

New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Nutrient Work Group Conference Call
May 9, 2005
Draft Minutes

Participants: Bob Nyman, Matt Schoen, Mark Tedesco, Keith Mahoney, Phil O'Brien, John St. John, Robin Miller, Brian Mitchell, Morton Orentlicher

The workgroup held a call from 1:00 - 2:00 to discuss the results of the March 31st oversight group meeting.

Minutes from the previous NWG call on March 29th were accepted without comment.

The oversight group meeting of March 31st called for the Nutrient Workgroup to respond to the following charge. The workgroup has been asked to devise an approach to answer two management questions.

What are the current conditions of the Harbor as they relate to New York State's proposed marine DO criteria? For the purpose of this effort, the NJ standard of never less than 5 mg/L shall apply where it is technically appropriate. (i.e. low salinity waters).

What would it take to meet these standards harbor-wide, within a useful management framework (e.g. by appropriate management zones)?

The workgroup recommended a change to Item 2 above. The language should reflect a caveat that it may not actually be plausible to restore the entire Harbor to applicable DO standards. Ex: If applicable DO standards can be met, what reductions would be necessary to achieve them, within a useful management framework (e.g. by appropriate management zones)?

HydroQual requested that NJDEP assist them in deciding which waters they would like the 5 mg/l standard applied to for their analyses.

The work group will work with the Hudson River Foundation to develop a contract with HydroQual to scope out a plan for answering the two management questions. The work group will work with HRF and the contractor to refine the plan as necessary and submit it to the oversight group for consideration.

There was an update on the status of the revisions to the SWEM model for NJ tributaries. Some of this contractual work cannot be ordered until the NJ fiscal year rolls over in July. With a six month estimate to complete the work, the new model would be expected in January 2006. John St. John said that the preliminary model could be used to get started on some of the work, but that some of the modeling eventually needed to determine the necessary load reductions required to meet standards (Question 2) should

be performed with this new model after it is available, in order to prevent having to do it twice.

There was some discussion over whether the existing base run provided sufficient information to answer the first question of the charge regarding current conditions. It was Hydroqual's opinion that DO concentrations could be pulled from the existing dataset, but not duration. Without duration, it isn't possible to determine if the proposed NY DO standard is met or not.

Discussion of the previous draft framework and management zones quickly resolved to setting these aside in favor of having the contractor develop an approach for determining how to restore the harbor to applicable WQS, leaving these specifics to their proposal.

Due to limited participation in the May 9th call, the workgroup decided to distribute the notes from the call to the entire group and seek comment and/or assent to the decisions proposed.