

Oct 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Meeting Recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QDcVUxVbmA0i7t-_zPSYt3IUZmAKMdCQ/view?usp=drive_link

Attendees: Tina Walsh, HRPK; Carrie Roble, HRPT; Clay Sherman, NJDEP; Dave Schwartzberg; Bart Chezar; Rob Pirani, HEP; Elizabeth Balladares, HEP; Rosana Pedra Nobre, HEP; Isabelle Stinnette, HEP; Kristin Hudgins; Margaret Flanagan; Meredith Comi, Monmouth University; Allison Fitzgerald, NJCU; Christopher Girgenti, RIPA; Pamela Pettyjohn, Coney Island Beautification Project (CIBP); Peter Brandt, EPA; Terrance L. Bankston, FOE; Melissa Miles, NJEJA; Michele Langa, HRK/NYNJ Baykeeper; Michelle Luebke; Bill Schultz, Raritan Riverkeeper; Christina Carrero, HEP; Future City Inc; Shino, NYCSWC; Wynniefred Victor Hinds, WPA

DRAFT AGENDA

3:00 PM – 3:05 PM – Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes - Chris

- Members were encouraged to introduce themselves on chat
- Leadership welcomed new members to introduce themselves and their organizations
- Minutes from August meeting were approved

3:05 PM – 3:25 PM – Stewardship Highlight: SUBMERGE

- Tina Walsh of Hudson River Park Trust spoke about SUBMERGE 2023 and how it brought together a number of representatives from Gov't and NGOs across the estuary as well as participants of all ages to learn about marine science while using the Hudson River as a resource.
- Tina connected a lot of the programming back to fostering public understanding, one of the major goals of HEP's action agenda.
- SUBMERGE collaborated with more 100 partner organizations. An example of such partnerships include, Bronx River Alliance whose work also meets a lot of the objectives of the Bronx/Harlem Urban Waters Federal Partnership location
- Questions:
 - Chris G- could you talk a little bit about HRP's connection with DEC and what you've done to include their priorities in yours? Tina - Because we're a state public authority, this really drives our connection to DEC. Carrie - it's an opportunity for our partners to

come together and creating more intentional spaces to help with the exchange of information.

- Wynnie - I read the other day there's going to be a beach is this the same area? Tina - Yes it's in the south side of the space. Not a swimming beach but it is a beach for lounging and open recreation and features a kayak launch. Due to the soft sloping shoreline it allows for the spark of new interesting recreation opportunities.
- Dave: very interesting work and wondering if this could be something that gets brought to other places in the estuary as well.

3: 25PM – 4:30 PM – HEP Action Agenda Outreach & Objectives

- The NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program has prepared an outline of our strategy for engaging the public in the development of the 2025 Action Agenda. Rob Pirani and Elizabeth Balladares presented and reviewed the goals and possible tactics for soliciting input from multiple categories of partners.
- Major objectives as part of the Action Agenda engagement process include:
 - Ensuring that all current/core partners feel ownership of the new Action Agenda
 - Development of new Action Agenda to bring in new partners, helping ensure that the needs of all Estuary communities are heard and addressed
 - Make sure that new Action Agenda priorities are reflective of estuarine challenges, community needs and partner priorities
- Members of the citizens advisory committee were asked to participate in an exercise where they were to add names of groups and their respective points of contact so that they were contacted during the Action Agenda engagement process.
- Google sheet can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SSHsv7DrqsTlwLeHtrSrUd7hXVcyd_kST1u3sG2mQ3c/edit?usp=sharing
- CAC members are encouraged to continue adding names and other information to the list

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM – Participant Updates & Announcements

- Partners shared various updates related to upcoming grant opportunities and events
- The NYNJ Harbor & Estuary State of the Estuary Conference was highlighted and CAC members were encouraged to register.