



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

March 16, 2016

Hudson River Foundation

Participants:

Management Committee: Pinar Balci, Rick Balla, Doug Adamo, Meredith Comi, Pete Wepler, Aurash Khawarзад, Jeff Myers, Evelyn Powers, Clay Sherman, Dennis Suszkowski, Sean Dixon, Judith Weis

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

Others in attendance: Chris Daggett, Lisa Baron, Jason Fagel, Steve Zahn, Jim Lodge, Clay Hiles, Rosalie Siegel, Ashley Slagle, Rick Winfield, Peter Brandt

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. Originally this meeting was scheduled to take place in Newark but finding a meeting room proved to be difficult. The Committee was asked if they felt strongly about alternating locations between NY and NJ and it was decided this was preferred. The next meeting in June will therefore be held in NJ.
3. The minutes from the December 9, 2015 Management Committee meeting were approved.
4. Rob Pirani reviewed the 2016-2017 Work Plan. A change to note for this year is the calculation of indirect costs, which are now 25% of staff costs. This is still well below the Foundation's federally approved rate of indirect charges. The Foundation will be providing a match in the amount of \$600K.

A new element of the Work Plan is \$48K to support the Action Agenda/State of the Estuary Report/Monitoring Plan. In addition, HEP is applying for \$30-\$50K from EPA for support of the Monitoring Plan. The original plan dates from 1995 and will be revised to assess whether the types, quality & quantity of data being collected are sufficient and appropriate to track attainment of HEP's goals, and if not what supplemental information is required. The budget also includes an additional \$15K to help support the Hudson River Estuary Program conference.

EPA is anticipating having funding to support an Urban Waters Partnership Ambassador for the Bronx/Harlem Rivers area. HEP was encouraged to include \$160K for this in the workplan, which could potentially be split between the Bronx and Harlem, but EPA still needs to work out the details.

Action items:

- *Rob will be circulating the draft workplan to the Management Committee and to the Policy Committee for approval*

5. The Action Agenda and Climate Vulnerability will be the focus of the June meeting. Preliminary priorities will be reviewed by the Policy Committee in July and approved in November.

Ultimately, an outcome of the Action Agenda will be to identify a set of goals and priorities that Management Committee members will be responsible for. The new Action Agenda will be a key component of the required CCMP revision. We are moving forward with this strategic approach that is reflective of our capacity. Our intent is to identify similar/common priorities, identify the ways and means of tracking progress through the State of Estuary Report, and identify funding sources that will allow us to make progress on priority actions.

The listening sessions are an opportunity to engage local government staff and to get civic groups more engaged in the CAC. It is envisioned that we will either have plenary or break-out sessions depending on the size of the session.

Action items:

- *Rob will update the timeline to include the Policy Committee meeting schedule.*
- *HEP is requesting that the group help get the word out about the listening sessions and to inform us if any key colleagues are missing on our list of possible hosts/participants.*

6. Kate Boicourt reported out on the Public Access assessment. The assessment will enable HEP to track progress on our public access goals. The study area used was based on the CRP and includes a waterfront buffer area. Socioeconomic factors were an important consideration of this assessment. Defining whether or not you can actually physically touch the water is actually quite difficult and further work needs to be done on this. The report will be released shortly.
7. Kate gave an overview of the HRF/HEP shared website development and timeline. The website will emphasize our shared goals and missions and will help communicate these to the public. Currently the contractor is working on logos and we are anticipating a July launch. We should have a prototype of the website to share at the June meeting.
8. Rob discussed the finance plan which will identify sources of funding for Action Agenda priorities. Rob has been working with Chris Zeppie on a scope of work to develop this. They will be reviewing different options to develop a sense of what is realistic and will hire a graduate student to do background research on funding and legal pathways, which will build on the work done last summer by the Penn graduate student intern. A white paper is anticipated for next fall.

Action items:

- *Chris will be reaching out to get input from the Management Committee*

9. Ariane Giudicelli 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 will be collecting water samples at various locations in NJ and NY for pathogen analysis at the IEC lab on Staten Island. Sampling is scheduled to start in May and will run through September.

Columbia University students have begun working on developing a litter survey protocol under a contract with NYCDEP and with input from HEP. They will be presenting their work to date in the next week or two. They anticipate testing out the protocol later in spring and using it to collect data at various locations in NYC over the summer.

10. Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff is working on expanding the partnership between Newark and across the Passaic as there is a gap in stewardship north of Newark and south of the Dundee Dam. This will involve reaching out to environmental groups to build constituency for the river and identifying cross-cutting issues such as flooding, resiliency and open space.

11. Meredith Comi and Sean Dixon provided the Citizens Advisory Committee update.

Sean Dixon is the new representative for NY.

The CAC is brainstorming ways to get more communities involved and to ensure NJ feels that it's as much a part of the group as NY does.

12. Judy Weis mentioned that a bill is before city council to add a fee on paper and plastic bags. Mayor DeBlasio's administration hasn't supported it to date. Non-governmental employees should contact the mayor and request that he support the bill.

13. The next MC meeting is scheduled for June 14th. The meeting will take place in Newark with the exact location TBD.

Action Item:

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