



Management Committee Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2015

Hudson River Foundation

Participants:

Management Committee: Rick Balla, Rob Buchanan, Bernice Malione, Pinar Balci, Ann Fraioli, Douglas Adamo, Jeff Myers, Kerry Kirk-Pflugh (for Clay Sherman)

HEP Office Staff: Rob Pirani, Kate Boicourt, Ariane Giudicelli

Others in attendance: Nesmarie Negron, Venetia Lannon, Melissa Alvarez (by phone for Karen Greene), Phil DeGaetano, Jim Lodge, Jason Fagel

1. The meeting was held at the Hudson River Foundation offices in New York. Rob Pirani chaired the meeting. **Introductions** were made and the agenda was reviewed.
2. The minutes from the March 11, 2015 Management Committee meeting were approved.
3. Rob Pirani reviewed and opened for discussion the FY 2015 Work Plan and Replacement Grant Agreements. The final numbers from EPA were received last week and slight changes were reflected in the most recent draft version that was circulated.

Rob outlined projects and budgets associated with each of these tasks identified in the draft work plans. The three final draft contracts will be emailed for committee comment and final approvals.

The committee asked how the projects in the proposed match of \$630,000 from Hudson River Fund supported research projects were selected. The Strategic Plan identifies research in support of coastal green infrastructure/nature-based resiliency features and advancing restoration targets for shallows and shorelines as being a focus for this funding. This focus was part of the Hudson River Foundation's 2015 Call for Proposals. Committee members asked for additional information on the projects. Members also inquired about the selection process for Hudson River Fund projects, and suggested that the STAC have input into the selection process.

Action items:

- *Rob will re-work the table showing Hudson River Fund match to clarify how the projects will advance HEP goals and project geography and distribute project abstracts.*
- *Rob and Dennis Suskowski will develop a process for involving the STAC in next project selection process.*

4. Rob noted that HEP is working with New York City DCP, NYS DEC, the NYS Governors Office of Storm Recovery and other partners in developing a long term monitoring strategy for coastal green infrastructure/nature-based resiliency features. This includes preparing an application for the NOAA's Regional Resiliency RFP. The Committee noted that impacts on water quality is also an important aspect of these projects.

Action item: Rob will circulate the NOAA proposal to the Committee

5. An important aspect of the FY 2015 workplan is the creation of a 2016-2020 Action Plan and the start of the CCMP revision. There will be \$45,000 available for listening sessions and producing an Action Plan Report. An additional \$ 24,000 will be used for the climate change vulnerability assessment. HEP is planning on conducting workshops and outreach sessions in order to identify a preliminary set of goals for the next five years. The development of a Finance Plan will help determine funding opportunities to support defined goals.

Action items: A detailed draft workplan for this process will be presented at the September meeting, including an outline of the draft finance plan.

6. Rick Balla mentioned the possibility of having funds to support a Passaic River Watershed Ambassador through HEP. Details still need to be worked out. The NJDEP will also support the effort through their EJ liaison.

Action items: Rick will work with Rob to develop the details and budget for this position. A draft will be in the proposed workplan.

7. The discussion then moved on to the review of Governance and Operating Procedures. Comments from the Committee meeting in March as well as those received by EPA and other parties were incorporated into the Operating Procedures document.

Rob clarified the differences between the CCMP, CRP and Action Plan. The CCMP defines the goals of the program while the Action Plan lays out the necessary actions to achieve the goals. Creation of the CRP was a recommendation of the CCMP and helps clarify restoration goals. Assessing how the goals of the CCMP are vulnerable to climate change will be a key focus for the upcoming action plan and CCMP revision.

The Policy Committee will kick off the development of the five year Action Plan this fall with hopes that it will be ready for final approval in the fall of 2016. The CCMP revision will be a two year process and may be completed by the fall of 2018. The next Program evaluation will be in 2019 towards the end of the next Action Plan. The evaluation will include a review of the CCMP and a Finance Plan.

A discussion ensued regarding selection of a representative of NJ local government. The Committee believes that mayors should have a voice in who is representing them. Kerry Kirk-Pflugh noted that involving the NJ League of Municipalities or other similar bodies can be a way for everyone to give their input and give the local representative a mandate. Working with NYC DEP to engage communities in Westchester and Rockland County is also important.

All the members felt that adding a NY and a NJ representative of EJ interests should be added to the Committee. Engaging such groups to the CAC is also important.

The STAC currently has two active co-chairs and is brought in as needed. The CAC has been much more active. The CAC's roles and support of HEP was discussed. Ensuring that the CAC and the members of the Management Committee understand the role of the CAC is important and clarification is needed on the relationship between the two.

Action items:

- *Kerry will put Rob in touch with the League of Municipalities regarding NJ local government representation.*
 - *Rob will clarify language about the need to bring local interests to the table, including the selection of a representative of New Jersey local government for the PC and MC.*
 - *Rob will change the MC member language to reflect one or two representatives of the EJ community*
 - *Rick will schedule a meeting in the next month to discuss the EJ issue with EPA, NYS, and NJ EJ staff people.*
 - *Rob will schedule a meeting with Ann Fraioli and someone from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology in Sandy Hook to discuss participation from an educational representative in NJ*
 - *A meeting is scheduled on June 30th to discuss CAC's roles over the next year, the relationship to HEP and the possibility of having a separate website*
 - *Rob Pirani will share CAC by-laws, generic letterhead and boilerplate language so everyone can weigh in*
 - *Rob will email the revised Operating Procedures document (with changes highlighted) and is requesting email approval from all members*
8. A Policy Committee meeting will be held in September or October.
9. Rob Buchanan provided the Citizens Advisory Committee update.

At their April meeting there was a presentation on microplastics and a citizen-based Eco-Pier for Sunset Park (presented by Bart Chezar). Roger Meyer from Conservancy North spoke about stewardship zones and the often competing interests of conservation and public access. A letter was sent out regarding the NJ Exxon settlement.

The CAC plans to get involved with the opposition of the proposed Pier 55 in Hudson River Park.

10. Additional brief **Program updates** were provided by Rob, Kate, and Ariane.

Rob gave a summary of Two States: One Bay Conference on the future of the Raritan. More than 200 people attended the conference.

Kate presented the work that was done for the [Working Together to Improve the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary: Contributions by Partners of the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program \(Fiscal Year 2014\)](#).

Ariane provided a quick background on the planned Litter Survey project to characterize sources of trash (e.g., point of sale, brands) to identify upstream solutions to minimize trash generation and distribution. HEP will be working with NYCEP and PVSC and hopes to have a finalized protocol for data collection by the summer of 2016.

Kate discussed the website update that is happening this summer. A draft of the website update will be presented at the September meeting.

Action Items: *the Management Committee is encouraged to contact HEP staff with questions or to further discuss the update items presented.*

11. The next MC meeting was originally scheduled for September 9th but the 17th was suggested as a preferred date because of the Labor Day holiday. The meeting will take place in Newark – the exact location is TBD.

Action Item:

- *Ariane will circulate next meeting date, time and exact location*
- *Please send Rob any suggestions on topics you would like to present or hear about in future meetings*