



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

Management Committee Meeting Minutes April 15, 2014

Participants:

Management Committee: Rick Balla, Judith Weis, John Tavolaro, Jeff Myers, Shino Tanikawa, Bernice Malione, Ashley Slagle, Rob Buchanan, Caitlyn Nichols, Nellie Tsipoura, Doug Adamo, Dennis Suszkowski.

HEP Office Staff: Rob Pirani, Gabriela Munoz, Kate Boicourt.

Others in attendance: Nesmarie Negron, Rosalie Siegel, Clay Hiles, Jim Lodge, Peter Brandt, Althea Mullarkey, Janice Rollwagen.

1. The meeting was held at the Port Authority offices in Newark. Rick Balla chaired the meeting. **Introductions** were made and there were no changes to the agenda with the exception of a request for an update on the Passaic River Cleanup. Additionally, Bernice Malione asked whether HEP should (or should not) engage in communicating about superfund status (e.g., Barry's Creek) to the HEP community.
2. The **minutes** from the December 10, 2013 Management Committee meeting were approved.
3. Rob Pirani gave a presentation on the draft findings from strategic/finance planning and the **status of the transition and the proposed FY 2014 annual budget and work plan**. The HEP intends to focus on developing its unique role of bringing people together to advance the science, information, and decisions regarding the entire estuary, as well as bringing more resources to the table. Key themes will include "bringing water to life;" bringing science and regional characterization to the table; focusing on shared management concerns; recognizing resiliency/climate change adaptation as a key driver (with a particular focus on how Sandy funding will be spent); and addressing the needs of underserved communities. Rob also showed the new HEP grants map which breaks down grants by congressional districts. Rosalie Siegel suggested that projects in the map should be highlighted, particularly in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan.
 - a) Transition Status
 - At this time, the FY 2013 work plan contract is being finalized.

- The program office is expected to relocate to the Hudson River Foundation by May 1, 2014.
 - The Hudson River Foundation and Rob Pirani have been conducting an “estuary listening tour” to get input from partners.
 - All remaining funds from NEIWPC will be “novated” (transferred) to the Hudson River Foundation in January 2015.
 - Will start considering the development of a new Action Plan for 2016 and beyond.
- b) FY 2013 Work Plan elements
- Supports continued program activities including communications, conferences, existing grants;
 - Enables strategic and financial planning;
 - Launches two new programs (urban shorelines assessment protocol and pathogen monitoring online data tool).
- c) FY 2014 Work Plan elements
- Continues progress on Action Plan
 - Reflects priorities from interviews with HEP partners during the listening tour
 - Supports two initiatives: 1) support two USGS river data stations monitoring water and sediment discharges in two Hudson River tributaries (Action Plan priority action 4.2); 2) Improve HEP website and communications (Action Plan, priority actions 5.2 and 5.3).
 - Focus staff on a limited number of achievable Action Plan priorities as identified in in Rob Pirani’s attached powerpoint presentation. One item—launching CARP II (Contamination Assessment and Reduction Project) received particular focus during discussion. The Hudson River Foundation intends to do additional work to assess the status of sediment contamination 10 years after the previous assessment, and to engage HEP and partners in the process.
- d) Organizational goals (from strategic planning and listening sessions; see the attached powerpoint for additional detail).
- Create a partnership that enables members to achieve programmatic goals
 - Establish a governance structure that fosters cooperation and efficient decision-making
 - Identify additional financial and technical resources including: mitigation and settlement funds, government and private grants and contracts, congressional leadership, and private philanthropy.
 - The Program will focus on Action Plan goals, using its missions of 1) convening partnerships, 2) utilizing sound science, and 3) securing resources and commitments. One aspect is that the Hudson River Foundation is

providing leadership to the Harbor Coalition and will be looking into how best to continue communicating priorities with elected officials.

Action:

Management Committee members should send their feedback on the ideas presented by April 22 (provide any items missing, highlight those that are of particular interest, and those that are of lesser importance or that HEP should not be undertaking at this point).

- e) Budget overview: the budget was discussed with the Committee. Rob Buchanan raised concern that it needs to be communicated that the small grants are only temporarily gone from the HEP focus.

