

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 7th, 2019

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Hudson River Foundation

17 Battery Place

New York, NY 1004

Attendees: Lisa Bloodgood, NCA; Carrie Roble, HRPT; Shino Tanikawa, NYCSWCD; Jessica Bonamusa, IEC; Michelle Tracy, FutureCity; Nina Hitchings, Riverproject; Richard Corman, Riverproject; Pamela Pettyjohn, CIB Project; Karen Argenti, BCEQ; Maggie Flanagan, WA; Peter Brandt; EPA; Bart Chezar; Clay Sherman, NJDEP; Gareth Hougham; Jacquie Perine; Bill Schultz, Raritan Riverkeeper; Rob Buchanan, NYCWTA; Bob Alpern; Julianna Schroeger, RWA; Michelle Doran-Mcbean, FutureCity; Katie Friedman, NYC Parks; Louis Kleinman, WA; Dan Mundy Sr; Manuel Russ; Lisa Schepcke, ALS; Nancy Brous; Jamie Ong, NYC Parks; Chris Girgenti, RIPA; Elisa Caref, Beczak Center; Rosana DaSilva, HEP; Sherryll Jones, DEC; Krista Stegemann, Stony Brook University

Agenda Item: [Update on 2-year milestones part of NYS Ocean Action Plan](#)

- Sherryll Huber Jones, New York State Ocean Coordinator provided an update on some of the 2 year milestones set forth by the NYS Ocean Action Plan, which includes [actions that align](#) with HEP Action Agenda
- The New York Ocean Action Plan (OAP) is a ten year plan (2017-2027) that is a collaborative planning and implementation effort among Government, tribal, academia, NGO's, industry, and other stakeholders involved with New York's Ocean Environment.
- The purpose of the OAP is to provide a framework for an integrated, adaptive approach to management that seeks to address the increased man-made stressors that threaten the ecological integrity of the ocean ecosystem, contributing to the destruction of important marine habitat, loss of marine biodiversity, impaired waterways
- Some of the concerns that pose a challenge to the meeting the goals set forth by the [NYS Ocean Action Plan](#) including:
 - Fisheries and Overfishing
 - Shipping and Transportation
 - Offshore Energy Development
 - Pathogens and Toxic Contaminants
 - Habitat Loss and Destruction
 - Water Quality Issues (Eutrophication, HABs)

- Marine Invasive Species
- Climate Change
- Some of the efforts already on the way include:
 - Whale Monitoring Pilot Program
 - Fisheries Observer Coverage
 - Breach Monitoring
 - Ocean Indicators Workshop and Monitoring
 - Sea Turtle Monitoring Workshop
 - Ocean Acidification Task Force
 - Monitoring Ocean Sewer Outfalls
 - Atlantic Sturgeon and Horseshoe Crab Monitoring
 - Eelgrass and Tidal Wetland Monitoring
 - Diadromous Fish and Eel Passage
 - Near Shore Fisheries Surveys
 - Passive Acoustic Monitoring within Empire Wind Area
 - Ocean and Marine Outreach and Research
 - Monitoring and expansion of artificial reefs (Tappan Zee bridge)
- Some of the most notable goals as part of the NYS OAP include:
 - Ensuring the ecological integrity of the ocean ecosystem (actions 1-34)
 - Promoting economic growth, coastal development and human use of the ocean in a manner that is sustainable and consistent with maintaining ecosystem integrity (actions 35-43)
 - Increasing resilience of ocean resources to impacts associated with climate change (actions 44-52)
 - Empowering the public to actively participate in decision making and ocean stewardship (actions 53-61)
- Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Work Group is also focusing on additional outreach focusing around safe wildlife viewing, Citizen Science (shark spotter, Blue Crab Tagging Program, Lobster Recreational Survey and Horseshoe Crab Monitoring to name a few), Marine Access Points and working with Estuary Programs in the Marine District.
- **Next Steps:** support the implementation of the NYS OAP by providing meeting spaces and locations for any future update of the ongoing work as part of the plan's implementation. Any additional support regarding marine debris outreach will also be provided to Krista Stegeman, outreach coordinator.

Agenda Item: [Stewardship Highlight: Rockaway Waterfront Alliance](#)

- Juli Schroeger, Youth Programs Coordinator with the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance presented on RWA's efforts in building the foundation for a vibrant and sustainable coastal community and on how their work also aligns with some of the ongoing efforts set forth by the NYS OAP
- RWA's efforts that align with the NYS OAP plan include:
 - **Action 44:** Assess and predict the vulnerability of the coastal areas to climate change
 - **Action 60:** Implement best management practices to reduce, mitigate or remove marine debris

- **Action 49:** Update current community planning practices to include coastal resiliency strategies that effectively minimize the impacts of extreme weather events and sea-level rise
- RWA approaches to building resiliency include through the promotion of:
 - Education through youth programs
 - Stewardship of the natural (and built) environment
 - Building community: creating social networks through RISE
- **Next Steps:** HEP can support RWA by engaging them in HEP's ongoing Citizen Science Volunteer Platform to highlight and share their ongoing efforts and connecting them HEP's informal educators workgroup

Agenda Item: CAC discussion on HEP messaging

- Shino Tanikawa, member of HEP CAC leadership and NYC Soil & Water Conservation District Executive Director, lead the discussion of how HEP can sustain and strengthen its relationship with its network of diverse partner organizations
- Ideas were shared on how to better capture the content of each Citizens Advisory Meeting
- Some of these ideas included: sharing meeting presentations through minutes (as done throughout these minutes) & maintaining a space for previous presentation materials on the HEP website
- Additionally, it was also proposed to use the CAC google group for voting members as a list serv type information method to keep everyone updated
- **Next Steps:** continue to share meeting materials through minutes, keep a designated location for them, work with partners on creating a bigger network by encouraging them to share our resources and work with CAC leadership on updating the rest of the CAC network on current issues and opportunities.