



A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Hudson-Harbor Educators Work Group

April 4, 2023

Minutes

Shared Google Folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13SSRnA9UtYWNGbBbxGX-o0qyYZKRdIRE?usp=sharing>

Attendees:

1. Agata Poniatowski, Billion Oyster Project
2. Allison Fitzgerald, New Jersey City University and NY/NJ Baykeeper
3. Allison Mayle, DNA Learning Center, mayle@cshl.edu
4. Amelia Zaino, Bronx River Alliance, amelia.zaino@bronxriver.org
5. Ann Fraioli, Billion Oyster Project
6. Annabel Posimato, NYS Parks, Annabel.posimato@parks.ny.gov
7. Bibi Calderaro, CUNY The Graduate Center
8. Chris Bowser, NYSDEC/Cornell WRI, chris.bowser@dec.ny.gov
9. Chrissy Word, City Parks Foundation, cword@cityparksfoundation.org
10. Christina Edsall, Center for the Urban River at Beczak, cedsall@sarahlawrence.edu
11. Ciara Scully, Shirley Chisholm State Park, Ciara.scully@parks.ny.gov
12. Emily Gaines, NYC Region for NYS Parks, emily.gaines@parks.ny.gov
13. Emma McCauley
14. Gelyanne Rivera
15. Henry Reundlich, NYS Parks
16. Hugh Carola, Hackensack Riverkeeper
17. Ian Cleary, NYSDEC Regional Environmental Educator, ian.cleary@dec.ny.gov
18. Isabelle Stinnette, HRF/HEP, istinnette@hudsonriver.org
19. Jake Madelone, Waterfront Alliance, jmadelone@waterfrontalliance.org
20. Keion Walker, NY/NJ Baykeeper, keion@nynjbaykeeper.org
21. Kristin Schreiber, Billion Oyster Project, kschreiber@billionoysterproject.org
22. Laurel Zaima-Sheehy, Columbia Climate School, lzaima@climate.columbia.edu
23. Marc Rogoff, NJDEP
24. Margie Turrin, Lamont-Doherty, mkt@ldeo.columbia.edu
25. Marisa Annunziato, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, mla2175@columbia.edu
26. MaryLynne Malone, NYSOEA, Malone.marylynne@gmail.com
27. Nick Scaglione, Bronx River Alliance, nicholas.scaglione@bronxriver.org
28. Noelle Thurlow, Resilience Adventures
29. Rosana Pedra Nobre, HRF/HEP, rosana@hudsonriver.org
30. Shino Tanikawa, NYC Soil & Water Conservation District
31. Thomas Sweck, NYS Dept of Health, thomas.sweck@health.ny.gov

Collective Impact

With the help of members of this group we worked on a brief survey to begin collecting the impact of all our programs and participants engaged in your organization's environmental education programs for the calendar year 2022. The purpose of this survey is to show how many people benefit from our programs collectively. Data will be displayed in aggregate, with no comparisons or individual organization's data called out. The driver for us wanting to create an impact statement is to provide context for this group when we are applying for grants, whether individually or jointly, to show the strength of this network. There are two tiers of questioning, with the first tier being an area where we think most organizations can enter information and we recommend casting a wide net and leaning towards what is easier for you to report (do not make it complicated!).

A conversation was held around repeated participants. It was suggested to think about formal programs with the same consistent participants you would want to count them once as part of that program, but you would separate the contact hours per day of that program. With less formal programs, more public, this gets harder to determine repeat participants and it is okay to count them twice. Choose the path that is easier to account for. In general, if multiple people in your organization collect this information, collaborate with your colleagues to submit one response. For example, NYS Parks should work with park staff to submit a whole number and not per park.

Action: Work Group members to fill out the survey by clicking [here](#).

