



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary
Program

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2003**

The meeting was convened at 10:00 at the Hudson River Foundation offices. Bob Nyman chaired the meeting. Introductions were made. No additions were requested for the agenda.

Minutes of the June 3 and June 16 Management Committee meetings were approved as written.

Bob Nyman provided a status of the targets and goals (T&G) signing event. He said that there was currently no event scheduled. He went on to say that a lot of effort had gone into developing the document and that the program needed a finalized document to work off of. It is intended that the T&G be used to guide workplans and budget discussions. Mr. Nyman suggested that the 2003 Agreement be separated from the T&G and that the Policy Committee (PC) be asked to formally approve the T&G as a point of business. The program could continue to seek a signing event in the future. Gene Flatow said that she still wanted some ceremony with at least the state environmental heads. Tom Wakeman requested that an ad hoc finance committee be formed to identify financing mechanisms for harbor restoration work. Carter Craft added that the program needs to sell its ideas to federal and state politicians. Dave Rosenblatt added that we need a workplan in order to get money. Joe Seebode said that the funding for the Corps major projects is planned out 3-4 years ahead of time, and that HEP should do the same via a subcommittee. The committee then returned to the subject of how to move the T&G ahead. Dave Rosenblatt stated that while the NJDEP accepts the T&G and appreciates the efforts by all parties in their development, the lack of a work plan and associated funding is the reason that a high-level ceremony is not appropriate at this time. The committee agreed that the MC should request that the PC approve them. **Action: Bob Nyman will send a letter to the PC asking that they approve the T&G.**

Carter Craft and Porter Ann Gaines presented a draft of the H2O Crossing guide, a report commissioned by HEP to evaluate what needs to be done to get waterway identification signs

installed around the estuary. The report focused on the major bridge crossings and provided a list of contacts from the major agencies involved. It also provided a few preliminary design examples. It was recommended that standard signs be developed first and that HEP should start with the Port Authority. A question was raised as to whether NOAA would be supportive of signs. **Action: The MC agreed to provide comments to Ms. Gaines within two weeks.**

Laura Bartovics provided an update and a handout of the education and outreach activities. She noted that a CAC Estuaries Day subcommittee was formed to plan for 2004. Ms. Bartovics reviewed the products that were developed over the past year including the newsletters, teachers guide, Spanish program brochure, and other items.

Nina Haiman provided an update on the Stewardship Survey. She said that about 400 had been sent out and that she and Kerry Kirk-Pflugh of NJDEP were following up with phone calls. She added that the purpose of the survey was to figure out who the groups were and what they were doing. Ms. Flatow added that the NYCSWCD has been training the NYC park rangers on soil testing.

Debbie Mans handed out a draft matrix on the public access sites that she had produced. **Action: She requested that comments be submitted by December 15th.**

Cathy Yuhas distributed a copy of the pathogens section of the tracking report. She will continue to seek input from various agencies. The material will be useful for developing annual reports and achievement records.

Nancy Welsh was not able to attend the meeting, so Bob Nyman provided the update which included the following: OASIS web site now includes HEP sites, though the associated information is still being developed; Habitat/STAC workshop is being developed to better define the scientific framework for restoration planning proposed by the Corps HRE study. Dennis Suszkowski indicated that he had conversations with Lenny Houston about it. There is a tentative timeframe of March 2004 for the workshop; and a habitat listserv is now available for use for sharing information. Debbie Mans then briefly presented the two habitat sites recommended by the Habitat Work Group. **The Management Committee approved the Dismal Swamp as a priority acquisition site and Claypit Creek as a high priority acquisition site.** Ms. Mans said that it was important to keep the local sponsors involved with activities at the sites.

Jim Olander provided a handout and a brief overview of the activities of the Pathogens work group. He noted that along with the TMDL effort, a number of issues related to standards need to be addressed by 2005. These include an evaluation of current pathogens classifications; a process for rewriting standards may need to be developed; decisions about how and where Enterococcus standards should be applied.

Dave Rosenblatt gave a brief overview of the Nutrients work group. He said that the group had not met since February or March. At that time, they reviewed outputs from the Carbon vs. Nitrogen run as well as the limit of technology run. Subsequent to that meeting, the 2009 projection was made available to the MC for use in the T&G.

Dennis Suszkowski announced that HRF would be hosting a seminar on 11/19 on “*Flow, salt, and sediment in the Hudson River Estuary.*”

The MC then broke for lunch.

Upon returning from lunch, Jim Lodge gave an update on the CARP project. He noted that a new website was available – carpweb.org.

Dennis Suszkowski gave a STAC report, including a preview of the State of the Estuary report that should be finalized by the end of the year. He said that another effort, development of a TIE workshop for late spring was underway by Scott Douglas, Mark Riess, and Bruce Brownawell. Also, a book on the State of the Science of the Hudson is due out next year. Ms. Flatow asked if global warming and flood runoff were being addressed in the book. Dr. Suszkowski replied that there were a few examples. Finally, the next round of Tuesday Seminars has been announced.

Tom Wakeman had to leave the MC meeting and was not available to provide the DMMIWG update. However, it was pointed out that their last meeting discussed CPIP, port expansion, sediment decontamination, and the HRE study.

Gene Flatow gave the CAC report. She indicated that they are looking for another location to meet in New Jersey. Joe Monaco said he would look into the availability of Port Authority facilities near public transportation. Ms. Flatow said that she will be stepping down as the NY co-chair and that the CAC will be holding elections in the coming months. Debbie Mans made a statement on behalf of the CAC that they felt the Targets and Goals were not strong enough.

Bob Nyman then lead the discussion about annual budget planning. Much had been discussed earlier in the day about this subject in general. Specifically with regards to the annual HEP budget, Mr. Nyman said it was not clear what level of funding Congress was going to appropriate, but that HEP would likely receive between \$310,000 and \$500,000. He presented a draft list of budget priorities that was based on the Targets and Goals. **Action: The MC was requested to provide input on the draft within two weeks.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.