



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary
Program

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting of June 21, 2007**

Participants included: Bob Nyman, Boris Rukovets, Jeff Myers, Charile deQuillfeldt, Eric Maczka (representing Michelle Doran-McBean), Joe Monaco, Dennis Suszkowski, Clay Sherman, and Alex Brash.

1. The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. at 290 Broadway, NYC and was chaired by Bob Nyman. The agenda was approved.
2. The draft summary of the June 12th Policy Committee retreat was reviewed. Jeff Myers, Dennis Suszkowski, and Bob Nyman all gave their impressions of the retreat. The main action items from the retreat as summarized were:
 - Update HEP Targets and Goals to reflect current conditions and knowledge.
 - Management Committee and work groups create a statement of top 5 needs/priorities for action by each work group with articulated costs for each priority. This could include CSO needs, overall infrastructure needs, and habitat needs. It should include both near and long term needs. This will help form the basis of funding requests and the “governor’s letters” in September.
 - Regular updates on work and progress of the Managements Committee, Advisory Committees and work groups.
 - Make recommendations concerning organizing themes (Pollution, Habitat Restoration, Public Access and Sustainable Commerce).
 - Work with the CAC and others to develop and or refine a strategy to communicate with state and federal legislative delegations.

PC members were given until July 9th to provide additional comments. The MC will seek any additional guidance at that time.

3. The following report outs were provided for the work groups:

Nutrients

The Nutrients Reduction Cost Estimation study for the 11 NJ POTWs that discharge into the harbor was completed by the NJHDG contractor on May 30, 2007. The NYCDEP report is expected at the end of the month. This information will be utilized as the overall assessment proceeds to determine the most cost effective program for nutrient reduction for the harbor.

The carbon component matrix was completed by HydroQual and will be presented to the NWG at their next meeting. The group will also review a scope of work for the next phase of modeling by HydroQual.

Toxics

CARP - According to HRF, the model reports, modeling code, and component matrix will become publicly available on July 1, 2007. A CARP conference is being planned for the first week of December with the Hudson River Environmental Society.

TMDLs - HydroQual has completed its initial assessment of which toxics exceed applicable water quality standards based on water column data and modeling runs. The draft assessment indicates that cadmium and 7 individual PAHs do not exceed water quality standards. The remaining 15 chemicals or chemical groups exceed standards and may require TMDLs. HydroQual will continue its assessment by reviewing available data for the biota and sediment. In addition, HydroQual will also assess whether any model enhancements are needed to support TMDL development.

Pathogens

A letter is being drafted to the NJ CSO communities requesting the CSO loads that they calculated. These loadings will be compared to the CSO loadings calculated by HydroQual using the RAINMAN model. If there is a significant difference between the loadings, the PWG will need to decide where and what adjustments need to be made.

Once this work is completed, the long-term analysis of 13 years of rainfall data will be completed and a base flow year will be selected for future work. This is expected to be completed by September 2007. At that point, work can begin on the pathogens component response matrix.

Regional Sediment Management

The RSM has been meeting on a monthly basis and is nearing completion of a draft Regional Sediment Management Plan. The plan will include a description of the overall management approach and major sections on sediment quantity, quality, and material management. Recommendations will also be given. A draft is expected to be available for MC review by Fall 2007.

Habitat

If there is adequate data on local species trends, there are plans for the Key Species report that is being worked on by the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium to be morphed into species report cards. Susan Elbin will begin the process of completing and doing the overall editing of the Harbor Herons Conservation Plan. A role is being sought for assisting with prioritization/ outreach on the Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP). The Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TEC) report has been completed and workshops are being planned for each TEC.

Reports were not available for the CAC or Public Access Work Group.

3. A draft of the 2007 work plan was distributed and discussed. Input is needed from all partners, particularly the work group chairs and the states, to update the status report. It was requested that input to be included be submitted by July 9th. It was also noted that approval of the budget by several of the Policy Committee members was needed and that their MC reps should work with them to get that approval.
4. Ideas for the next edition of The Tidal Exchange were discussed as summarized below. Until a new mechanism is established for the production of the newsletter, Nyman will work with the authors to get this issue done.

Articles

- Arlington Marsh – Clark Wallace
- Status of nutrient TMDL and cost analysis work – Nyman
- plaNYC – implications for environmental work in NYC – (Alex to find author)
- CARP Phase 1 completed – Suszkowski
- Invited article from elected official

Blurbs

- mitten crab alert
- Linden Landfill
- Pralls Island Asian Longhorn beetle update
- National Coastal Condition Report released for estuaries
- Bartovics moves on
- PC retreat directions

5. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.