



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary
Program

New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting of January 31, 2008
(Draft Feb 8, 2008)

1. The meeting was convened at 10:00 at the offices of the Hudson River Foundation and was chaired by Bob Nyman. The agenda was reviewed and an update on the Bark Camp mine reclamation project was added. There were no comments on the minutes of the previous MC conference call.
2. The new HEP Office program associate, Gabriela Munoz was introduced along with a brief discussion of her duties. It was also announced that the fall 2008 Association of National Estuary Programs would likely be hosted by HEP in NYC. About 100 participants are expected. Further details will be made available as the plans develop.
3. Sarah Durham from Big Duck Inc. discussed what she could offer HEP in terms of developing a communications strategy. She provided a simplified communications plan outline. There was discussion of how to focus the strategy, who the audience might be, and whether HEP wanted to use Big Ducks services. It was decided that HEP would continue to work with Big Duck on a communications plan focused on “restoration”. Bill Sheehan, Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Dennis Suszkowski, and Lisa Baron agreed to help with the initial work. Walter Berry suggested that the website should be used as part of a tiered vehicle for communication. Jeff Myers suggested that it be focused on specific projects. Bob Nyman agreed to work with Big Duck to set up a meeting to begin the work.
4. Mr. Nyman said that he had received a few minor updates to the Action Plan, but that it was his intention to conclude the editing of the document at this point and make any additional updates in next years version. He said that the budget discussion that would take place later in the meeting would be based on the priority actions, so if it’s not in the Action Plan, it won’t be considered for Clean Water Action Section 320 funding this year. A few suggested additions had been submitted by Carter Craft for the Public Access work group. The MC felt that the content of the submissions were basically included in what was already in the Action Plan and that what was needed was a more fully developed Public Access work plan and the development of that should be the first priority of the Public

Access Work Group. That being said, the items in the submissions could be considered for funding this year once the overall Public Access plan is completed. For the purposes of finalizing the Action Plan. The current language will be retained with the addition of the following sentence: "Projects will be identified and implemented according to the Public Access Work Group Plan." Boris Rukovets mentioned that the current priority actions for floatables are fully funded, but that there was a floatables meeting being called by Commissioner Jackson for Feb 6th that could result in additional needs. Mr. Rukovets will transmit any additional suggestions shortly after the meeting. Similarly, the Regional Sediment Management group should be finalizing their report within a few of weeks. Any budget requests will be submitted after that is final, but should meet the March 14th budget deadline.

The MC then moved on to development of the upcoming annual budget. This budget is strictly for Clean Water Act Section 320 funds, of which approximately \$600,000 are expected this year. A schedule and process for work plan development was distributed and discussed. The approach that was agreed to was to go through each of the priority actions in the Action Plan and agree to which ones should be considered for funding by assigning a "yes" or "no" to each. Then it will be up to the work group chair associated with that priority action to submit a funding request by March 14. A summary of the decisions are included in the attached table.

5. The proposed toxics implementation sub-work group was then discussed. As per the handout describing the group, its purpose would be to generate information that can be used when developing a TMDL implementation plan. The CARP model and matrix would then integrate this information. EPA is leading the effort, but the states and others are invited to be active participants. There is some contractor support available to assist the group. There was some concern raised about who is really making the decisions in this group and for the TMDLs in general. It was pointed out that the states are ultimately responsible for development of TMDLs that meet regulatory rigor that will meet with EPA approval. However, the TMDLs for the harbor are being developed under the auspices of HEP so that all interested parties can participate as they see fit. Anyone interested in participating should send an email to Mr. Nyman and he will pass it on to Maureen Krudner, who is organizing the sub-group.
6. A draft harbor-wide report combining the NYC Harbor Survey data and the New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group data was previously circulated to the MC and others for comment. To date, most of the comments were editorial in nature with a few updates regarding standards. NJDEP requested and received a 2 week extension to submit comments.
7. Walter Berry gave a quick update via phone on the Ecological Research Program at EPA-ORD. They are currently seeking input on the types of research that is needed. He will make a more thorough presentation at a future meeting.