Budget Overview			
Budget Allocations for FY14, FY15, and Novation Adjustment			
Tasks	FY 14 (Oct 1 - Sep 30, 2015)	Preliminary Estimate for FY 15 (starting Oct 1 2015)	Preliminary Estimate for Novation Adjustment (Available Jan 2015)
HEP STAFF starting 4/1/14	\$ 381,959.00	\$ 413,788.92	
Continue USGS sediment and water discharge monitoring for two key watersheds of the NY/NJ Harbor and Estuary	\$ 25,000.00		
Targeted Outreach on Key HEP Topics.	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
Communications including printing and website	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,000.00	
Future Projects/Activities/Grants		\$ 46,000.00	\$ 334,771.00
Staff travel	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
HRF Indirect @ 25% (office, communications, supplies, contract management, and other admin services)	\$ 107,541.00	\$ 116,211.08	\$ 83,692.00
TOTAL	\$ 538,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 418,463.00

NOTES: Approvals for FY 15 and Novation Adjustment will be requested by 1/1/2015.

Action:

- *Management Committee* members should anticipate an email from Rick seeking approval of their Policy Committee members in June, 2014 for the FY 14 budget.
- *HEP* to follow up with ACE regarding the incorporation of the HEP grants map or stats in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan.

- 4. Rick Balla stated the need to set a schedule for the next Policy Committee meeting. There is a need for the Policy Committee to approve the FY 2014 Work Plan in June. This could be accomplished via email.

Action:

- Rick Balla to follow up with Management Committee to determine how to work with the Policy Committee to approve the FY 2014 budget.

5. **Schedule and process for novation** (Negron and Balla): EPA expects to award the FY 2013 grant to the Hudson River Foundation soon, upon approval of the grant request. Additionally, novation, or transferring of unspent Section 320 funds is expected to happen around January 2015.

6. **CAC Report-out:** Rob Buchanan and Shino Tanikawa reported on the key points of the March, 2014 CAC meeting.
 - **The Long Island Sound Study CAC chairs visited** to discuss some of their successes and foci, and HEP CAC chairs visited a LISS meeting in Manhattan. In particular, the LISS CAC has been very successful at engaging elected representatives in Washington DC. HEP CAC Co-chairs looked to some of their initiatives as potential considerations for HEP, as well as some points of potential regional collaboration (river herring, nutrients), as there is an increased interest in regional collaborative in Washington.
 - **Port Authority:** Chris Zeppie attended the meeting to talk about the Port Authority's environmental programs. He announced the intention of the Port Authority to re-authorize a \$60 million acquisition fund for habitat protection. Rob Buchanan and Roland Lewis asked Zeppie whether the Port Authority might consider funding an economic valuation of the estuary, with an eye to looking at the economic benefits of an environmentally healthy harbor. Zeppie expressed that this wasn't in the purview of the Port Authority at this time.
 - **Comment letters:** the HEP CAC developed and sent two comment letters: one on New York City's draft MS4 permits, and one on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body. Both letters were shared with the Management and Policy Committees.

7. **Overview of major current projects with special emphasis on citizen science grant, urban shorelines and upcoming Restoration Symposium – *Restoring the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary: Ensuring Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainability in a Changing Future*.** Gabriela Munoz and Kate Boicourt reviewed the status of some of the major recent grants including the citizen science pathogens monitoring project, Phase II of the Lawrence Brook fish passage project, and the development and piloting of [a standard protocol for evaluating the habitat quality associated with different shoreline treatments](#). These projects are all beginning (or have begun) in 2014.
 - **Pathogens grant:** four groups have been selected; EPA is leading the development of a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) for the project, to be finalized shortly and is providing equipment, materials, lab space and general support, training will be held May 14-15, and field work will be

conducted in June-August. NJDEP is assisting with QAPP and training. HEP will be working with CUNY to develop a map to display the project data.

- **Ecologically-enhanced urban shorelines assessment protocol:** an Advisory Committee met to help steer the project in February and provided input into the experimental design. A QAPP was submitted and the piloting is expected to begin in May.
- **Phase II of the Lawrence Brook Watershed Fish Passage Project:** HEP is proceeding with a full feasibility (second of two phases) for this project, involving a significant focus on the New Brunswick Water Utility's operations plan to determine feasibility. The Water Utility, Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership, HEP, and Princeton Hydro are working together on this project, to be completed in summer 2014.
- **Restoration Symposium:** will be held on June 3rd at the U.S. Custom House, focusing on the status and trajectory of restoration in the estuary and anchored around the themes of the Comprehensive Restoration Plan. Details will be available on the [HEP website](#).
- **Stewardship and public access grants:** nine projects were funded for 2013-2014, two of which have been completed. All 2012 projects have been completed. Final reports will be posted on the [HEP website](#) shortly.

