



New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

HEP CAC meeting

November 13, 2003

Hudson River Foundation

Present: Anthony Marraccini (Turn Around Friends), Bill Marinaccio (Freeport/Nassau Fishermans Alliance), Arthur Stoliar (Trout in the Classroom), Teresa Crimmens (Bronx River Alliance), Maggie Flanagan (South Street Seaport), Jim Lane (Rocking the Boat), Clay Sherman (NJDEP), Manuel Russ (CAC NYC DEP PP), Dan Mundy (Jamaica Bay Eco Watchers), Ludger K. Balan (The Urban Divers), Bill Fink (Battery Park City Conservancy), Adam Brown (Working Waterfront Association), Bob Alpern, Bill Shore (Institute of Public Administration), David Burg (Wild Metro), Arthur Kelley (PROBE), Joy Garland (Stuyvesant Park Cove Association, Inc.), Tara DePorte (Lower East Side Ecology Center), Joseph A. Chesonis (Urban Systems Concept Group, Inc.), Cy Adler (Shorewalkers, Inc.), Laura Bartovics (NY Sea Grant/HEP), Cindy Goulder (Brookland Landscapes), Dennis Bader (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Edgar Freud (Coalition for a Livable Westside), Debbie Mans (NY/NJ Baykeeper), Eugenia M. Flatow (Coalition for the Bight), Steve Barnes (Poricy Park), Carter Craft (Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance), Nina Haiman (NYC Soil and Water Conservation District)

Eugenia Flatow (Coalition for the Bight) called the meeting to order at 10:05. She apologized that the meeting was being held in New York. She explained that she hoped the next meeting, in January 2004, would be held in New Jersey, but that she was still looking for an easily accessible NJ location.

E. Flatow gave a brief history of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). She stated that stewards had been the catalyst for change for years. She explained that the HEP is the only way of getting all the agencies together. She added that the agency representatives to the Management Committee keep changing. She stated that she is trying to create a Congressional caucus to raise money.

Estuaries Day Report- L. Bartovics

Estuaries Day was on September 27, but events were spread out over a two week period. In total eighteen events took place. L. Bartovics displayed copies of the HEP rulers, bags, and mugs that were distributed at every event. HEP also created and distributed a “Wildlife of the Harbor Estuary” poster and brochure, using NJDEP materials. This year, the “Educator’s Guide to Water Resources” was expanded to include lesson plans. Those interested in procuring copies should contact L. Bartovics at lmb5@cornell.edu. It will also be available in PDF format at the HEP website (www.harborestuary.org).

L. Bartovics said that the FY2004 HEP budget has set aside \$25K for Estuaries Day. Next year Estuaries Day will be on September 25. L. Bartovics said that at the last CAC meeting people had expressed interest in deciding how Estuaries Day funds would be used, for example for one large event or newspaper ad. She said she would like CAC involvement in the Estuaries Day. E. Flatow agreed that subcommittees to address Estuaries Day and Mini-Grants would be useful.

Estuaries Day 2003 events had to be held by non-profits, or have non-profit hosts. However, committee members are welcome to change this if they wish.

Citizens Advisory Committee Co-chairs

Steve Barnes, Poricy Park, PO Box 36, Middletown, NJ 07748 ✦ 732-842-3966

Eugenia Flatow, Coalition for the Bight, 121 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 501, NY, NY 10013 ✦ 212-431-9676

David Burg (Wild Metro) expressed concern that the CAC set a mission for itself. He said that it was a bad sign that Staten Island did not hold any Estuaries Day events.

Mini-Grants- L. Bartovics

The grants were given in 1991,'92,'93 and then again in 2002 and '03. A list of 2003 Mini-Grant recipients was distributed. In 2003, \$50K was used to fund 11 projects. L. Bartovics said that there were 55 applicants and that she was concerned the process makes groups compete. The 2004 RFP has not yet been made. There are no strict rules for how the money should be granted. L. Bartovics said that the CAC worked to get Mini-Grants included in the HEP budget, and should decide how the monies are distributed. She said that those on the Mini-Grant Review Team might not be able to apply for grants. She did research on how other National Estuary Programs ran their Mini-Grant programs, and discovered that some programs just gave grants of \$1K or smaller. Others made very specific RFPs and gave \$20K. She explained that the Management Committee (MC) ultimately approves the Review Team's decisions. The Review Team is composed of MC representatives. However, the CAC can suggest that the team include almost all CAC members. E. Flatow said the subcommittee should set guidelines for eligibility, but should not review applications since that creates conflicts. She added that she thought the Review Team should be made of experts.

Dennis Bader (Cornell Cooperative Extension) stated that as a past Review Team member, he did not think it was worth applying for grants of less than \$4K. L. Bartovics asked if this was true if the application was only one page.

Printing Budget- L. Bartovics

The next HEP fiscal cycle, which goes from October '03-September '04, includes \$30K for printing. Of this, \$12K has been allocated for newsletters, and \$15K will be spent on the Hudson River Foundation's "State of the Estuary" report. E. Flatow said that agencies should print materials in house to help keep costs down. She added that she would like each HEP partner agency to make a booklet listing their achievements.

