



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

of the New York – New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program

www.HarborEstuary.org

HEP CAC Minutes
May 10, 2004 Meeting
Port Authority of NY & NJ
Newark, NJ
(DRAFT 5/25)

Present: Carter Craft (Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance), Debbie Mans (NY/NJ Baykeeper), Laura Bartovics (NY Sea Grant/HEP), Nina Haiman (NYC Soil and Water Conservation District), Joel Bansalben (NYC Surfrider Foundation), Manuel Russ (NYC CAC DEP Pollution Prevention), Anthony Marraccini (Turnaround Friends, Inc.), Bob Alpern, Porter-Ann Gaines (Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance), Jane Jackson (NY Restoration Project), Michelle Doran McBean (Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association), Kerry Kirk Pflugh (NJDEP), Dennis Suszkowski (Hudson River Foundation), Mitsue Balan (The Urban Divers), Steve Lang (CUNY), Bob Nyman (USEPA-HEP), E.J. McAdams (NYC Audubon Society), John DeSocio (Save Our Open Spaces), William Fidurski (N.J. Concern), Mike Dombrowski (PANYNJ)

Debbie Mans and Carter Craft call the meeting to order at approximately 10:30am. The meeting start was delayed due to problems on the PATH trains. The chairs thanked the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for the use of their conference room.

Brief Discussion of HEP Organization: Bob Nyman gave a brief description of the HEP organization. The governing group is the Policy Committee. The Management Committee consists of mid-level management folks and reports to the Policy Committee. It meets on a quarterly basis and provides day to day direction for HEP. The technical workgroups of HEP are (1) Nutrients Work Group, (2) Pathogens WG, (3) Dredged Material Management Integration WG, (4) Habitat WG, (5) Toxics WG, (6) Education & Outreach WG, and (7) Contamination Assessment and Reduction Project (CARP). Most recently the Habitat Work Group, working in conjunction with NYPIRG and USFS, posted an interactive Acquisition and Restoration Site Map on OASIS. CAC members are encouraged to browse HEP's website for more information (www.harborestuary.org).

B. Nyman also gave an update on his recent trip to Washington D.C. and Estuary-related legislation.

1. A letter supporting funding authorization for the upcoming year was signed by all four senators and 4-5 congressmen in the Estuary.
2. Overall Estuary funding has received an extension until 2010.
3. The Estuary Restoration Act is still in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Citizens Advisory Committee Co-chairs

Debbie Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Building 18, Sandy Hook, Highlands, NJ 07732 ✦ 732-291-0176
Carter Craft, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, 457 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10022 ✦ 212-935-9831

Committee and Work Group Reports

Habitat Work Group: E.J. McAdams stated that he would represent CAC on the Habitat Work Group.

Estuary Day Subcommittee: Laura Bartovics stated that 15 people attended the 12Apr04 meeting of this subcommittee. L. Bartovics had heard from 26 organizations regarding their interest in taking part in Estuary Day activities. The general sense from the meeting was that certain printed materials should be produced, including definition of estuary and maps connecting the events; funds should go mostly to individual events; events should be held throughout the Estuary; the money for the events should be divided up equitably; there must be some sort of access to water (visual or physical); the event should have a hands-on experience; and events should be as free as possible, with funding going towards eliminating high admissions or fees. The events will be targeting the general public and are to take place within the span of mid-September to first week of October.

Next Steps include the distribution of a Request for Proposals in June, with award announcements in July. L. Bartovics will come up with suggestions as to how to proceed with respect to funding criteria and distributing of money equitably and distribute this information to the CAC via email for comment. Anyone who would like to be on the subcommittee should contact L. Bartovics at 212-637-3787 or info@harborestuary.org.

Waterfront Access Subcommittee: C. Craft stated that the last meeting of this subcommittee was in December 2003. It was suggested that the next HEP CAC meeting include a visit to the new Harlem River Boathouse.

Health of the Harbor Presentation: Dennis Suszkowski (Hudson River Foundation) gave a presentation on the recently released Health of the Harbor: The First Comprehensive Look at the State of The NY/NJ Harbor Estuary. The report focused on the core area of the Harbor Estuary and 29 indicators were analyzed. For more information, or to view a copy of the report online, visit www.harborestuary.org. D. Suszkowski stated that by the end of 2004 or winter 2005 a report analyzing the state of the science in the Hudson River over the past 30 years would be produced.

Discussion Items

CAC Website Revision: Members of the CAC reviewed the current website. It was suggested that the website include information in other languages. Nina Haiman stated that the results of the surveys of community groups in the Estuary would be posted on the website within two months and include a searchable database of stewardship and educational data.

Formation of Subcommittee to review CAC by-laws: D. Mans stated that she would chair this subcommittee and requested volunteers to serve on this temporary subcommittee. C. Craft and Bob Alpern offered to sit on the subcommittee. Any other persons interested should contact D. Mans at 732-888-9870 or Debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org.

Other Business

Future CAC Meeting Dates:

- July 19, 2004: Possible field visit to new Harlem River Boat House.
- Sept. 9, 2004: Possible joint meeting with Long Island Sound CAC.
- Nov. 9, 2004

Jane Jackson (NY Restoration Project) announced the launch of a new boathouse on the Harlem River. The boathouse is scheduled to arrive at the east end of Dyckman Street some time after May 26 and encouraged anyone interested to contact her or Amy Cabaris at 212-333-2552 or visit their website at www.nyrp.org. They will offer free programming for NY schools and members.

Manny Russ announced a meeting of stakeholders for Coney Island Creek Restoration on May 15, 2004 at Kaiser Park.

C. Craft (Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance) announced the Waterfront Conference on May 19, 2004 (www.waterwire.net).

Mitsue Balan (The Urban Divers) announced The First Historical Coney Island Creek Flotilla Clean-Up on May 15 from 11am to 4pm. For more information visit www.urbandivers.org or contact The Urban Divers at 718-802-9874 or urbandivers@urbandivers.org.

E.J. McAdams (NYC Audubon Society) announced FREE Harbor Heron EcoTours this summer on the East River. For more information and to make reservations call NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483 (www.nycas.org).