

NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program

Restoration Conference: Lessons Learned for a Changing Future

November 1, 2019

US Customs House

1 Bowling Green, New York City

Agenda

9:00: Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

9:30: Welcome and Introduction

Robert Pirani, Program Director, NY-NJ HEP

Peter Lopez, Administrator, USEPA Region 2

10:00: Disruptive Imagination: Reframing our Restoration Work

David Maddox, Founder and Executive Director of The Nature of Cities

10:30: Restoration Progress in the Hudson Raritan Estuary

Looking back over 10 years of restoration since the adoption of the Comprehensive Restoration Plan and plans for fulfillment of our region's restoration goals.

Isabelle Stinnette, Restoration Manager, NY-NJ HEP

Colonel Thomas D. Asbery, Commander, NY District, USACE

11:00: Break

11:15: Restoration for Adaptation: Perspectives from the States

Representatives from the States of New Jersey and New York will discuss how habitat restoration and conservation are being recognized as the answer to new questions. Both states have launched new initiatives for deploying natural and nature-based solutions as critical tools for managing coastal resiliency, shoreline protection, carbon sequestration, and stormwater management, while also delivering habitat restoration and species protection.

Catherine McCabe, Commissioner, NJDEP

Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYSDEC – invited

Moderator: Christopher Daggett, Chair, HEP Policy Committee

12:15: Plenary Closing Remarks and Lunch

Clay Hiles, Executive Director, Hudson River Foundation

1:15: Advancing Our Practice: Concurrent Panels and Workshops, Session 1. (Choose one)

The Yin and Yang of Estuarine Phragmites Management:

Restoration practitioners discuss lessons learned over many years of combating invasive species, including how sea level rise is changing minds and techniques. Come prepared with your questions to ask the experts!

Terry Doss, Director of Natural Resources Management Department, NJSEA

Christiana Pollack, Environmental Scientist, Princeton Hydro

Kip Stein, Senior Forester, NYC Parks

Judith Weis, Professor Emerita, Rutgers University

Moderator: Lisa Baron, Project Manager, USACE

Envisioning Future Shorelines

Join the NYC Department of City Planning in an exercise to envision the future of NYC's 520 miles of waterfront. We will discuss the most pressing issues facing the city's shorelines and the strategies that we can use to address them. Feedback from this session will inform the city's next Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, which will be released in 2020. The plan provides a framework for how NYC will manage its waterfront in the next decade and beyond.

Marit Larson, Chief of Natural Resource, NYC Parks' Division of Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Resources

Cory Mann, Waterfront Planner, NYC DCP

Michael Marrella, Director of Waterfront & Open Space Planning, NYC DCP

Adam Parris, Deputy Director of Climate Science and Risk Communication, Mayor's Office of Resiliency NYC

Brendan Pillar, Deputy Dir. of the Waterfront & Open Space Planning, NYC DCP

Restoration for Water Quality and Stormwater Management:

Panelists will provide case studies and explore how habitat restoration techniques are increasingly being proposed and tested as a means of improving water quality. Learn about the state practice for managing a variety of landscapes and pollutants.

John Butler, Ecological Project Manager, Van Cortlandt Park Alliance

Tobiah Horton, Senior Research Project Manager, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

John McLaughlin, Managing Director Office of Ecosystem Services, Green Infrastructure and Research, NYCDEP

Beth Roessler, Stream Buffer Coordinator, HR Estuary Program, NYSDEC

Moderator: Shino Tanikawa, Executive Director, NYC Soil and Water Conservation District, SWIM Coalition

2:30: Break

2:45: Advancing Our Practice: Concurrent Panels and Workshops, Session 2. (Choose one)

Next Steps in Harbor Oyster Restoration

Panelists will discuss the status of oyster restoration in the Harbor, and current challenges and opportunities. Discuss the how best to advance restoration past the piloting stage.

Meredith Comi, Restoration Program Director, NY-NJ Baykeeper

James Lodge, Senior Scientist, Hudson River Foundation

Katie Mosher, Director of Restoration, Billion Oyster Project

Moderator: Mike McCann, Urban Marine Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

Monitoring Shorelines for Ecological, Structural, and Social Resiliency

Panelists will present and discuss the results of Measuring Success, an ambitious project to create a framework for monitoring shorelines throughout New York. Offer your feedback and priorities for the next round of monitoring sites.

Novem Auyeung, Senior Scientist, NYC Parks

Pippa Brashear, Planning Principal, SCAPE

Dylan Corbett, Environmental Scientist, Arcadis

Carolyn Fraioli, Coastal Processes Specialist, NYSDOS

Katharhy G., Adjunct Faculty, Brooklyn College

Katie Graziano, Project Scientist, SRIJB

Lindsey Strehlau, Researcher, SRIJB/HEP

Accelerating Blue Carbon Retention and Sequestration in Tidal Wetlands

Panelists will lead us through the state of the science and policies for wetland restoration and preservation as a means of storing carbon. Help identify next steps for advancing this work here in the Estuary.

Riobart Breen, Climate Policy Analyst, NYSDEC

Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral Society

Stuart Findlay, Aquatic Ecologist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Chester Zarnoch, Assistant Professor of Environment, Baruch College

Moderator: Kristin Marcell, Climate Resilience Program Coordinator, NYSDEC

4:00: Conference Concludes

Please join us to continue the conversation at Pier A Harbor House, 22 Battery Pl, New York, NY 10004