

**September 15, 2021**

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Meeting Recording:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4vR5ScClho57IbGujOFv7A5h6q5uvNpggakdzmwtdMNYT6aRDXHv8vMZwFowqKME.-U0sgVuwS1BR6Mpf?startTime=1631714653000>

**Attendees:** Rob Pirani, HEP; Isabelle Stinnette, HEP; Elizabeth Butler, EPA; Meredith Comi, NYNJ Baykeeper; Allison Fitzgerald, NJCU; Carrie Roble, Hudson River Park Trust; Shino Tanikawa, NYCSWCD; Lisa Bloodgood, NCAA; Elisa Caref, Center for the Urban River; Michelle Doran Mcbean, FCI; Sara Powell, HEP; Jin Shin, CUNY; Arturo Moreno, NCA; Tess Wenstrup, NCA; Tatiana Castro, BOP; Clay Sherman, NJDEP; Michele Langa, NY/NJ Baykeeper; Kate Boicourt, EDF; Renee Ruhl, the HOPE Program; Louis Kleinman; Bob Alpern, Aaron Sanders; Adina Taylor, Floating The Apple; Bibi Calderaro; Bart Chezar; Pamela Pettyjohn, Coney Island Beautification Project; Dan Mundy, Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers

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

- CAC NY co-Chairs, Carrie Roble and Lisa Bloodgood welcomed everyone in attendance. The NY co-chairs asked members to introduce themselves by name and affiliation on the chat. Carrie Roble welcomed new people in the room and briefly opened up the floor to those who wanted to introduce themselves. Minutes were approved.

**10:05 AM – 10:35 AM – Ida Aftermath Check-In**

- Lisa Bloodgood, NY CAC co-chair, introduced the first agenda item of the meeting which was a reflection on the impact of Ida and the efforts that partners across NY and NJ are undertaking to help our communities.
- Louis Kleinman added that for so much of the time, there's been a big focus on sea level rise but not as much focus on storm water and extreme rainfall which are also major impacts of climate change.
- Bart added that in addition to flooding his apartment building experienced sewer backup and that it would be great to have a better understanding of the draining system throughout the city. Louis suggested the first step would be to speak to the local officials first.

- Pamela Pettyjohn shared that although Coney Island was directly hit by the storm, she did not experience major damage personally. She also mentioned that something as simple as removing trash clogging drains could help in reducing flooding issue.
- Kate Boicourt shared FEMA resources on the chat and briefly spoke about current flood reduction initiatives that the group can get involved with
- Allison Fitzgerald spoke about the impact of the storm on her Jersey City University students, who were delayed by almost 4 hours
- Meredith Comi mentioned that places around the Green Brook area/Raritan River saw lots of water rescues
- Tatiana Castro spoke about the impact in her community in Elizabeth and mentioned that there were at least 30 cars with water damage. 4 deaths were reported in Elizabeth. She still feels like we haven't learned our lesson from Sandy and that the town was very unprepared.
- Kate Boicourt referred back to her current efforts with the environmental defense fund and their call for calling for more nature-based solutions as part of flood control/management
  - National letter is under works demanding for focus on addressing storm surge in addition to flooding

#### **10:35 AM – 11:05 AM – Hudson River Park Advances Park's Largest Restoration Project to Date**

- NY Co-chair and Vice President of Estuary & Education at Hudson River Park's River Project, Carrie Roble, shared an overview of HRP's largest aquatic habitat enhancement project to date installed this summer.
- The project involves multiple partnerships including NYDEC and Riverkeeper.
- The goal of the project is to increase the Sanctuary's oyster population and provide diverse habitat options for colonizing organisms and finfish populations
- The project involved the installation of oyster wraps, 6 Biohuts, textured piles

#### **11:05 AM – 11:25 AM – *Program update*: Priority Action WQ-A-2 Amendments**

- HEP Program Director, Rob Pirani, reviewed proposed changes to the action agenda item WQ-A-2 which seeks to help develop consistent water quality standards.
- In speaking with Policy Committee about this action agenda item, HEP tried to identify ways to make WQ-A-2 a more achievable goal since HEP cannot act as a regulator
- Changes that have been proposed can be found here:  
[https://mcusercontent.com/5f4e140bfa70f447420bd595d/files/c57c4111-27d5-6c9d-4d8c-49b9d9519b84/WQ\\_A\\_2\\_Original\\_PCproposed\\_CACproposed\\_9.1.21.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5f4e140bfa70f447420bd595d/files/c57c4111-27d5-6c9d-4d8c-49b9d9519b84/WQ_A_2_Original_PCproposed_CACproposed_9.1.21.pdf)
- Background information on water quality standards:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qM6xLh9p\\_60qcv-j1kLD7GpjhBIWSPnmLlqDP1wss\\_E/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qM6xLh9p_60qcv-j1kLD7GpjhBIWSPnmLlqDP1wss_E/edit?usp=sharing)

#### **11:25 AM – 11:45 AM – NYC's New Rain Garden Maintenance Collaboration**

- NY Co-chair and Director of Advocacy & Education at Newtown Creek Alliance, Lisa Bloodgood, shared an update on a new Rain Garden maintenance collaboration which currently includes Newtown Creek Alliance, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Bronx River Alliance, and the Hope/Intervine Program.

- The project focuses on three sewersheds including the Bronx River Sewershed, Newtown Creek Sewershed and Gowanus Canal Sewershed. The three focus watersheds drain to the most polluted waters in nyc
- NYC greenfund funded this project. Although dep mainly takes care of the maintenance of GI assets there's a need more involvement in the maintenance of these assets
- A goal of the project is to develop long term GI contracts and sustain work development programs

**11:45 AM – 12:00 PM – Participant Updates & Announcements**