8. **Five-Year HEP Program Evaluation (Rick Balla):** HEP is scheduled to meet with representatives from EPA headquarters for a site visit to complete its 5-year program evaluation (May 8-9). Details to come soon, but the Management Committee may be invited to provide input into the evaluation discussion.
9. As requested, Rick Balla provided a brief update on the Passaic River superfund cleanup. EPA issued a [press release](#) on April 11th, announcing the cleanup proposal—the largest in superfund history. The EPA will accept public comments from April 21 to June 20.
10. The meeting was then adjourned.

DRAFT FY 2014 Annual Budget and Work Plan for the New York—New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

April 2014



Status of Transition

- FY 13 Workplan contract now being finalized
- Program Office to be at HRF by May 1 2014
- Draft FY 14 Workplan presented to management committee April 15 for approval by June 2014
- Estuary listening tour leading to strategic and business plan for program going forward

FY 13 Workplan Elements

- Supports continued program activities including communications, conference, existing grants;
- Enables strategic and business planning;
- Launches two new programs:
Ecological Assessment of Urban Shorelines;
Pathogen Monitoring Online Data Tool.

Who We Talked To

American Littoral Society (Tim Dillingham, Elizabeth Stoehr)	New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (Eddie Bautista)
Environmental Defense Fund (Jim Tripp)	New York City Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability (Curtis Cravens)
Hackensack Riverkeeper (Bill Sheehan)	New York Harbor School and Harbor School Foundation (Murray Fisher, Ann Fraoli)
HEP CAC (Rob Buchanan, Shino Tanikawa, Meredith Comi, Nellie Tsipoura)	NOAA/NMFS (Karen Greene)
HEP CAC (Chuck Warren)	North Shore Waterfront Conservancy (Beryl Thurman)
HREP CAC (Fran Dunwell, Dennis Suszkowski)	NYNJ Baykeeper (Debbie Mans, Greg Renaud, Meredith Comi)
HRF Board (Chris Diagetti, Bill Mutaszewski, Mary Fabrizio)	NYS DEC (Jim Tierney, Steve Zahin, Venetia Lannon, Jeff Myers)
Hudson River Foundation (Dennis Suszkowski, Clay Hiles, Jim Lodge, Helena Andreyko)	Office Congressman Nadler
Hudson Riverkeeper (Paul Galley, Phil Muscassa)	Office of Congressman Pallone
Ironbound Community Development Corporation (Ana Baptista)	Office of Senator Cory Booker
Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers (Dan Mundy, Sr., Dan Mundy, Jr.)	Office of Senator Menendez
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance (Roland Lewis)	Office of Senator Gilliland
Monmouth University (Tony McDonald, Jim Nickels)	Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (Bridget McKenna, Mick DeGraw)
National Parks Conservation Association (Cortney Worral)	Port Authority (Chris Zepple)
Natural Resources Defense Council (Larry Levine)	Scenic Hudson (Steve Rosenberg, Andy Bicking, Sacha Wenzel)
New Jersey Audubon (Erik Stiles, Nellie Tsipoura, Kelly Wenzel)	The Trust for Public Land (Marc Matuli)
New Jersey Future (Chris Sturm)	US Army Corps of Engineers (John Tavolaro, Lisa Baron, Peter Weppeler)
New York City Department of City Planning (Michael Marrella)	US Department of Interior/NPS (Doug Adamo)
New York City Department of Environmental Protection (Carter Strickland, Angela Licata, Kathryn Garcia)	US Environmental Protection Agency Region II (Judith Enck, Joan Matthews, Rick Balla, Bob Nymman)
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Group (Bram Gunther, Merrit Larson)	

What We Are Hearing

- **A Unique Role** HEP serves critical purpose of bringing people together and advancing science, information and decisions on an estuary wide basis.
- **Focus, focus, focus!** Need to show success on HEP-led initiatives.
- **Bring More Resources to the Table** Ability to address priorities will require additional funding.