8. Dennis Suszkowski gave a brief update on the Regional Sediment Management work group. He said that the contract with the writer/editor had expired and that the Corps was working to reestablish an agreement with him to complete the work. It is expected that the document should be completed this spring.
9. Gabriela Munoz will be taking over the previously funded habitat and stewardship grants program for HEP. There is currently \$150,000 allocated for habitat restoration planning and \$90,000 for stewardship. While some MC members suggested that the habitat funding should be used for constructing a project, it was agreed that the construction costs of most projects were so large that this amount of funds would be better spent preparing projects for funding. A key aspect of the grant is for the grantee to plan out how construction funds will be secured. The group desired that a limited number of large projects be funded, rather than numerous small ones. Perhaps a single project would be selected. There was also a suggestion that the stewardship funds be for a limited number of large projects and that it would be a good thing to try to link it to the habitat planning project if possible.
10. Bill Sheehan gave the CAC update. He said that the CAC will meet at the end of February to elect co-chairs at a meeting that would take place in New Jersey.
11. Dates will be sought for the next Policy Committee meeting, possibly for March or April. Agenda items could include the Action Plan, Comprehensive Restoration Plan status, presentation of the Regional Sediment Management Plan, consideration of the HEP budget, and other items.
12. Andrew Voros, representing Fred Grassle, gave two updates on projects that he has been involved with. First, the MACOORA ocean observing project received an \$8.7 million NOAA grant to implement an ocean observing system. Second, a report has been released on the Bark Camp mine reclamation project.
13. The meeting was then adjourned.

HEP Section 320 Budget Planning

Work Group Chairs to submit budget requests by March 14, 2008 on budget request form.

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#	Priority Actions from HEP Action Plan (Further description in Action Plan)	Responsible Work Group	Expected Activity in FY 2009	Offer budget request?
1	Complete pathogens TMDL for the harbor.	Pathogens	Complete TMDL	Fully funded
2	Support for green technology initiative.	Pathogens	Scope out a plan.	yes
3	Expand No Discharge Zone.	Pathogens	NJDEP to take lead	wait for KKP
4	Expand area permitted for shellfish restoration.	Pathogens	Analysis of issues and possibly some modeling required.	yes
5	Complete Long Term Control Plans	Pathogens	States to monitor local responsible entities	no
6	Complete toxics TMDL for the Harbor.	Toxics TMDL	Complete TMDL	Fully funded
7	Investigate and initiate toxic reduction actions.	Toxics TMDL	Investigative work to begin in 2008	Fully funded
8	Establish baseline loadings	Nutrients	To be completed in 2008	Fully funded
9	Challenge grants for nutrient Best Management Practices	Nutrients	Scope out a plan.	yes
10	Data collection arrays	Nutrients	Determine need.	no
11	Assess dissolved oxygen in the Bight.	Nutrients	EPA survey to take place in 2008. Modeling work possibly in 2009.	yes
12	Complete nutrients TMDL for the Harbor.	Nutrients	Complete TMDL	Fully funded
13	Investigate financing for capitol projects.	Nutrients	Not in 2009.	No
14	Reduce street litter.	Floatables		wait for BR
15	Implement Floatables Action Plan	Floatables		wait for BR
16	Floatables controls at CSO Points and on beaches	Floatables		wait for BR
17	Habitat preservation/land acquisition	Habitat	Continue support for OASIS.	yes
18	Initiate pilot scale habitat restorations	Habitat	Continue to provide habitat planning grants.	yes
19	Complete Harbor Herons Conservation Plan	Habitat	To be completed in 2008	Fully funded
20	Complete Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP)	Habitat	Corps to complete in 2008	yes
21	Implement selected actions in public access plan	Public Access	PAWG needs to propose activities.	yes
22	Develop sediment quality map of the estuary	RSM		wait for JT
23	Re-establish former USGS river data stations	RSM		wait for JT
24	Develop tech/data reqts for sed transport/budget model	RSM		wait for JT
25	Develop regional beneficial use plan.	RSM		wait for JT
26	State Sediment Management Advocates	RSM		wait for JT
27	Keep elected officials informed of estuary issues	HEP Office	Continue to produce Tidal Exchange. Assess options from communications strategy which is to be completed in 2008.	yes
28	Provide environmental status reports	HEP Office	Both State of the Estuary and Harbor wide survey reports will be revised in 2009.	yes
29	Enhance estuary education and stewardship	HEP Office	Small grant program for stewardship activities	yes
	HEP Office staff support.	HEP Office	Support for two program staff. Program associate and habitat restoration coordinator.	yes

This work plan is for activities that will take place primarily Oct 1, 2008 - Sept 30, 2009.

