



Management Committee Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2016

Hudson River Foundation

Participants:

Management Committee: Doug Adamo (by phone), Jeff Myers, Clay Sherman, Dennis Suszkowski, Sean Dixon (by phone), Bernice Malione, Shino Tanikawa, Rick Balla, Judy Weis

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

Others in attendance: Lisa Baron, Jason Fagel, Nesmarie Negron, Dana Mecomber, Greg Alber, Rick Winfield, Chris Zeppie

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 June 14, 2016 Management Committee meeting are conditionally approved pending edits to one section.

Action items:

- *Rob will re-circulate the minutes once edits are complete.*
3. Rob gave a brief overview of HEP's progress on the CCMP revision including key documents, and our timetable through spring 2017.

Sarah summarized the results of our public participation process, including workshops, an e-survey, presentations and events. Twenty workshops were held throughout the Estuary with more than 400 participants. While there were some regional differences in priorities, a number of main themes were common to all locations as detailed in the powerpoint. .

4. The draft priorities for each of HEP's goals were reviewed. Also included with the priorities were general cost categories, potential funding options and sources. The following general points were made in preliminary discussion:
 - The focus should be actions where HEP can add value and where we can make a difference as a group. We want to make sure our actions are clear, relevant and that we're not missing anything crucial.
 - While we want this Action Agenda to be realistic, we also want it to be inspiring and we should therefore be ambitious. We could have an overall vision statement for the

document or we could have statements for each goal/section to help set expectations and provide the context for the actions.

- We also need to consider how we plan to market/present this to the public through our website and other means compared to how we plan to share this information amongst partners that will be taking the lead on these actions.
- The ultimate goal is that our core partners will take on some of these priorities.

The following points were made relative to the draft list of actions:

4..1. Ariane reviewed the draft water quality actions. We have to be especially mindful of how provocative or aspirational we intend to be in our water quality goals and how achievable our actions can be within the five year time horizon. We need to strike the right balance between research and actions that directly improve water quality. For example, HRF is funding research on climate change as well as contaminants, a critical step towards implementation. Specific information on the effects of microplastics on wildlife is also needed. We will need to determine what HEP's role should be on this topic – whether research on effects or best available technologies or something else.

4..2. Kate reviewed the draft habitat restoration and public access actions. There are currently four groupings for habitat which cover implementation; connectivity; monitoring and synthesizing data; and climate change. HEP can make a big difference in advancing the right restoration projects – it is therefore crucial that we help advance a prioritization/ranking of the listed projects. HEP should focus on identifying/leveraging funding for the projects. Addressing possible recontamination of restored sites is also important

The public access actions focus on raising awareness, education, defining what safety really means, and project implementation.

4..3. Dennis discussed the actions related to sediment quality and quantity. CARP II will model specific maintenance dredging of hotspots to determine the quality of sediments in the future. This will help get at the costs of sediment management. Both HRF grant funded work and NOAA are looking at dam removal and sediments; specific actions related to the results of this research should be identified. i

The group discussed what the appropriate emphasis is for this goal – sediment management or port? One hot issue where HEP can make sure that agencies reach consensus on appropriate sediment re-use for restoration, including re-use and disposal standards. This and recontamination issues are also important restoration issues.

5. The group discussed the agenda/expectations for the Policy Committee meeting on November 30. The presentation and discussion with the PC should use the draft list of actions – as vetted

by the Management Committee - as background for discussion on the broader themes, goals, and sub-goals of the document. It is critical that HEP staff send out the agenda and next draft of the actions by the November 12 deadline.

Action items:

- *Please provide comments and highlight anything on the list that may be an issue for the Policy Committee by October 11. We would also like to know if there are any priorities that you would be willing to take the lead on.*
- *HEP staff is collecting additional comments from the CAC and the various work groups and climate change advisory committee in October and will redraft the priority actions, goals and subgoals.*
- *HEP staff will refine our draft lists by November 12 and re-circulate to the Management Committee for Policy Committee review along with a proposed agenda for the November 30 meeting.*

6. Chris Zeppie gave an update on the Funding and Finance Plan. An exhaustive list of potential revenue sources has been reviewed at this point. The most promising ones were highlighted in the handout. While many of the potential sources may be controversial, our goal is to identify possibilities used in other estuaries and start the process of advancing the most feasible. Specific options that the Committee considered important for follow up included the federal Harbor Maintenance Tax, NYS Environmental Protection Fund, and use of local conservation programs for water quality improvements, such as the referendum that will be on the ballot in November in Suffolk County.

Action items:

- *Please send any feedback or questions by October 1.*
- *A complete draft of the document will be circulated by November 11.*

7. Kate gave an overview of the latest draft of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment. This assessment is a review of potential impacts of climate change to achieving HEP goals . The assessment is being done in coordination with identification of priorities. One stressor that should be considered in ocean acidification.

Action items:

- *The draft report for MC review for the December meeting*

8. HEP is part of a team withDEC, SCAPE, NYC Parks, NY SeaGrant and the SRIJB that was awarded a NYSERDA grant to develop a framework for monitoring metrics for nature based resiliency features. Multiple workshops will be held across the State.

HEP is working with EPA and USGS to hire a Harlem River Ambassador. Discussions are ongoing.

We have three upcoming workshops on GI, including a meeting with the Dutch Consulate on September 19, a Jersey Water Works training for engineers and a presentation to NJTPA on bioswales on October 3.

9. HEP was awarded a grant through the Aquatic Trash Prevention opportunity with NEIWPC. We will be partnering with the Passaic River Institute at Montclair University to focus on identifying prominent sources and types of litter in the Passaic River watershed. We will also be working with community groups. This 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.
10. Shino Tanikawa provided the Citizens Advisory Committee update.

There is discussion about holding a CAC conference but the details still need to be worked out.

11. Other Updates

- NYSWCD and the SWIM Coalition is hosting a green infrastructure bus tour on September 22 and a few spots are still left.

12. The next MC meeting is scheduled for December 13^h. The meeting will take place in NJ at a location TBD.

Action Item:

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