June 8th Summit Feedback

In collaboration with the DEIJ Subcommittee, we are looking to host an in-person event on June 8th at Pier 57. The event will have two registrations, one for the morning portion focused on DEIJ and another for the afternoon portion focused on education. The morning will consist of a peer-to-peer panel and discussion around the Safe Space Commitment and organizations that are advancing DEIJ initiatives. This would be an opportunity to gain experience from one another and create a space where ideas can be shared in advancing DEIJ within our shared organizations. The morning will end with power dynamics training.

For the afternoon, we are looking for feedback from this group on the direction you all would like to proceed with in terms of the topic around climate change. We are looking to have two parts to this event, the first bringing in a researcher and/or scientist to come present to us on the latest climate-related information for the region and the second around a workshop that helps to connect the research/latest science to a lesson or activity or discussion you may be looking to do. Laurel and Margie put together a short poll to get some feedback on where we should focus. This poll will also help drive us to which researcher or scientist may be most appropriate and appealing to this group.

Registration will be required for both sessions of the day's event, though we are looking to determine what hybrid options we can provide for portions of each. Additional details will be shared with the group, and we will be communicating with you all via email.

Action: Work Group members to provide feedback on Summit climate-topic by taking a minute or so of their time to complete this [poll](#).

Partner Updates

Billion Oyster Project: BOP's Student Symposium will be held on June 2nd and BOP is looking for guest reviewers! The event is from 10am-2pm on Governor's Island where BOP staff will provide you with a briefing of the event along with the projects you will review. Training will be provided to make sure that you are comfortable speaking to students and feel prepared to be a guest reviewer. The day ends with an awards ceremony for students and teachers to be received by reviewers. To sign up to become a guest reviewer, please [click here](#). For questions on the 1-hr training virtual and the day of event, please contact kschreiber@billionoysterproject.org. Plugging the Adults/grad students BOP 3rd annual Scy-Posium, held virtually on Thursday, June 1, and in-person on Governor's Island on Friday, June 2. This is an opportunity for community scientists, artists, and advocates to highlight their research, learning, and other projects related to the waterways of New York Harbor. Projects may include, but are not limited to art, design & engineering, scientific research, advocacy, environmental justice work, and more. Please see our [Guidelines Document](#) and for more information about the event and RSVP to present [click here](#). Please do not hesitate to reach out to the BOP team at engagement_team@nyharbor.org with any questions.

Hudson River Foundation: HRF is soft launching an internship/fellowship opportunities board for students to gain practical skills and essential work experience with organizations in the environmental field. This group, over the years, has discussed the struggle of keeping students engaged in environmental work and how the pipeline to jobs is often difficult for students to navigate. In addition, we are often sharing opportunities via email within our network which limits our ability to increase diversity in our organizations. In an attempt to try and address this, and remove these opportunities from our emails to a platform, we have created [this searchable database to connect high school and undergraduate students to open internships and fellowships](#). The tool includes a very short google form for organizations who are advertising for interns/fellows, and we are currently working on creating a media kit to help you share this platform with students or teachers you engage with. The official launch will be at the end of the month.

New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program: HEP is working on the process of updating our State of the Estuary Report which highlights the changing conditions of the Hudson River and its estuary through a complex set of indicators. Isabelle Stinnette shared the [2018 State of the Estuary Report](#) and wanted to get feedback from this work group on what tools would be best utilized in the education work that everyone does. Members echoed that charts and graphs are great tools to use. Although HEP cannot create a report card, members thought the [Long Island Sound Report Card](#) is a useful tool. An infographic for the public would be helpful with discussion on generating a more bite sized brochure by location or borough. A favorite page of the report/brochure is the 'Indicators at a Glance' as it provides a ton of information while being easy to digest in a visual. While the members agreed moving to an online

platform with graphs and charts would be great, they also encouraged HEP to consider printing a brochure to physically share with partners.

Brooklyn Bridge Park: Christina is looking for advice on salt water resistant cabinetry. Those with lab-like spaces, what materials do you have for these? They currently think they have painted steel and supposedly lab grade, but it is curious if anyone has wood with a strong finish and what your feelings on that are. Please email Christina at ctobitsch@brooklynbridgepark.org.