



New York - New Jersey  
Harbor Estuary  
Program

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting of November 16, 2006  
(December 12, 2006)**

1. The meeting was convened at 10:10 a.m. at the IEC offices and was chaired by Bob Nyman. The agenda was approved with the addition of the recommendation for four habitat site nominations.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.
3. Dennis Suszkowski provided an overview of the Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TEC) study that that STAC is undertaking to assist the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP). He said that at the time the harbor channel deepening and other port redevelopment was getting underway, environmental restoration was relatively under funded. It appeared that there was an opportunity to develop an overall plan through the CRP. To assist, a science workshop was conducted and 11 TECs were developed. A final report based on these 11 TECs will be completed by the end of the calendar year and will serve as the design criteria for the CRP. A letter seeking input from all HEP participants on the TECs was sent. It will be resent to the MC.

It was noted that Frank Steimle from NOAA was retiring after 40 years of federal service. Mr. Steimle was thanked (in abstentia) for his dedicated assistance with HEP, especially as a Management Committee member and Habitat Work Group member.

4. Bob Nyman gave an overview of a Policy Committee conference call that took place on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the implementation review response. The outcome of the call was that the PC agreed to sign off on the response and that Mr. Nyman would put it into letter form for transmission to EPA-HQ. The PC also requested that they have a retreat in late January to discuss actions in detail.
5. The revised budget process was reviewed and approved as written.
6. Laura Bartovics gave an update on the stewardship program. She said that a database of projects was being developed. The intent was to then prioritize and/or

categorize them into three groupings – HEP funded and lead projects; projects that are funded by HEP through an RFP; and other good projects that HEP does not have the resources to undertake. Projects will also be added to the 2007 and 2008 stewardship workplan as appropriate.

7. Jeff Myers said that he had been asked by Mr. Nyman to take the lead on working with HEP participants to develop strong, easy to understand messages about HEP and the harbor to deliver to elected officials. Information will be incorporated into a program informational publication.
8. Fran Dunwell was not able to attend the meeting to discuss the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission.
9. The draft guidelines and responsibilities for work groups was presented and discussed. After much discussion, the group approved the document, with a few modifications.
10. The MC agreed to hold future quarterly meetings on the third Thursday in February, June, September, and November.
11. The MC was reminded that four sites were being recommended by the Habitat Work Group for inclusion on the HEP acquisition and restoration list. Nomination packages had been previously distributed to MC members asking that they approve the sites and that those with PC members should seek their approval as well.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.