

Tributary Connection Subcommittee of the Restoration Work Group

Chairs: Megan Lung and Laura Wildman



Meeting, August 23, 2021

1:00 – 2:30

Virtual

I. Welcome and Attendance

The group was welcomed by Isabelle Stinnette and the newly appointed chairs, Megan Lung (NYSDEC) and Laura Wildman (Biohabitats). Attendance listed below.

II. Minutes Approval and Membership

The group approved the minutes from the March meeting. Eric Boehm, Senior Fisheries Biologist from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife will join the group in the future.

III. Actionable Item Exercise

The chairs set a goal for this workgroup to choose one or two “actionable items” to pursue over the next two years. The idea behind this is to be focused, understanding that all members are volunteering our time in the pursuit to creating more and better tributary habitat. These items will be in addition to the other primary goal of sharing information and best practices.

Suggested actions that came out of the exercise included the following categories: communications and creation of resources, research, building relationships, and shared inventory. The chairs are compiling the most popular suggestions and will get back to the members will a vote on the final actions.

IV. Highlighted Project

Rebecca Swadek from NYC Parks presented on their examination of the restoration opportunities on the barrier on the Bronx River located on the zoo property. They are comparing both the installation of an engineered fishway over the current double dam and removing the dams entirely.

V. Group Updates

NJDEP

- Gretchen advocates that when groups are conducting the NAACC assessments, they also look at the terrestrial connectivity of the bridge or culvert. NAACC has opened up the online terrestrial training to the public.
- Sharing a couple of conferences that usually have some great aquatic and terrestrial connectivity content: International Conference on Ecology & Transportation (ICOET) – www.icoet.org happening virtually at the end of September; Northeast Transportation and Wildlife Conference (NEWTC) – www.netwc.org will be hosted here in NJ next September

Riverkeeper

- George Jackman notes that they have seen blue crab, brown trout and adult eels moving into the tributaries up the Hudson. We need to consider these as migratory species.
- They are releasing part two of their dam removal film, Undamming the Hudson in September this year.

Biohabitats

Laura Wildman is working with a filmmaker in Europe working on a film called Dam Busters. He is looking for funding sources to do a US version. Contact Laura if you would like to get involved.

NY-NJ HEP

- They are hosting a half-day workshop in Northern New Jersey at the end of October to introduce eel monitoring to community and conservation groups. Contact Isabelle if you would like to be involved.
- They will be holding their annual conference this year from November 15 – 18. The theme is Waterway Stories: water quality and communications.

NYSDEC/ HR Estuary Program

- The Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor will take place this year on October 14th. <https://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/edu/k12/snapshotday/>
- Estuary Program will be able to offer field training in the terrestrial protocol and non-tidal protocol for NAACC in 2022.

VI. Attendance

Laura Wildman, Biohabitats (chair)

Megan Lung, NYSDEC (chair)

Lisa Baron, USACE

Melissa Cohen, NYSDEC

Gretchen Fowles, NJDEP

David Hsu, Montclair University

George Jackman, Riverkeeper
Marit Larson, NYC Parks
Kyle McKay, USACE
Rob Pirani, HEP
Lisa Rosman, NOAA
Eric Schradling, USFWS
Isabelle Stinnette, HEP
Rebecca Swadek, NYC Parks
Jaclyn Woollard. USEPA