamaica Bay implementation).
 - The North Atlantic Division Comprehensive Study will be used to advise how to proceed on additional resiliency construction (beyond the existing design plans for projects such as beach nourishment, which are set to pre-Sandy design standards).
 - The Continuing Authorities Program for Jamaica Bay Restoration
- IV. **Recently released plans for resiliency in and opportunities for connection with restoration and Acquisition goals** (Kate Boicourt/discussion)
 - Kate Boicourt summarized the recent NYC Special Initiative for Resiliency and Rebuilding plan leading into a discussion of 1) direct opportunities for connecting habitat to resiliency measures; 2) questions we may have that could be addressed

during the research process; 3) communication of Comprehensive Restoration Plan opportunities in context of resiliency and highlighting best practices from a habitat perspective.

- Regarding CRP opportunities in context – it was suggested that the RWG could collaborate on communicating about opportunities that fit resiliency goals, based regionally (the example of floodplain opportunities in the Rahway was given).
- Debbie Mans highlighted an August 22 meeting that may be an opportunity to share this type of communication (hosted by NJDEP) – **see Appendix A.**

Action items:

- As a starting point, **Kate Boicourt** will draft a two-page piece (per discussion of CRP opportunities) highlighting opportunities that fit resiliency and restoration goals as well as a plan for communicating that information. The RWG will review.
- **RWG and HEP** will aim to collaborate on communication materials prior to the August 22nd meeting in NJ

- V. **Habitat conference agenda discussion** (Kate Boicourt): the Restoration Work Group discussed the proposed habitat conference agenda, to be held either October 28 or 29, 2013 (date to be fixed with the group via email). The vision for the conference is to have a broad overview of the habitat status and populations in the harbor, anchored in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan Target Ecosystem Characteristics. Suggestions included adding NYCDEP to the Coastal and Maritime forests section and potentially other areas, as well as not overbooking the number of presentations.

Action items:

- **Restoration Work Group** members will weigh in **ASAP** as to whether there are any conflicts with this meeting date
- **RWG members** edit and provide **further suggestions or edits** for the draft conference schedule to Kate Boicourt by **mid-August.**
- **Kate** will work with HEP and the US Customs House to **draft a budget** for the conference (it is estimated to cost around \$2400 including security guards and audio-visual assistance, which is required although the space is free of cost).

- VI. **Status of HRE Feasibility Study Approach and RWG review of project summary sheets** (Lisa Baron)

- Out of the total of 281 sites that are included in the HRE, Lower Passaic, and Bronx River Feasibility sites, 77 will be designed to an adequate feasibility level of detail to recommend construction authorization in these feasibility studies.
- The expected programmatic authorization for the remaining 204 cost-shares for all sites in the CRP, however, will no longer go forward through the Corps' traditional process. The team's intent is therefore to advance as many of these sites at feasibility level as possible for construction authorization. All non-bolded sites from the list that Lisa sent on 7/17/13 are those that make up the 204, whereas those included are bolded.

- If a particular site has superfund status, it will be deferred until that status is addressed.

Action items

- **RWG:** look at non-bolded sites and recommend further investigation/feasibility-level investigation if there is a project that your agency/org particularly supports and would like to try to keep in the bolded (feasibility-study level) category.
- **RWG: review all project summary sheets**, per Lisa Baron's email no later than **August 30, 2013**. Particularly needed are edits related to boundaries or locations that are incorrect, available habitat, and ownership. This will include **eight Jamaica Bay feasibility study-level projects** to be evaluated from a standpoint of coastal protection. Note: feasibility study is equivalent to the 30% design stage.
- **Kate and Diana Kohtio** will send the RWG a process for suggesting edits to site or project boundaries.

VII. Review of Nominated sites and projects (Kate Boicourt). Sunset Cove (on Broad Channel, in Jamaica Bay) is a site that has potential for both public access and wetlands restoration. The Sunset Cove nomination was reviewed and accepted as a site for inclusion in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan.

