

October 20, 2022

October 6th Meeting

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nSFW6cfwn5EWAuiWwNvxb4Xm725vwUgjf9Nzq9HodjuVeuVDVeEblv5X3i0Hofb.OiYnRKKgUVQHOBK?startTime=1665076041000>

Attendees: Rob Pirani, HEP; Isabelle Stinnette, HEP; Elizabeth Balladares, HEP; Rosana Da Silva, HEP; Christina Carrero, HEP; Meredith Comi, NY/NJ Baykeeper; Allison Fitzgerald, NJCU; Carrie Roble, Hudson River Park Trust; Shino Tanikawa, NYCSWCD; Lisa Bloodgood, NBN; Sara Eichner, Pratt; Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper; Saylor, NYC Surfrider; Matt Gover, Surfrider; Margaret Flanagan; Louis K; Bryce Wisemiller, USACE NY District; Tracy Brown, Riverkeeper; Rob Buchanan, NYC Water Trails; Chris Girgenti, RUPA; Tina Walsh, HRPT; Sara Harrison, Hudson River Foundation, Future City Inc

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM – Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

- CAC NY co-Chairs, Lisa Bloodgood and Carrie Roble welcomed everyone in attendance. The NY co-chairs asked members to introduce themselves by name and affiliation on the chat. Minutes were approved.

1:05 PM – 1:25 PM – Gathering Public Input: NYSDEC's Request for Data for Use of Saline Waters

- Dan Shapley from Riverkeeper and Sara Eichner with Pratt Institute kicked things off with a presentation on a newly developed tool created in response to NYSDEC's request for information about public use of the state's saline waters.
- The CAC is being asked to share the map created in order to help support data gathering. The map is built in order to make it easy for people that use the water to show how they are using the water and how.
- The goal is to encourage that water quality standards are as protective as possible.
- Sara E showed the map and highlighted key features of the map/survey
- Louis K added a comment about adding partner organizations to the map to show who manages the survey.
- Names will not be displayed on the map but if people want to stay up to date, they can choose to enter their email address

- October 18th is the deadline for data submissions.
- Next steps: the CAC will continue to support the work of Riverkeeper, Pratt and HEP in sharing and highlighting the map/survey with the rest of our network and helping them advocate for more protective water quality standards.

1:25 PM – 1:45 PM – USACE HATS Update

- Coastal storms have severely impacted the North Atlantic Coast of the United States, including the New York-New Jersey Harbor region. In response to these storms, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is investigating measures to manage future flood risk in ways that support the long-term resilience and sustainability of the coastal ecosystem and surrounding communities, and reduce the economic costs and risks associated with flood and storm events.
- The New York and New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries (NYNJHAT) coastal storm risk management feasibility study resumed work in fiscal year 2022 (following substantial curtailment during 2020-2021 due to lack of federal funding).
- The non-federal sponsors for the study are the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in partnership also with the New York State Department of State and New York City, represented by the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice.
- A Notice of Intent for preparing the NYNJHAT study Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released on August 22, 2022.
- The Army Corps of Engineers released a draft of their New York/New Jersey Harbor & Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study (HATS), including their Tentatively Selected Plan. This important regional effort is intended to address the increasingly intense storms and flooding that threaten our shared harbor and estuary.
- The Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement is available for public review. The report summarizes the study planning process, technical analyses, and alternative plans - including the Tentatively Selected Plan.
- USACE, in concert with the non-federal partners, is planning a series of public meetings on the Draft Report as part of a broader public outreach effort. Virtual (online) meetings will be scheduled on the Draft Report in October followed by in-person meetings in November and December at several locations to be chosen across the vast NYNJHAT study area.
- Next steps: the CAC will continue to offer the space and time during future meetings to help support the outreach and community engagement around the study.

1:45 PM – 2:05 PM – Supporting Environmental Justice Representation Within CAC Leadership

- In efforts to increase representation of environmental justice issues within our network, the CAC leadership is proposing the creation of new leadership roles.
- CAC members were asked to provide feedback on how to strengthen our outreach efforts and better support these new roles and representatives.
- The new roles would be of “EJ Officers,” which would be supported by an honorarium of \$3,000 to have representatives from EJ groups or community-based organizations, who would become active participants in the CAC leadership.

- Next steps: the CAC leadership will put out an interest form for the position, all CAC members are encouraged provide additional feedback and share the application when available. Interested applicants will be reviewed by the leadership and later shared with the rest of the CAC.

2:05 PM – 2:20 PM – HEP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law FY22/23 Workplan

- A proposed FY 22/23 Workplan is under review by the Policy Committee. HEP Program Director, Rob Pirani, spoke on how the BIL workplan will help advance our HEP Action Agenda goals and objectives.
- Rob provided an overview of all the projects that will be funded through BIL funds for next two years
- Next steps: The CAC will continue to offer to provide feedback and support to BIL funded projects that are already approved and help identify potential new ones for the future

2:20 PM – 2:30 PM – HOPE Spot Application

- Judith Weis, co-chair of the STAC, is preparing an application for designating the Harbor Estuary a Hope Spot, an honorary designation advanced by the Mission Blue, a non-profit organization led by Sylvia Earle.
- Since Judy was not able to make it to the meeting, Liz Balladares, HEP Stewardship Manager, provided a quick recap on the major application highlights and requests.
- The CAC has prepared a letter of support, members are welcomed to provide additional feedback to Judy.
- Next steps: The CAC will vote on officially approving the letter and will send it to Judy to add to her application package.

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM – Stewardship Highlight: SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival

- Tina Walsh, Sr. Director of Education & Outreach at HRPT, spoke on what we can expect as part of this year's SUBMERGE which will include live and in-Park activities for people of all ages.
- Tina also spoke about all the ways they are working with schools and activities that expose students to marine science.
- Next steps: The CAC will continue to support partner initiatives like SUBMERGE which focus on educating the wider public and in engaging students in the environmental field.

2:45PM –3:00PM –Participant Updates & Announcements