



Citizens Advisory Committee

Of the NY-NJ Harbor &
Estuary Program Committee

June 9, 2021

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kdLOAkXFcwhtlJ_6W809FO8PNvDGrodybSrMgvC4vq6AMoNvmo_o3Z-SH0AU1Lr.DQJxglDrD6R5JDY2

Attendees: Rob Pirani, HEP; Isabelle Stinnette, HEP; Rosana DaSilva, HEP; Elizabeth Balladares, HEP; Sara Powell; HEP, Meredith Comi, NYNJ Baykeeper; Allison Fitzgerald, NJCU; Carrie Roble, Hudson River Park Trust; Shino Tanikawa, NYCSWCD; Michelle Luebke, BRxA; Tanasia Swift, BOP; Bart Chezar; Bill Schultz, RRK; Chris Girgenti, RIPA; Swarna Muthukrishnan, COA; Elisa Caref, Center for the Urban River; Joseph Reynolds, Save Coastal Wildlife; Lingard Knutson, EPA; Louis K; Margaret Flanagan, WA; Siddhartha, HRPK; Karen Quintero, FCI; Alex Zablocki; JBRPC, Elizabeth Stoehr; JBRPC, Matthew Haiken; BOP, Emma Gildesgame; NEIWPC, Becky Hill; NJDEP, Nick Angarone; NJDEP, Jessica Jahre; NJDEP, Johny Rosser; FCI

10:00 AM – 10:05 AM – Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

- CAC NY Co-Chair, Allison Fitzgerald welcomed everyone in attendance. She asked all CAC members to introduce themselves by name and affiliation on the chat. As an icebreaker and introduction to the first agenda item, she asked participants planning a city of water day event to describe their event on chat. Minutes were approved.

10:05 AM – 10:20 AM – *Stewardship Highlight: City of Water Day*

- HEP and Waterfront Alliance are excited to make 2021 the year of resilience and work with partners in neighborhoods across the estuary to uplift work that advances equitable access to the waterfront and educates the next generation of climate leaders.
- Alex Zablocki and Elizabeth Stoehr with [Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy \(JBRPC\)](#), joined to speak about their planned activities as part of City of Water Day *In Your Neighborhood*.

- JBRPC will be incorporating a new element this year, the Jamaica Bay Kayak Parade, giving participants the chance to visit multiple sites such as marshes throughout the tour.

10:20 AM – 10:30 AM – Program update: Restoration Activity Map

- HEP Restoration Manager, Isabelle Stinnette presented to the group on the process of creating a new restoration activity map. The map will highlight the restoration opportunities in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan. The RWG is interested in utilizing the CAC member's site-specific expertise in review.
- Current [comprehensive restoration map](#) is sort of static and so in efforts to keep this map alive, an update is necessary. Goal is also to. Make sure to include newer opportunities in the map.
- Isabelle requests that the CAC take a look at the map and provide feedback on projects that have been completed and those that may also be missing
- **Next Steps:** Isabelle will provide an updated beta version of the map with the CAC later on this summer. She will also send it along with a form or change tracking form so that members can submit feedback and corrections.

10:30 AM – 11:10 AM – 2021 New Jersey Draft Climate Change Resilience Strategy

- Released on Earth Day, the [Statewide Draft Climate Change Resilience Strategy](#) provides a suite of forward-looking policy options to promote the long-term resilience of New Jersey to climate change.
- Nick Angarone with NJDEP's Bureau of Climate Resilience Planning, joined us to provide an overview of the major priority areas and actions included as part of the completed draft Strategy and the ways local groups can stay involved.
- Major priority areas as part of the draft climate strategy include:
 1. Build Resilient and Healthy Communities
 2. Strengthen the Resilience of New Jersey's Ecosystems
 3. Promote Coordinated Governance
 4. Invest in Information and Increase Public Understanding
 5. Promote Climate-Informed Investments and Innovative Financing
 6. Coastal Resilience Plan
- Interagency council next steps include:
 1. Develop a work plan for interagency council on climate resilience, including issue-specific working groups
 2. Coordinate the work of the for interagency council on climate resilience with the environmental justice interagency council
 3. Develop agency climate change action plans
 4. Schedule meetings with local government official groups
 5. Conduct broad outreach and engagement with stakeholders and the public

- **Next Steps:** Continue to share updates and significant progress of NJ statewide climate change strategy and provide additional input where necessary.

11:10 AM – 11:40 AM – Atlantic Menhaden Die-Off's: How is it Affecting our Local Waterways?

- Since the fall, NJ has seen large numbers of mortalities of menhaden in coastal areas, an abundant member of the herring family primarily harvested for bait and non-food commercial purposes. [Clean Ocean Action](#) (COA) staff scientist, Swarna Muthukrishnan, provided a recap of COA's efforts around this issue.
- On May 28th, COA held a virtual townhall with NJDEP on the ongoing fish die-off in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. Participants were able to submit questions prior to the meeting, many of which were addressed.
- A recording of COA's virtual townhall with NJDEP can be found [here](#) and major points discussed can be found on this [COA blog post](#).
- CAC NJ co-chairs Meredith Comi and Allison Fitzgerald monitored the discussion and asked the rest of CAC members what were some of the questions that remained unanswered and what were some of the things that the cac could do to help share important information.
- **Next Steps:** CAC leadership will regroup and identify best ways for sharing resources and up to date information on the Atlantic Menhaden Die-Off's.

11:40 AM – 11:55 PM – [Economic Analysis of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Update](#)

- NEIWPC Environmental Analyst, Emma Gildesgame provided an update on the NY-NJ Harbor Economic Analysis project.
- Overall goal of the project is to communicate the economic value of the clean water in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary
- The timeline of the project so far is as follows:
 - Summer 2020 – convened the advisory team and refined project scope
 - Fall 2020 – Initial literature review and RFP development
 - Winter 2020-1 – proposal review, contractor selection and contracting
 - Spring 2021 – QAPP approval and project kickoff
- This summer there will opportunities to provide feedback on environmental indicators and analytic scenarios
- **Next steps:** continue to support the project by sharing updates and providing requested feedback.

11:40 AM – 11:55 PM – Participant Updates & Announcements