Timeline

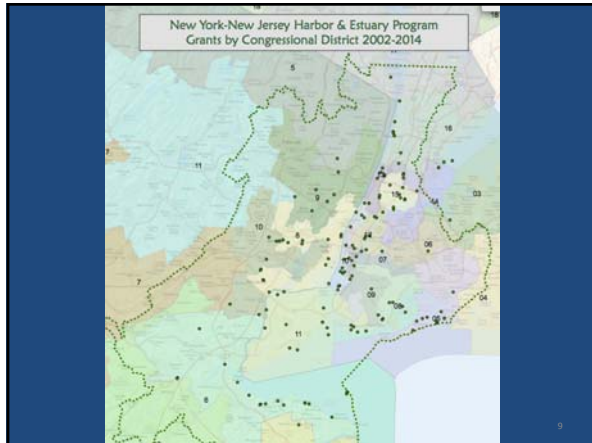
- CCMP 1996
- Action Agenda 2011 – 2015
- Transition document will cover FY 14, FY 15 and balance of unspent “novated” funds
- Overall goal to set stage for revised CCMP or new Action Agenda starting FY 2016 to help mark 20th anniversary.

Key Themes

- Bring “Water to Life”
- Carry science and regional characterization to the table
- Focus on shared management concerns by connecting sediment quality and management; water quality and restoration; public access, citizen science, and stewardship
- Recognize resiliency /climate adaptation as a key driver
- Address the needs of underserved communities

Organizational Goals

- Create a partnership that enables members to achieve programmatic goals
- Establish a governance structure that fosters cooperation and efficient decision making
- Focus on limited number of achievable projects
- Identify additional financial and technical resources including:
 - Mitigation and settlement funds
 - Government and private grants and contracts
 - Congressional leadership
 - Private philanthropy



Mission	Convene Partnerships	Utilize Sound Science	Secure Resources and Commitments
Goal			
Clean Up Pollution in the Estuary			
Habitat and Ecological Health			
Improve Public Access			
Support an Economically and Ecologically Viable Estuary and Port			
Public Education and Community Involvement			

Pollution in the Estuary

Convene Partnerships	Utilize Sound Science	Secure Resources
Bring together clean water partners across a specific drainage basin and/or specific use (1.2).	Provide planning and technical support for LTCP (and/or MS4 permits). Focus on designated drainages and specific use and/or on basins that span multiple NJ or NYS municipalities. Focus on implementation of green infrastructure in NJ (1.2 & 1.3)	Identify EPA and funding sources for LTCP and/or MS4 implementation (1.2 & 1.3).
Bring monitoring stakeholders (IEC, DEC, HRECOS network, PVSC, others) to coordinate, discuss gaps, id long term funding needs (multiple).	Assess best practices for using beach clean ups as a means of collecting data about sources and kinds of shoreline debris to help identify pollution prevention strategies (1.13 & 1.14)	Create strategy for sustainable long term monitoring funding (multiple).
Convene citizen science program partners to advance quality and reach.		Secure shoreline clean up funding as part of broader messages/campaign about pollution prevention (1.13 and 1.14).
Convene Raritan Bay Conference		Advance citizen monitoring efforts in terms of capacity and quality control and enable sharing of information across

Habitat and Ecological Health

Convene Partnerships	Utilize Sound Science	Secure Resources
Restoration Committee and Bi Annual Restoration Conference	Advance Urban Shorelines Protocol and otherwise promote best practices for ecological restoration and mitigation projects (2.2 and 2.5)	ID and advocate for Sandy projects that advance CRP, in particular for areas outside Jamaica Bay (2.2 and 2.5).
Harbor Herons Committee		Create pool of funding for restoration projects from environmental benefits agreements (2.2).
Oyster Restoration Working Group	Create shared agenda for advancing CRP including assessments/science/monitoring/“Restoration priority list” for resiliency projects (2.5).	Advance Pilot Scale Restorations at Sunset Cove, Lawrence Brook, Bronx River, Pralls Island (2.2)
Convene Raritan Bay Conference and potential Restoration Working Group	Improve mapping and data availability for shoreline and near-shore benthic habitat (2.2).	Secure additional funding for mapping and data collection for shallows and shorelines

Public Access		
Convene Partnerships	Utilize Sound Science	Secure Resources
<p>Citizens Advisory Committee</p> <p>Create partnerships in specific estuary reaches (3.1).</p>	<p>Create standards for "quality" access analogous to Land Trust accreditation standards. Map locations where access is limited by constraints on physical access, water quality, programming, and/or stewardship using the existing OASIS database - Showcase quality sites (3.1).</p>	<p>Build local capacity and programs in areas where "quality" access is limited (e.g. North Shore Staten Island; main stem of Passaic River; NJ Arthur Kill tributaries).</p> <p>Revise small grants programs and target to "quality" standards as well as water quality needs.</p> <p>Identify and secure long term sources for stewardship activities.</p>

