



RESTORATION WORK GROUP

Co-Chairs: Lisa Baron (Army Corps of Engineers),
Marit Larson (NYC Parks)

www.hudsonriver.org/estuary-program

Conference Call, September 26, 2019

9:30 – 11:30

I. Welcome/introductions

Attendance is at the end of this document.

II. Minutes

Approved minutes from the last meeting in April 2019.

III. Enclosed and Confined Waterbodies Tracking Discussion

Isabelle walked the group through a presentation that reviewed the change we had decided to make tracking this TEC. The change results in a more inclusive determination that reflects the millions of dollars of investment into improving water quality in these dead end basins, instead of just their classification status. We reviewed the 18 waterbodies chosen as priority by the group and voted on which ones we would recognize as upgraded. Matters discussed by the group included:

- How much (if at all) to consider the data in making the decision to upgrade the waterbody.
- If we chose to upgrade a waterbody, does that mean it is off the list and is no longer priority.
- Does the word “improve” make more sense than “upgrade,” reflecting our understanding that the water quality in the waterbody may still not be pristine and the waterbody should still receive continued attention.

IV. HEP Restoration conference

Isabelle presented the draft agenda for the Fall Restoration Conference including the morning plenary and six afternoon breakout sessions. The group gave feedback on the breakout sessions including the interest for having one on wetland invasives management and one involving NYC planning department.

V. Updates

NJDEP

John King provided an update on Liberty State Park Restoration project: They expect to have the concept plan per habitat type soon. Wetland delineations and topographical surveys are all complete and they are installing new monitoring wells.

NYSDEC

- They are starting a three-year study on Atlantic Coast Leopard Frogs on Staten Island.
- They had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Sawmill Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank.

NYC Parks

- Thanks to partner advocacy, NYC Parks received one year of city funding (\$4M) for forest restoration & stewardship in natural areas across the city. This funding supports work outlined in the NYC Parks - Natural Areas Conservancy Forest Management Framework.
- Received an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant to develop monitoring protocols to study approaches to reduce vulnerability of salt marshes to sea level rise, including protocols to monitor the effectiveness of thin sediment layer applications and conditions to facilitate salt marsh migration.

NYCDEP

- The Jamaica Bay long term control plan is still in review with the NYSDEC. It includes marsh restoration and ribbed mussel restoration for pathogen removal. John McLaughlin encourages support from the RWG for this project.

USACE

- The final report is due for the HRE Feasibility study and they will be reaching out to sponsors with design concepts for the 20 sites.
- The Hudson River Habitat Restoration Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment is out expected a decision milestone on October 8. They are proceeding with three projects as they had to drop Rondout Creek due to lack of landowner support for the dam removal.
- Spring Creek South was not approved this year by FEMA and they are considering adding it to the feasibility study.

HRF/STAC

Jim Lodge updated the group on ongoing oyster projects. Monitoring is ongoing at the Tappan Zee restoration. They are writing final reports on the Head of Bay project, which should be available in December.

NOAA

- They are continuing to assess and negotiate NRD projects for several large settlements.
- They are at 30% design for a new rock ramp fish ladder at Island farm on the Raritan, and hope to have final designs within the year.

USEPA

They are finishing the selection process for the Wetland Development grants.

Attendance:

Lisa Baron, (chair) USACE
Marit Larson, (chair) NYC Parks
Carl Alderson, NOAA
Marco Finocchiaro, USEPA
John King, NJDEP
Kristy King, NYC Parks
Jim Lodge, HRF
Susan Maresca, NYSDEC
James McDonald, NYSDEC
John McLaughlin, NYCDEP
Daniel Montella, USEPA
Ken Scarlatelli, NYSDEC
Isabelle Stinnette, NY-NJ HEP