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**Meeting, October 7, 2022**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**I. Welcome and Attendance**

Attendance is at the end of this document.

**II. Minutes**

Approved minutes from the last meeting in July, 2022.

**III. Superfund Redevelopment Mapper**

Lingard Knudson gave us a brief tour of a new tool from EPA that shows the location of all of the Nation's Superfund sites and their areal extent. Clicking sites on the map provides summary information on each site as well as a link to the full status documentation. See the site tool here:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/superfund-redevelopment-mapper>

**IV. Preparation for Fall 2022 Restoration Report**

Isabelle updated the group on progress in scoping the newest restoration report and summarizing the restoration data over the past three years. Issues addressed included:

- Missing restoration projects
- Which projects to highlight (give more details about)
- Mitigation projects do not count towards CRP goal progress
- Whether to count projects that have started construction but not finished (i.e. Living Breakwaters)
- Predator control does count towards restoration for Habitat for Waterbirds TEC
- None of the Enclosed and Confined Waterways have advanced enough to be considered for upgrade from the last report.
- Sources were suggested to find new public access sites as those are not reported in NEPORT
- Isabelle solicited volunteers to help review the document and write informational blurbs on prescient topics.

Importantly, the group reiterated that we need to look at the CRP goals and consider revisiting them or creating further interim goals (2030?). This process would align well with the revising of the HEP Action Agenda due 2025. Jim Lodge suggested as a process that the RWG set the goal

and then we bring it to the larger community for discussion. We also need to consider the restoration work in planning, and the projects addressed in the USACE Feasibility Study.

**V. Fall 2022 Restoration Conference Update**

HEP's fall conference will be held November 29 – December 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be hybrid with the panels on the first two days being held virtually and an in-person session at Liberty Science Center on the last day. Many RWG members are involved as speakers or helping as advisors.

<https://www.hudsonriver.org/article/2022-hep-annual-conference>

**VI. Restoration pursuits for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Federal Funding**

Rob Pirani reviewed what HEP is planning to do for FY 22+23 with our funding received through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We are focusing on projects that align with Action Agenda priorities, leverage funding from partners, add program capacity and value, and incorporate the factors from EPA guidance: Infrastructure, climate, equity, and jobs. Some of the habitat priorities for the next two years include: providing grants to progress on CRP sites in disadvantaged communities, continuing work on culverts, shoreline habitat monitoring, advancing shallow water restoration progress.

Feedback from the group includes:

- There may be some synergy with the bond act
- We could use these funds to have a charrette to listen to community members in disadvantaged communities.
- We could consider requiring collaboration between agencies and NGOs, communities.
- We could focus on TECs that have more urgency with threats from climate change
- Suggest not focusing on just endangered species to fill a funding gap

HEP will need help from this group in reviewing the RFP as well as reviewing applications.

**VII. Expanding Mitigation Discussion**

Marit raised that the group may want to have a larger discussion at a future meeting about mitigation. We are running out mitigation opportunities and it might be beneficial to expand the use of traditional wetland mitigation. Some ideas include using mitigation for marsh enhancement, adaptive management, making room for migration pathways or other ecosystem enhancements. NYC Parks presented overview of wetland mitigation process and interests for NYC Parks, and discussed up-coming effort to coordinate with the USACE Engineering with Nature partnership to identify and discuss how to address regulatory challenges in implementing natural and nature based solutions.

- Susan suggests we might want to convene with other regulatory folks to discuss this topic further.

**VIII. RWG Member Updates**

The group did not have time to do member updates during the meeting.

**IX. Attendance**

Marit Larson (chair), NYC Parks  
Danielle Bissett, BOP  
Alison Fitzgerald, NY-NJ Baykeeper  
John King, NJDEP  
Lingard Knudsen, EPA  
Jim Lodge, HRF  
Susan Maresca, NYCDEC  
John McLaughlin, NYCDEP  
Jessie Murray, NOAA  
Dustin Partridge, NYC Audubon  
Rosana Pedra Nobre, NY-NJ HEP  
Robert Pirani, NY-NJ HEP  
Isabelle Stinnette, NY-NJ HEP  
Judith Weis, STAC