



New York - New Jersey
Harbor & Estuary Program
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Management Committee Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2016

PSE&G, Newark NJ

Participants:

Management Committee: Doug Adamo, Meredith Comi, Pete Weppler (by phone), Jeff Myers, Evelyn Powers, Clay Sherman, Dennis Suszkowski, Sean Dixon, Bernice Malione, Shino Tanikawa, Ann Fraioli (by phone)

HEP Office Staff: Rob Pirani, Kate Boicourt, Ariane Giudicelli, Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff, Anna Marandi

Others in attendance: Lisa Baron (by phone), Jason Fagel, Nesmarie Negron, Mark Tedesco, Ashley Slagle, Rick Winfield, Peter Brandt (by phone), Manny Russ (by phone), Moses Chang, Pat Pechko, Chris Zeppie

1. The meeting was held in Newark, NJ at PSE&G. Rob Pirani chaired the meeting. Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed.
2. Kate Boicourt gave an overview of the very successful HEP Restoration Conference held in June, where presenters and panelists discussed progress made over the past couple of years with a focus on connectivity. The final touches are being made to the CRP document which will be posted on the Waters We Share website. The next big HEP conference will be the State of the Estuary Conference in May 2017.
3. Outreach efforts are currently underway as part of the new Action Agenda process. HEP is gathering input from the concerned public through workshops and from our partners through workgroups. A new website, HarborEstuaryEvents.org, has been developed for the workshops. Two special outreach events will also take place over the summer and fall at City of Water Day and with the Harbor School.

Kate gave an overview of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment timeline. A final report is anticipated in January 2017.

4. Ariane Giudicelli reported out on some initial thoughts and suggestions for our Action Agenda priorities from the Water Quality Work Group meeting on June 2nd. Suggestions include ensuring consistent messaging across states, identifying research and monitoring gaps and communicating the benefits of ongoing CSO and MS4 work being done by the states and utilities.

Action items:

- *If you feel anyone is missing from the water quality work group please let us know*

5. In order for HEP to achieve its goals, new sources of funding are needed. Chris Zeppie and Anna Marandi have been working on a finance plan that will look into the options available to us. Their review to date includes:

- Exploring what other Estuary programs have been able to use
- Looking into options such as cooling water, brownfields, voluntary revenue and real estate taxes (this was voted in for the San Francisco NEP)

An additional option could be modeled after the membership type program that the Tampa Bay NEP uses. Local governments contribute a fixed amount towards their projects.

Having a diversity of sources is very much key as is ensuring that any secured funding is dedicated to HEP and not re-routed elsewhere.

As a reminder, this funding will be utilized for carrying out our priorities and is not destined for HEP directly.

Next steps include one on one interviews and presenting this information at the Policy Committee meeting in July.

Action items:

- *A list of what other Estuary Programs are doing will be circulated*
- *Please send us feedback on what has been considered thus far and if any potential funding opportunities are missing from our list*

6. Jeff Myers presented the proposed No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for the Raritan Bay. Funding was provided to NEIWPC to put the NDZ petition together for NY and NJ. For a bi-state waterbody such as the Raritan, the states coordinate the petition submittal to EPA.

There are three basic justifications for initiating NDZ's:

- The proposed waterbody is a drinking water supply,
- The proposed waterbody is a highly valued economic resource
- The proposed waterbody has an adequate number of boat pump-outs

Pump-outs have to be publicly available and there has to be a certain ratio of boats to pump-outs. The acceptable range is 300-600 boats per pump-out and the current ratio in the Raritan is 390:1.

This NDZ covers all of the Raritan Bay and does not separate out boats registered in NY vs. NJ. The dividing line will be Sandy Hook to the Verrazano Bridge and west of the main shipping channel. NDZ's are enforced similarly to the way speed limits are enforced.

A number of NDZs have been implemented in NY State over the past few years. Occasionally there is push-back from boaters that have marine sanitation devices.

They are targeting the 2017 boating season for implementation of this NDZ.

Action items:

- *Please send comments to Jeff on the petition.*

7. The minutes from the March 16, 2016 Management Committee meeting were approved.
8. HEP's annual workplan was approved by the Policy Committee and submitted to EPA for processing. HEP will now follow the time period in which the activities are started eg "2016-2017" instead of the federal fiscal year. The approved workplan will be focused on the Action Agenda and other products of the CCMP revision in particular the State of the Estuary Report and the Environmental Monitoring Plan.

HEP is also receiving \$80K from EPA for a new Bronx/Harlem River Ambassador. The funding is only sufficient for one year; finding additional funding would make sense in order to be able to keep someone on for longer than a year. Sean Dixon commented on the fact that there are currently multiple efforts focused on the Bronx while the Harlem River is lacking attention.

The next Policy Committee meeting is set for July followed by one in November. We , will present the final draft Action Agenda and the preliminary 2017-2018 budget at the November meeting.

9. Kate reported out on the Public Access grants. Roughly \$40K was available this year. The review panel met and grants are currently being awarded. All of the proposals received this year, except for one, were from NY-based organizations. They include CIVITAS, Conservancy North, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Guardians of Flushing Bay, Ironbound Community Corporation and +POOL.
10. Rob gave an update on advancing green infrastructure in NJ. An RFP went out in partnership with the city of Perth Amboy, NJ-NJ Baykeeper and NJDEP and \$90K was awarded to Edesign Dynamics. They will be modeling two catchment areas in Perth Amboy.
11. Ariane gave updates on the Citizen Science and Trash Free Waters projects. HEP has two grantees for the citizen science project, NY-NJ Baykeeper and Gotham Whale. They are just

beginning to collect water samples along the Raritan Bayshore and Staten Island for pathogen analysis at the IEC lab on Staten Island. Sampling will hopefully run until at least the end of September.

HEP applied for funding through the Aquatic Trash Prevention grant opportunity with NEIWPC. If awarded the grant, we will build on an effort initiated with the NYCDEP and Columbia University by partnering with the Passaic River Institute at Montclair University. The focus would be to identify prominent sources and types of litter in the Passaic River watershed, which will help give us a more complete picture of sources to the Harbor Estuary as well as possible preventative measures that could be implemented in the future. We will likely hear about funding decisions towards the end of July.

12. Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff is working on the Lower Passaic mapping pilot which includes planned park expansions, determining what municipal plans currently exist for stormwater and looking for leveraging opportunities.

13. Meredith Comi provided the Citizens Advisory Committee update.

The HEP public workshop in Keyport was very well attended and attendees were engaged.

The next CAC meeting is being planned for July.

14. The next MC meeting is scheduled for September 14th. The meeting will take place at the Hudson River Foundation.

Action Item:

- *Please send Rob any suggestions on topics you would like to present or hear about in future meetings.*