Action items

- **Kate Boicourt** will work with Lisa Baron and Robert Nyman to send out a letter indicating the approval of the nomination, and will work with Jill Weber of NYC Parks to make edits before sending to CUNY and ACE for inclusion as an opportunity.

VIII. Miscellaneous

- **Jamaica Bay EcoAtlas:** John McLaughlin raised the possibility of integrating the Jamaica Bay EcoAtlas opportunities with the CRP opportunities. The EcoAtlas involved reviewing vacant lots in the Jamaica Bay region for green infrastructure and habitat opportunities (both restoration and acquisition).
- **NY-NJ Harbor databases mentioned by Lisa Rosman**
 - Query Manager (QM) is a dual platform database and mapping project containing records for tissue, sediment, bioassay, and water data for the NY/NJ Harbor area and the Hudson River. Data can be extracted and pulled into Excel, Access, Google Earth, and ArcGIS. Download the program file, the watershed database file map and data dictionary. QM main page: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/querymanager> installer, tutorial, and various watershed projects including NYNJ Harbor and Hudson <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/environmental-restoration/environmental-assessment-tools/query-manager-marplot-data-maps.html>
 - ERMA is our Environmental Response Management Application is another tool that maps static and real time data. The Atlantic ERMA covers the NY/NJ region and was used for Sandy response. Both of

these tools have applicable to remediation and restoration. ERMA main page: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/maps-and-spatial-data/environmental-response-management-application-erma>

- Atlantic ERMA: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/maps-and-spatial-data/environmental-response-management-application-erma/atlantic-erma.html>

Action items

- **NYCDEP, HEP, and USACE** will follow up about how best to **integrate Jamaica Bay EcoAtlas** opportunities into the CRP.

Attendees:

Hanem Abouelezz, National Parks Service
Lisa Baron (Chair), US Army Corps of Engineers
Kate Boicourt, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
Debbie Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper
John McLaughlin, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
Dan Miller, Hudson River Estuary Program
Gabriela Munoz, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
Robert Nyman, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
Richard Palumbo, The Trust for Public Land
Lisa Rosman, NOAA
Clay Sherman, NJDEP
Nellie Tsipoura, Harbor Herons Work Group Co-Chair, New Jersey Audubon
Steve Zahn, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Appendix A: NJDEP invitation to Hurricane Sandy Recovery Research Forum (August 22, 2013)



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Governor

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Office of Science

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July 16, 2013

BOB MARTIN

Commissioner

SUBJECT: Hurricane Sandy Recovery Research Forum – August 22, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to invite you to a unique opportunity to learn about and possibly collaborate on post Hurricane Sandy research opportunities. As you know Hurricane Sandy had a tremendous impact on the state's built and natural resources. There is still a great deal unknown about the full extent and long range impacts of the storm.

Federal funding is being allocated for scientific assessment, monitoring, mapping, modeling, forecasting and restoration to support recovery efforts. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Science invites you to a meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2013 at 2:30 pm to learn about recovery efforts to date and to share and discuss research needs and future funding opportunities. We would also like to learn about your efforts and future plans so that a comprehensive and collaborative approach can be adopted to meet the recovery needs of New Jersey.

If you wish to share a brief presentation (10 minutes) on your post Sandy Recovery research efforts please let us know and we will make every effort to accommodate as many presentations as possible. Please contact Dorina Frizzera at Dorina.Frizzera@dep.state.nj.us concerning presentations or questions.

Hurricane Sandy Recovery Research Forum
Thursday, August 22, 2013
2:30 – 4:30

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Science
Public Hearing Room
401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey

Please RSVP to: Ms. Gwen Haile
Office of Science
609-984-5312 or Gwen.Haile@dep.state.nj.us

An agenda and additional meeting details will be sent to all respondents. We look forward to your attendance and participation at this meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Buchanan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary A. Buchanan, Ph.D.
Manager