



New York - New Jersey  
Harbor Estuary  
Program

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
Policy Committee Meeting  
September 28, 2005  
Draft Minutes**

1. The meeting was convened at the EPA Offices at 10:10 a.m. Kathy Callahan chaired the meeting and led the introductions.
2. The agenda was reviewed and there were no additions.
3. With the addition of some clarifying comments from Tom Creamer related to the renaming of the work group dealing with sediment and navigation to the Regional Sediment Management Work Group, the minutes of the September 28, 2005 PC meeting were approved as written.
4. An update was provided on the status of the 2009 projected projects. The PC requested additional information on the Connecticut projects to clarify how targets are being met.
5. The preliminary schedules for the development of the TMDLs were distributed and discussed by Bob Nyman (nutrients) and Jeff Myers (pathogens). Chuck Warren requested that the schedule be reviewed on a regular basis. Kerry Kirk- Pflugh suggested that the Education and Outreach group have a role in conveying information about the work to the public. Jim Mueller reiterated his desire to have the Nutrient Work Group continue to review the schedule and update it as appropriate. He also requested that NYC be able to join the TMDL oversight group. Mr. Nyman said he would bring that request back to the group. For the next meeting, it was requested that there be a review of how the schedule relates to the Targets and Goals.
6. John Tavolaro provided a sediment work group update. As noted earlier, the name of the group was changed to the Regional Sediment Management Group at the request of Tom Creamer. One of the first activities of the group will be to objectives for the group. It will then move on to an analysis of various regional sediment programs. The goal of the group is to develop a regional sediment management plan. The first meeting of the

group is scheduled for February 23. There is no schedule yet for completing the plan. The PC asked that the group continue to work towards the development of the plan and to keep them informed of progress.

7. Lenny Houston gave an update on the HRE planning coordination, noting that the HRE would be a vehicle to meet certain CCMP goals. He said that a proposal for coordination would be available within about a month. He noted that HRF had sponsored a workshop to establish ecosystem restoration targets. He is seeking staff commitment to represent the agencies on coordination issues. Proceedings of the HRE planning will be vetted through the Management Committee to the Policy Committee, but special PC updates can also be provided. Mr. Houston said he would provide another update at the next PC meeting.

8. Dennis Suszkowski provided an overview of Harbor Roundtable efforts. He said that the group was still formulating its plans, but a large part of their activities will include finding environmental projects and advocating for them, as well as providing advice and guidance to government agencies. The Roundtable is interested in putting together an environmental agenda that might include protecting existing habitat, habitat restoration, sediment quality improvement, air quality improvement, and public access improvement. The Roundtable is preparing 2007 budget testimony and Bill Matuszeski was hired to help with the public outreach work. Work groups may be convened for specific components of the agenda. A brochure about the Roundtable is to be prepared and the full Roundtable will meet in the spring of 2006. Mr. Zeppie said that the pace of restoration is usually very slow and that many sources of funding need to be examined. He added that the pace of restoration needs to pick up and that a several year work plan needs to be established.

9. Bob Nyman gave a quick overview of the Implementation Review letter from EPA-HQ and the Management Committees proposed response. Copies of the draft letter will be distributed to the PC. A conference call will be held to discuss the response.

10. Additional discussion was held on the following items: 1) Kathy Callahan said that a possible congressional briefing should be planned with the Roundtable, 2) the next PC meeting should be scheduled for April or May and should include further discussion of the status reports and workplans, 3) Mr. Creamer noted that the budget for the Corps floatable program in the presidents budget was \$4.4 million, while the request is for \$5.4 million. It is likely that certain cutbacks in operation will be necessary if the budget shortfall remains.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.