L. Bartovics said that at the next MC meeting, in January or February, the CAC should say what it would like HEP to fund. Steve Barnes (Poricy Park) responded that the Estuaries Day reports could be used to pressure the MC for more money. The reports would prove how successful Estuaries Day was in forwarding the HEP's mission.

Dan Mundy (Jamaica Bay Eco Watchers) said that it was good to spread Estuaries Day over a two week period. D. Bader suggested that beach cleanups should happen over a series of days, instead of just one.

2003 Signing Event/Update on Management Committee Activities- D. Mans

D. Mans introduced herself as a MC representative. She said that she saw MC/CAC communication as in need of help. She would like more directives from the CAC. She distributed the September 11, 2003 draft of the "NY-NJ Harbor Estuary 2003 Agreement" and the most recent version of Targets and Goals. This was to have been signed by the Governors of NY and NJ in a recommitment ceremony around Estuaries Day.

However, E. Flatow said she spoke with HEP Director Bob Nyman yesterday. He told her that NJ DEP Commissioner Campbell did not think he could get the Governor to sign the existing Targets and Goals, since they were not strong enough. At the MC meeting on November 18, B. Nyman plans to ask to separate the Governors' signing ceremony from the Targets and Goals. E. Flatow said this was important, since it would be difficult to form the Congressional caucus without the Governors signatures. She suggested that the Governors should just sign to support the program like they did in 1996. They would not have to sign off on the Targets and Goals.

D. Mans said she would speak with the NJ DEP's representative to the MC to ask him to present NJ DEP's concerns with the existing Targets and Goals at November 18th MC meeting.

E. Flatow stated that she had wanted stronger language in the Targets and Goals as well. D. Burg said that it was a sad commentary that the NJ Governor had to be the one to say the language was not strong enough. He believed the CAC should raise these concerns. He expressed concern that uncoupling the signing ceremony from the Targets and Goals would make the signing meaningless.

D. Mans said that she has invested a lot of work in this, and would like to move forward on implementation regardless of whether the signing ceremony occurs.

Carter Craft (Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance) asked if the Targets and Goals could be changed. He said that Goal 3, on access, was too weak. He added that he thought Targets and Goals contained too much technical language for the Governors to sign them. He did not think they were packaged well. However, he thought that having any ceremony to celebrate the Harbor with both Governors was a victory. D. Mans suggested that the signing ceremony could be linked to opening a new access point. E. Flatow said that people should let her know how they would like the Targets and Goals changed. C. Craft responded that a subcommittee should be formed to write something more ambitious for Goal 3. D. Mans said there had been more ambitious language, and the MC had killed it.

L. Bartovics suggested that it might be a better idea to focus on the Work Plan instead of the Targets and Goals. Bob Alpern recommended that the Governors adopt the Goals, but omit the weak numerical Targets. L. Bartovics responded that the MC and B. Nyman wanted the five Targets and Goals adopted so these five categories could be used to set HEP funding priorities.

E. Flatow stated that she was in favor of separating Targets and Goals from the signing ceremony. B. Alpern was opposed to this. He made a motion that the signing only include the Goals. C. Craft responded that he thought the Goals were too weak as well. B. Alpern's resolution did not pass.

D. Bader said that he used to be with DEC Region 2: Public Affairs. He suggested that the Governors' Public Affairs staff be asked what would need to occur for the Governors to sign.

D. Mans requested that the group give her a directive to take to the MC. She proposed a motion that the CAC say that the Targets and Goals need to be strengthened, and that it would formulate its suggestions in the near future and forward them to the MC. C. Craft seconded the motion.

E. Flatow responded that this could kill the program since over the last six months agencies had shown a real reduction of interest in the HEP. She believed that the CAC should only say that it believes the Targets and Goals need improvement.

D. Burg said he did not care if the agencies had been working on the program for the last ten years, he did not think the Targets and Goals were strong enough. D. Mans expressed concern that there would be no signing ceremony without Targets and Goals. C. Craft responded that he was in favor of postponing the signing ceremony until Spring '04 to give the CAC time to formulate its suggestions. Maggie Flanagan (South Street Seaport) commented that even if the Targets and Goals were strengthened, there was still no guarantee that McGreevey would sign.

The CAC resolution that the Targets and Goals needed to be strengthened was passed.

Estuaries Day and Mini-Grant subcommittees will be formed, L. Bartovics will handle outreach. The group also decided to create a Public Access subcommittee, C. Craft will host the meeting before Christmas. L. Bartovics offered to set up conference calls for any subcommittee. S. Barnes would like a subcommittee to evaluate the CAC, and will take the lead on creating it. E. Flatow stated that she was opposed to creating a

subcommittee to evaluate the Targets and Goals. D. Mans said that those with comments on Targets and Goals should contact her at debbie@nynjbaykeep.org .

The meeting was adjourned.