



New York - New Jersey
Harbor & Estuary Program
www.harborestuary.org

RESTORATION WORK GROUP

of the New York – New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program
Co-Chairs: *Lisa Baron (Army Corps of Engineers),*
Marit Larson (NYC Parks)

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Meeting, June 22, 2018

17 Battery Place

Suite 915

11:00 – 2:30

- I. **Welcome and minutes from last meeting:** minutes from last meeting were approved and can be found on the HEP website.
- II. **Introductions and Updates (attendance at the end of this document):**

USEPA

- They are going through the process of how to define the waters of the US.

NJSEA

- Field season is ramping up with continued monitoring of terrapins, nesting bird surveys and a new plankton survey

USACE

- Spring creek north progress as well as some restorations in Suffolk Co.
- Lisa has to prove 33 CRP sites were best alternative
- Doing SLR analysis & incremental cost analysis to justify restoration costs -- have to prove wetland viability for 50 years.
- ACE is looking at the breaks in the Incremental Costs per Unit vs Ecological Benefits graph: sites with big jump in cost without big jump in ecological benefit may be eliminated.
- Proposed total restructuring of Fed Gov / USACE yesterday. Congress would have to approve.

NYC Parks

- Participating with the LISS Restoration Work Group
- Working on a potential project with sills at edgemere
- Have 10 acres of wetlands in planning
- Sunset Cove wetland restoration set to break ground this summer
- Noted the Reclaimed land conference being held shortly at Fresh Kills

TNC

- Working on a restoration at the Jamaica Bay wildlife refuge. One of the goals of this project is to test a maritime plant palate.
- Completed an oyster monitoring report.

NYSDEC

- There is a restoration opportunity for phragmites removal at a freshwater pond at the North Mount Loretto Property in Staten Island. Phrag seed likely arrived there through the Bluebelt so they may as NYCDEP for help with remediation.
- There are several pairs of Beavers now on Staten Island causing issues with drainage.
- The DEC has just released a draft document on Flood Risk Management Guidance, see [here](#). They are looking for comments on the document and Susan notes that this document will affect grant funding decisions.
- DEC is lobbying for money to make the acquisition of properties adjacent to their Sharrotts Shoreline property in Staten Island so that public access can be created at the site.

PANYNJ

- Working with NYC parks on a project at Laguardia. Marit, what is this?
- Funding for acquisition has been authorized but never appropriated. HEP and partners will try to focus on a couple of priority projects to encourage action with these funds.

NJDEP

- Working on Liberty State Park Restoration planning

NOAA

- Working on several restorations at Superfund sites along the Raritan, Hudson, Passaic, and on Long Island.

iii. Wetlands Migration Project Results

Ellis Calvin from Regional Plan Association (RPA) introduced the group to their project on wetland migration: New Shoreline, Integrating Community and Ecological Resilience around Coastal Wetlands, and shared their final results. Several RWG members were on the advisory committee for this project. This project addressed not only the physical results of sea level rise on marshes but the human component of wetlands adaptation. In addition to producing maps showing potential migration pathways and migration barriers such as development, the research produced recommendations for property managers, planners and policy makers. A sampling of some of these recommendations include:

- Incorporate wetland migration pathways into state level data.
- Discourage infrastructure and other development investments in priority pathways.
- Integrate wetlands into developed places.
- Support fully-funded buyout programs that enable wetland restoration and migration.
- Reconnect coastal communities with the ways natural systems affect their community.

Betsy Blair asked the group some follow-up questions about next steps for this project.

Comments from the group included:

- Noting that RPA's report is not prescriptive – they do not prioritize the pathways. That could be a next step.
- Anecdotal evidence points to some opportunity for wetland migration on the NJ Baysshore.
- Mitigation has to be rethought: Should it count if it will be underwater in 20 years?
- Can we use the transfer of development rights as a tool?
- SLR analysis may not be in our favor in terms of pushing forward restoration in our area such as for the HRE CRP.

RPA's final report is in draft stage but can be requested by RWG members by contacting Ellis (Ellis@rpa.org).

iv. Update from the Shorelines and Shallows Subgroup

Marit Larson updated the group on the latest from the Shorelines and Shallows

- 1. Shorelines and Shallows: Waterfront Design Guidelines (WEDG)** (Sarah Dougherty and Kate Boicourt, 30 minutes)
- 2. Benthic Infaunal Communities and Sediment Properties in Pile Fields within the Hudson River Estuarine Sanctuary** (Gary Taghon, 30 minutes)
- 3. Update on HRE and Hudson Restoration from USACE** (Lisa Baron, 10 minutes)
- 4. Discussion of HEP's Environmental Monitoring Plan** (Rosanna Da Silva, 15 minutes)

Attendees:

Lisa Baron, (chair) USACE
Marit Larson, (Chair) NYC Parks
Carl Alderson, NOAA (by phone)
Betsy Blair, HRNERR (guest)
Ellis Calvin, RPA (guest)
Sarah Dougherty, Waterfront Alliance (guest)
Ross Feltes, NJSEA
John King, NJDEP (by phone)
Jim Lodge, HRF
James MacDonald, NYSDEC
Susan Maresca, NYSDEC
Steve Mars, USFWS (by phone)
Emily Maxwell, TNC

Dana Mecomber, PANYNJ
Daniel Montella, USEPA
Robert Pirani, NY-NJ HEP
Ken Scarlatelli, NYSDEC
Isabelle Stinnette, NY-NJ HEP
Gary Taghon, Rutgers University (guest)
Rick Winfield, USEPA (by phone)