

**Hudson-Raritan Estuary
Comprehensive Restoration Plan
Summary of Public Outreach Events**
Updated: 1 December 2009

The information provided below summarizes the outreach events that have occurred or are planned through 2010 for the Draft Comprehensive Restoration Plan for the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. For each meeting, the audience, purpose and types of questions to be asked are provided.

- 1) News Release announcing the Plans availability released (7 May 2009) to media and posted on USACE website. This release and link to the Plan may be posted on partner agency/organization websites.
- 2) Congressional Staff Presentation (28 May 2009): Attendees included staff from Senators Menendez (Carolyn Fefferman) and Gillibrand (Sam Cooper), Congressman Jerold Nadler (Robert Gottheim), Scott Garrett (Matt Weiss), Pascrell (Arthur Mandel), Israel (Brett Kunsch), Velazquez (Daniel Wiley), and Lowey (Taylor Palmer). The representatives were briefed on the Draft Plan and were provided talking points of why restoration is important to utilize when discussing restoration with their constituency.
- 3) Harbor Roundtable Meeting (2 July 2009): Attendees included representatives from USACE, PANYNJ, NYSDEC, NYCDEP, NJDEP, National Parks Conservation Association, Hudson River Foundation, Environmental Defense Fund, MWA, and NYC Mayor's Office. The focus of the meeting was on discussion of the draft Plan, Hudson-Raritan Estuary Feasibility Study, mechanisms for Congressional Authorization. Outcome included:
 - i. Initiation of dialogue for potential sponsorship of restoration outlined in the Plan either through signing specific letters of support or group letter;
 - ii. Agreement to draft and sign a "charter" or MOA with a commitment to work together to implement restoration opportunities in the region;
 - iii. USACE will continue tasks for completion of Feasibility Study for potential construction authorization.
 - iv. Agreement that every effort should be made to complete ongoing Feasibility Studies (Jamaica Bay, Hackensack Meadowlands, Bronx River, etc) as soon as possible.
- 4) Sr. Leadership/Congressional Harbor Inspection (21 Sept 2009): Congressman Nadler, Congressional staff representatives and Agency/Organization Senior Leaders celebrated the release of the restoration plan during a Harbor Inspection aboard the HAYWARD. The Project Partnership Agreement was also signed for the construction of Elders West Wetlands with the Port Authority of NY/NJ, NYSDEC, NYCDEP and National Park Service.
- 5) The Comprehensive Restoration Plan was featured on Elizabeth Mayor's Future City Inc. Cablevision show for Earth Day (22 April 2009), Estuary Day (21 Sept 2009), and Cablevision's Neighborhood Watch (24 April 2009).
- 6) Harbor Estuary Program Workgroup Meetings: To date Work Group meetings have included Habitat Work Group (24 June 2009), Citizens Advisory Committee (26 July and 26 October 2009) and Harbor Herons (3 December 2009). Comments and input continue to be obtained for future revision. Technical issues to be flagged for subsequent specialty meetings among technical experts. The following questions will be asked:
 - a. Did the Plan sufficiently address the restoration needs of the Harbor?
 - b. Did the Plan accurately document the state of the science for each Target Ecosystem Characteristic (TEC)?
 - c. Did the Plan highlight all of the known restoration opportunities? Are there any specific sites that should be highlighted?

- d. Did the Plan capture all the implementation and regulatory hurdles to restoration for each TEC?
 - e. Would you serve as a potential non-federal sponsor with the USACE to implement restoration?
- 7) Individual visits/presentations to State/City agencies: Individual meetings at NYSDEC, NYCDEP, NYC Planning, NJDEP, NYSDOS and others that would benefit from one-on-one briefings. Agency can invite anyone internal/external to participate. Purpose/questions include:
- a. What are the revisions, if any, for the Draft Plan to achieve agency consensus?
 - b. Was the Plan comprehensive relative to your agency's potential restoration opportunities/sites?
 - c. Did the Plan identify all the regulatory/implementation hurdles for restoration and each TEC?
 - d. How can we overcome these hurdles and how can we align your specific agency's policies to overcome the hurdles?
 - e. Did the Plan represent/outline the funding opportunities appropriately for your particular agency?
 - f. What are the specific sites/restoration opportunities/TECs your agency is most interested in given your mission and jurisdiction?
 - g. Will your agency sign on to be a potential local sponsor for construction?
- 8) Public Planning Region Meetings: A total of 11 events are planned for outreach within each planning region including: 1- Newark Bay/Hackensack/Lower Passaic in NJ; 2- Arthur Kill/KVK in NJ; 3- Arthur Kill/KVK in NY; 4- Lower Raritan River in NJ; 5- Lower Bay in NJ; 6- Upper Bay in NJ; 7- Upper Bay in NY; 8- Jamaica Bay in NY; 9- Lower Hudson in NJ; 10- Lower Hudson in NY; 11- Harlem/East River/West Long Island in NY.
- Audience: Local officials, Non-Governmental Organizations, environmental advocates and the general public.
Purpose/questions include:
- a. Briefly present the draft Plan holistically to frame comprehensive initiative.
 - b. Highlight and focus on the specific planning region and restoration opportunities/sites within their region.
 - c. Collect regional master plans and identify new restoration opportunities and determine compatibility of existing restoration sites with specific waterfront development plans.
 - d. These meetings are also considered public availability meetings/pre-scoping meetings for the purposes of NEPA compliance.
 - e. Gain grass roots support for restoration initiatives within the region and relay support to their public officials (Congressman/Senators).
- 9) Meetings/Outreach for Planning Boards, watershed groups, environmental advocates, etc. These meetings will usually be held at night. Purpose/questions are similar to those for Public Planning Region Meetings.
- 10) Joint Corps/HEP Restoration brochure highlighting the Comprehensive Restoration Plan to be released December 2009.

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