



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2002
Location: EPA Offices at 290 Broadway**

(Draft March 26, 2002)

The Management Committee meeting was convened at 10:00 at 290 Broadway. Mario Del Vicario chaired the meeting morning session, Bob Nyman chaired the afternoon session.

Bob Nyman reviewed the status of the FY 2002 HEP budget planning process. He noted that there was a funding guidance from EPA HQ that was available to interested parties. The guidance stressed the need to submit various reports on time, such as GPRA, or risk losing some funding. The target Section 320 budget for the 28 NEPs is \$520,000 per program. A final number will be available at the March NEP meeting in DC. Mr. Nyman assembled a list of the budget requests that were submitted by the various work groups and advisory committees. Dick Draper said that the projects should be tied to the Targets and Goals document. It was agreed that while the Targets and Goals document was not finalized, HEP would try to apply at least a portion of the budget to that document. A conference call will be set up in the near future with the MC Work Group to continue discussion of the budget.

Laura Bartovics gave an update on the mini-grant program. She handed out the process that was used as well as a list of the projects for funding by the selection committee. The Management Committee agreed to accept the recommendations of the selection committee and to fund the 8 projects. Three additional projects were also prioritized and approved for funding in the event that additional funds were available from the Hudson River Foundation.

Ms. Bartovics also handed out a draft of a new tri-fold brochure on HEP. Comments were requested in two weeks. It was suggested that the STAC be added to the brochure and that a volume number or date be added to prevent confusion with different versions being used.

Bob Nyman then discussed the schedule for the Targets and Goals document. The program would like to have a completed document available for the Governors and Administrator to sign October 3. There was then a discussion about who would contact the governors to get it on their schedule. The state agencies will make the first contact.

The MC then discussed the agenda for the planned March 27th Policy Committee meeting. It

was suggested that all the principle members of the committee should be present. Dennis Suszkowski said they should all be invited and given an overview of past activities, since there will likely be several new members. Bob Nyman said that he could provide a summary presentation from the Implementation Review document that was submitted to HQ.

Bill Matuzeski then facilitated the discussion of the Targets and Goals document. Changes will be made directly to the document, and some are summarized below.

He said we still needed some numbers for the Fishing and Swimming section. Regarding the Biodiversity section, there was no agreement on a list of key species. It was agreed that a list would be agreed upon by 2004 and that targets would be set in 2005. Two additional points were modified. The invasive species language from the Hudson River program was adopted and for fish kills, it was agreed that a 90% reduction was desirable at plants where there is a baseline, and for others, baselines and goals would be set by 2004.

It was agreed that monitoring and research should be a part of the document.

The discussion moved to the Clean Sediments and Navigation section. CARP would be added to the accomplishments. Deb Hammond said that as water quality improves, conflicts will arise with recreation and shipping. This should be added to the challenge section. A better definition of Green Port is needed.

In the public access section, language should reflect the need to protect and maintain existing sites, and to double the number of waterfront access points. Tom Wakeman will talk to Tony McDonald about federal \$ tied to beach nourishment.

A revised version of the document will be made available within two weeks.

In the interest of getting the principle Policy Committee members to attend their meeting, a rescheduling of the March 27th meeting will be considered. Bob Nyman will look into new dates for the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3:00.