Viable Estuary and Port		
Convene Partnerships	Utilize Sound Science	Secure Resources
<p>Convene Regional Sediment Management stakeholders to provide input for CARP II and other issues as warranted (4.3).</p> <p>Convene Raritan Bay Conference and potential working group.</p>	<p>Launch CARP II to evaluate the current status of sediment contamination within the Estuary and help track source and fate of contaminated sediment in the harbor (4.3).</p> <p>Identify best practices and sites for beneficial reuse of dredged sediment, in particular for small projects and in Raritan Bay (4.4 and 4.7)</p>	<p>Re-establish former USGS river data stations in the Hudson River tributaries and development of new monitoring capability (4.2).</p>

Public Education / Community		
Convene Partnerships	Utilize Sound Science	Secure Resources
<p>Improve HEP Website and communications (5.2 and 5.3)</p> <p>Keep elected officials informed and engaged in HEP (5.1)</p> <p>Revive Harbor Education committee or create CAC work group.</p> <p>Profile specific species as a means of telling the story of the estuary (5.2).</p>	<p>Assess feasibility of creating estuary literacy program similar to Maryland environmental literacy standards (5.2).</p>	<p>Build local capacity and programs in areas where "quality" access is limited (e.g. North Shore Staten Island; main stem of Passaic River; NJ Arthur Kill tributaries) (5.1 and 5.3).</p> <p>Revise Small grants programs and target to "quality" standards as well as water quality needs (5.3).</p> <p>Support local organizations participation at City of Water Day (5.3)</p>

Proposed FY 14 Workplan


- Continues Progress on Action Agenda
- Reflects Priorities from transition document
- Supports two Timely initiatives:
 - Re-establish former USGS river data stations (Action Agenda 4.2)
 - Improve HEP website / communications (Action Agenda 5.2 & 5.3)

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Stewardship & Public Access Updates

HEP Management Committee Meeting
April 15, 2014

Citizen Science Monitoring for Pathogen Indicators Project

- Four groups selected
- QAPP being finalized
- Training May 14-15
- Field work June-August
- Map to display all project data
- Pilot for EPA equipment loan program

Stewardship & Public Access Grants 2013

- **Eastern Queens Alliance:** *Man With Nature/Man Against Nature in Idlewild Park Preserve*
- **Friends of Monmouth Park System:** *Estuarine Stewardship Program for 5th Graders in Monmouth County, NJ*
- **Groundwork Hudson Valley:** *Building Stewardship at the "Daylighted" Water's Edge*
- **Hester Street Collaborative:** *Paths to Pier 42 COMPLETED*
- **Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy of New Jersey:** *NJ's Lower Hudson River Waterfront - 25 Years of Construction. Challenges for the Next 25 Post Sandy Era WORK COMPLETED*
- **Human Impacts Institute:** *Waterfront Connections: North Brooklyn Estuary Stewardship Program*
- **Ironbound Community Corporation and City of Newark:** *Newark Goes Back to the River Boat Tours & Walkshops*
- **Newtown Creek Alliance and North Brooklyn Boat Club:** *Plank Road Cleanup and Access*
- **Rocking the Boat:** *Bronx River American Eel Monitoring*



**Hester St Collaborative:
Paths to Pier 42**

2012 Stewardship & Public Access Grants: All Projects Completed

- ANJEC - Promoting Access and Stewardship on the Rahway River
- GCC - The Gowanus Canal Urban Ecology Lecture Series
- HII - Connections Between Water and Community: the North Brooklyn Estuary Exploration Program
- MCIA - Days of Fun on Our Raritan River - Things To Do, Learn and Share on Our Riverfront
- MCPS - Raritan Bay & Sandy Hook Bay Stewardship Program for 5th Graders
- SSSM - Gone Fishing: Marine Education Programs for Title I Schools Aboard the Historic Schooner Pioneer
- TRP - Marine Biology Intern Scholarships

Harbor Estuary Habitat Grants

HEP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 15, 2013



Other projects to be completed in 2014

- Bronx Zoo and Stone Mill Dam Fish Passage Project (New York City Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Pralls Island Heron Rookery Restoration and Harbor Heron Studies (NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and New York City Audubon)

GCC - The Gowanus Canal Urban Ecology Lecture Series

HII - Connections Between Water and Community: the North Brooklyn Estuary Exploration Program

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