



New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

September 9, 2002
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 – 1:00
Newark Legal Center

Meeting Attendees:

Eugenia Flatow (CAC NY Co-Chair), **Steve Barnes** (CAC NJ Co-Chair), **Laura Bartovics** (New York Sea Grant, HEP), **Shino Tanikawa** (NYC Soil & Water Conservation Dist.), **Neal Kronley** (Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance), **Annette Barry Smith** (Port Authority of NY & NJ), **Christine Hirt** (NJ DEP), **Debbie Mans** (NY/NJ Baykeeper), **Kevin Moore** (Weequahic Park Association), **John Ponticorvo** (Wanda Canoe Club), **Bill Fink** (Battery Park City Parks Conservancy), **Bernard Blum** (Friends of Rockaway, Inc.), **Manuel Russ** (NYCDEP CAC on Pollution Prevention)

AGENDA

- Old and new business (Targets & Goals, National Estuaries Day, HEP Mini-grants, etc.)
- Continued CAC Work Plan Development
- Update on New Jersey Restoration

Gene Flatow announced that she would not run for re-election as the CAC Co-Chair from New York. Nominations for candidates will be accepted and an election will be held at the February 2003 CAC meeting (date to be announced).

Flatow announced the **HEP Policy Committee meeting** scheduled for October 1 from 10 am – 1 pm at the EPA Region 2 Offices at 290 Broadway.

Laura Bartovics announced that National Estuaries Day would be celebrated on Oct 5 this year. The website Estuaries.gov has more information, including a link to Estuaries LIVE, which will broadcast live fieldtrip from National Estuarine Research Reserves and National Estuary Programs across the country. National Estuaries Day 2003 will take place on the last Sept 27th and will be celebrated on the last Saturday in September from then on.

Bartovics also announced that the 2003 HEP Mini-grant Request for Proposals would fund National Estuaries Day events as well as traditional projects. The RFP will be released in October.

Bill Fink mentioned that the HEP Teachers Guide produced last Sept resulted in a number of teachers scheduling programs at BPCP for their classes. He also announced BPCP's upcoming Go Fish Festival. **John Ponticorvo** mentioned that he recently worked with the Hudson River Fisherman's Association on a fishing program for kids.

Discussion turned to the possibility of creating a "Clearinghouse" for what's happening in the region. **Shino Tanikawa** mentioned that Partnership for Parks is working on a GIS-based map of stewardship

Citizens Advisory Committee Co-chairs

Steve Barnes, Rahway River Association, 19 N. Adelaide Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904 ✦ 732-246-2038
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organizations and projects. Although this map would cover only NYC, the idea could be expanded to include the entire NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. The Watershed Partnership for NJ (WPNJ.org) could be another source of information on events.

Ponticorvo brought up the idea of hosting estuary education workshops for kids and suggested that the Estuary Floor of Liberty Science Center might be a good location.

Flatow suggested that the HEP CAC host an event to introduce the region's elected officials to citizen stewards and agency representatives. **Steve Barnes** agreed that it would be good to get legislators and the public together for an update on what's happening (or not happening) to restore the estuary and allow officials to get feedback from their constituents.

Bartovics recommended that these items be incorporated into the CAC Work Plan. She also suggested that once a draft work plan is complete, CAC members begin looking into what it would take to accomplish each of the actions identified.

Annette Barry Smith volunteered to find out about placing ads/messages on public transit.

Bartovics agreed to begin developing an electronic format to gather information about events, number of students reached, public access points, etc. She mentioned that HEP's on-line calendar might be used for events. **Neal Kronley** mentioned that MWA's on-line calendar already lists many of the region's events.

Bernie Blum announced that Dennis Suszkowski (HRF) agreed that West Nile Virus could be considered a pathogen and be included in the upcoming State of the Estuary report.

Flatow announced that Bob Nyman (HEP Director) approved the formation of a HEP CSO/Rainfall Event Work Group. **Debbie Mans** expressed that she would like to participate on such a work group.

Blum suggested adding a "complaints section" to the HEP newsletter for stewards with longstanding complaints that have not been attended to. **Blum** also mentioned that the Parks Department has started ticketing people for using the jetty at Rockaway inlet.

Barnes suggested that CAC work plan development continue electronically. Comments on the HEP Targets and Goals should be submitted to the CAC Co-chairs by September 23. Comments/suggestions for the work plan should be submitted to Laura Bartovics by October 25.

Discussion then turned to an update on restoration efforts in New Jersey. **Barnes** mentioned the Wetlands Mitigation Council is evaluating whether mitigation compensation can occur in a different watershed than the one in which wetlands are being lost. The HEP Habitat Work Group (Nancy Neidowski, Chair) is also working on a Wetlands Mitigation White Paper. **Flatow** added that the Habitat Work Group would hold a workshop on mitigation with the agencies involved in HEP. She asked if the Mitigation White Paper could be posted on the HEP website.

Barnes announced that volunteers were needed for a Rahway restoration project at Union and Allen Streets from September 11-14. The project has been in the works for 3 ½ years and has been funded by FEMA, NJ Green Acres and others. About \$5,000 was spent on permits (freshwater & tidal) alone.

Tanikawa noted that this would make a great story for the next HEP Newsletter. **Bartovics** will follow up with **Barnes** about writing an article.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

The next HEP CAC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 12**, location to be announced.