

June 21, 2022

June 7th Meeting

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xI66h6uDh1xYK3Ih8t2JuZCncj3U_evEv06CwLoc1TIwRVXnHb5CNgsX_PPM68Ux.SV2QCz-fgwLiQfQa

Attendees: Rob Pirani, HEP; Isabelle Stinnette, HEP; Elizabeth Balladares, HEP; Rosana Da Silva, HEP; Meredith Comi, NY/NJ Baykeeper; Allison Fitzgerald, NJCU; Carrie Roble, Hudson River Park Trust; Shino Tanikawa, NYCSWCD; Lisa Bloodgood, NBN; Clay Sherman, NJDEP; Chauncy Young, Harlem River Working Group; Karen Argenti, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality/Harlem River Working Group; Rupu Gupta, Helena Andreyko, Hudson River Foundation, Rebecca Pryor, Guardians of Flushing Bay and Riverkeeper; Louis Kleinman; Tami Lin-Moges, The Nature Conservancy; Peter Brandt, EPA; Chris Schubert, USGS; Sergio Moncada, Jessica Bonamusa, IEC; Michelle Luebke, Jennifer Zhu, Billion Oyster Project; Dan Mundy, Sr; Joseph Reynolds, Save the Coastal Wildlife; Neal McHugh; Sara Harrison, Hudson River Foundation; Tatiana Castro, Billion Oyster Project; Ed Samanns; Future City Inc

11:00 AM – 11:05 AM – Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

- CAC NY co-Chairs, Meredith Comi and Allison Fitzgerald welcomed everyone in attendance. The NJ co-chairs asked members to introduce themselves by name and affiliation on the chat. Minutes were approved.

11:05 AM – 11:35 AM – Stewardship Highlight: Save Coastal Wildlife

- Joseph Reynolds, with Save Coastal Wildlife and The Plastic Wave Project are two recently established nonprofits along the Jersey Shore. Their work focuses on educating the public about the importance of protecting diversity and the impacts Microplastic has on people and wildlife.
- There's a great concern in particular for Horseshoe crabs given their declining numbers. There's been lots of pressure from the fishing industry on legislators to pass a bill that would protect them. As of June 30th the legislation which relates to the regulation of taking crabs, including minimum and maximum size limits, open and closed seasons including lunar closures, and a prohibition on the harvest of crabs in amplexus, was signed NY Governor Hochul.

- Plastic wave project is currently on their third year of monitoring microplastics and have sampled from long beach island to Keyport NJ.
- GIS mapping is used to manage, analyze and map out the data that their volunteers submit. It also creates a visualization of where microplastics are congregating and determine hotspots.
- Next steps: the CAC will continue to support the work of save coastal wildlife and the wave project by sharing and highlighting their efforts with the rest of our network and helping them advocate for more protective legislation.

11:35 AM – 12:15 PM – Sea Dart II

- Sea Dart II is a nonprofit working with sea scouts in the Rahway River, their leadership team Jimmy Zatwarnicki and Catherine Wilson, introduced their work with youth and their desire to expand their reach to underserved communities.
- Over the next few years, Sea Dart II is looking to expand their outreach and partnership with other organizations and programs in the region.
- Their current location is in Linden, NJ. Ideal given some of the neighboring organizations and the type of work they do with the neighboring communities.
- Next steps: the CAC has offered to help Sea Dart II leadership connect with other partners involved in environmental education so they can grow their network. In addition, members will share any ongoing initiatives, such as City of Water Day, that would be beneficial to become involved with as they work on growing their outreach with neighboring communities.

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM – Workplan and Legislative Updates: WRDA and HEP funding

- Rob Pirani, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program Director, started by sharing a few important updates including the status of the FY 23 Workplan, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act workplan, WRDA and future National Estuary Program funding.

12:30 PM – 12:50 PM – CAC Survey/Poll

- Allison Fitzgerald and Liz Balladares shared a poll about starting meetings in person again as well as the goals members would like to focus on for coming year
- Next steps: CAC leadership will take the feedback received from the poll and plan accordingly for future meetings.

12:50 PM – 1:00 PM – Participant Updates & Announcements