



New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

HEP Pathogens Work Group Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2006

Interstate Environmental Commission

10am

2007 Stewardship Work Plan

Laura Bartovics (NY Sea Grant/HEP Office) approached the PWG for ideas and issues in regards to pathogens for the 2007 Stewardship Plan. Laura is looking for one or two things that would have the potential to decrease pathogens through stewardship. Some of the ideas and issues generated from the PWG were

- low-impact development,
- preventing runoff from reaching surface water,
 - audience: municipal officials
- traveling road show,
 - audience: building departments
 - Make literature available on rain barrels, etc.
- Best practices for citizens,
- Aid TMDLs
- Green roofs- little impact on CSOs according to a study that Beau Ranheim referenced.

Laura will create a list of potential issues and ideas and she will send this list to the PWG. The PWG will rank the list and add to it if necessary.

Results of the Oversight Group Meeting on August 3, 2006

Draft minutes from the August 3rd meeting were passed out to the PWG. Wayne Jackson (EPA) and Jim Olander (EPA) put together a paper for setting the appropriate endpoints. Robert Nyman (EPA/HEP Office) spoke about item #6.

There was a question about who will pay for UAA's and which waters will need them. Jim Olander will ask Wayne Jackson about these questions especially who will pay for the UAA's.

There was also a question about what are the "open waters". Does this include the tributaries?

Sheldon Lipke (PVSC) told the PWG that the NJHDG was not monitoring the NJ waters for enterococci even though it is in their work plan. IEC finished their 3-year study which included monitoring for enterococci in NJ because they thought the NJHDG was monitoring for

enterococci and did not want to duplicate efforts. NJHDG monitoring for enterococci fell through the cracks because the lab is not certified for enterococci and the lab capacity is also a problem since this effort would double their sampling efforts. Pete Sattler (IEC), Chair of the HEP Ad Hoc Harbor-wide Water Quality Monitoring Committee, he believed the agreement was that the NJHDG would sample for enterococci. In fact, the Quality Assurance Plan for Long Term Water Quality Monitoring of the New York/New Jersey Harbor, prepared by GLEC, October 2003, identifies the parameters to be monitored for and includes enterococcus.

It was noted that NJHDG and NYCDEP discharge permits are still under fecal coliform. According to Marco Al-Ebus (NJDEP), NJDEP has not decided if it is going to adopt enterococci for the effluent permits. Charlie Dujardin's (HydroQual) said that correlations between total coliform, fecal coliform, and enterococci are difficult. NJDEP is not going to give up on using fecal coliform. There is a correlation between swimmer's itch and enterococci levels. The FDA is not going to switch to enterococci because they are concerned with health risks associated with consumption therefore they will continue using fecal coliform.

There was discussion about which rainfall data should be used- either 1988 (average rainfall year) or 2003 (wettest year). Charlie Dujardin's paper will address this.

Proposed Approach to Assess Design Criteria and Setting Appropriate Endpoints

PowerPoint slides were hand out by Charlie Dujardin.

Charlie reviewed the recreation attainability using 1988 and 2003 rainfall data for the open waters and beaches. When comparing the 1988 and 2003 rainfall, a 25% reduction would be required for the 2003 data while there is no reduction when using the 1988 data. Percentage of hours of when enterococci was above 104 at the beaches in the Harbor does not reveal much of a difference between 1988 and 2003 data.

Charlie also reviewed the shellfish attainability using 1988 and 2003 rainfall data and discussed geographic goals. Direct harvest is not a viable option in the Harbor except for the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers on a seasonal basis. Areas in the Harbor where there are administrative closures need to be determined. Other issues that have to be defined are areas where depuration, direct harvest, and relay are allowed. Jim Olander asked for this information from the states (Bob Connell and Carol Hoffman). Jim thinks that the next question will be where in the Harbor could be harvestable.

Charlie also discussed the proposal for a long-term analysis. The proposal is to use readily available hydrodynamics or forcing functions for the past 13 years. This data appears to be representative of 30-year statistics and it is based on long-term loading statistics. This proposal will assess long-term results. If this proposal is used, then no dates will be associated with model runs. It eliminates trying to find the appropriate year and focuses on protection. It will cost \$28,500. Other options presented to the PWG were (1) using either 1988 (may not be sufficiently protective) or 2003 (may be overly protective) or (2) using a long-term simulation of 30+ years (not practical due to timing and cost and unavailable hydrodynamics data). The PWG

recommends to the Oversight Group that the readily available hydrodynamics or forcing functions for the past 13 years be used.

Hudson River Transect Results and Data Analysis

Boris Rukovets (IEC) presented the wet weather monitoring results of the Hudson River transects samplings. PowerPoint slides were handed out. The monitoring was over 2 seasons (2005 and 2006). The objective was to compare pathogens east and west of mid-river to those at mid-river. In conclusion, IEC found that for both fecal coliform and enterococci, using the geometric mean (but not individual) values of mid-river results sampled over the course of four or more events provides an appropriate representation of water quality in the Hudson River.

Next Meeting: Set a date for a conference call after the Oversight Group's Meeting (scheduled for sometime in October).

Attendees

Ali Chase, NRDC, 212-727-4557 – joined us on the phone
Anne Witt, NJDEP, 609-633-1166
Antony Tseng, EPA - TMDL
Beau Ranheim, NYCDEP
Bob Nyman, US EPA - HEP, 212-637-3809,
Boris Rukovets, IEC, 212-582-0380,
Brian J. Mitchell, IEC, 212-582-0380,
Bridget McKenna, PVSC/NJHDG, 973-817-5976,
Cathy Yuhas, NJSJG/HEP, 212-637-3792
Charles Dujardin, HydroQual, Inc., 201-529-5151 ext. 7129
Chris J. Villari, NYCDEP, 718-595-5565
Jim Olander, US EPA, 212-637-3833
Keith Mahoney, NYCDEP, 718-595-5972
Laura Bartovics, NYSJG/HEP, 212-637-3787
Marco Al-Ebus, NJDEP, 609-292-1860
Mick DeGrave, GLEC/NJHDG, 231-941-2230
Peter L. Sattler, IEC, 212-582-0380
Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC, 518-402-8237
Sheldon Lipke, PVSC, 973-817-5782
Steve Su, Exponent, 973-879-9866