



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

of the New York – New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program

www.HarborEstuary.org

Harbor Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Conference Call on February 10, 2010 11 am – 12:00 pm

MINUTES

Introductions

Michelle Doran McBean and *Roland Lewis* welcomed participants, who then introduced themselves.

Addition of New CAC Members

All CAC members present were in favor of adding the following new members:

- Claire Antonucci, Director of Education, NJ Marine Sciences Consortium
- David Burg, President, WildMetro
- Kim Estes-Fradis, Deputy Director of Education & Outreach, NYCDEP
- Adina Taylor, President, Floating the Apple, Inc.
- Nellie Tsipoura, Director of Citizen Science, NJ Audubon Society
- Nina Zain, Head of Interns, The River Project

The total number of voting members is now 30 and 10 constitutes a quorum. The updated list of members will be forwarded to the Management Committee, as stipulated in the Bylaws and posted online at <http://www.harborestuary.org/citadvcomm.htm>.

Election of CAC Co-Chairs

Michelle Doran McBean abstained from the process and elections. Gabriela Munoz invited NY co-chair candidates (Roland Lewis, *Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance* and Zhennya Slootskin, *Going Coastal, Inc.* to make a brief presentation to the CAC. Because this meeting took place via conference call, CAC members were instructed to email their votes to Gabriela. In addition, the group decided to extend the deadline to submit votes until February 11 by 5 pm because of inclement weather and in anticipation of possible difficulties by some members to access their email. Election results were announced on Friday, February 12. Roland Lewis was re-elected as NY co-chair for a second (2-year) term. A total of 12 votes (9 for Roland and 3 for Zhennya) were received and a quorum was reached.

HEP CAC Budget

A brief discussion on CAC budget proposals for next fiscal year (Oct 2010 – Sep 2011) followed. As explained in the *Schedule and Process for 2010 Annual HEP Budget Development* that had been previously shared with the group, and as in previous years, the FY 2010 HEP budget will be based on HEP's Action Plan. It is anticipated that approximately \$800,000 will be available with a required 1:1 match. The Management Committee has already selected and recommended for funding project areas from the Action Plan (a table showing these areas has also been shared with the CAC). Work Group and CAC chairs should submit Budget Requests to the HEP Director by February 26. The Management Committee will evaluate these proposals and develop a recommended budget for consideration and approval by the Policy Committee.

Citizens Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

Michelle Doran McBean, Future City, Inc. ✦ 908-659-0689
Roland Lewis, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance ✦ 212-935-9831

Several members shared their ideas:

Roland suggested requesting funds to cover transportation and lodging for CAC representatives to attend the 2010 Annual Conference of the New Jersey League of Municipalities. Roland also mentioned that MWA is working with the Habitat Restoration Work Group to request that HEP co-sponsors MWA's 2010 Waterfront Conference in November 2010.

Michelle suggested funding work related to fish advisory issues, including developing a bi-state message on fish advisories and bringing attention to the issue of subsistence fishing (lead organizations to be identified). CAC could also request funds to bring organizations to work together and share knowledge and resources on floatables and litter. Bob Nyman mentioned that EPA Region 2 is planning a webinar or teleconference on floatables, which will probably take place in March. Details about the webinar will be shared with the CAC when they become available.

Cortney Worrall and Shino Tanikawa explained that the Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM) Coalition is working to improve CSO advisories. Although there are some tools, including online maps, SWIM considers that these are not adequate and is working on possible improvements such as installing visible signs on the land side of CSO outfalls. Shino will be in touch with SWIM to possibly submit a budget proposal.

Kirk Barrett mentioned that he has a project idea to predict pathogen levels in the Passaic River that could be used for an alert system so people can make informed decisions regarding recreational uses of the river. The group felt that this proposal was best suited for the Pathogens Work Group.

Zhennya suggested funding a grants program for information and education initiatives that raise public awareness of HEP activities, goals and estuary resources. Projects may include print, radio, video, online or other media. Each project could receive up to \$5,000 and total funds could be \$40,000.

In response to questions about the process, Bob explained that the co-chairs should be the ones submitting proposals on behalf of the CAC. After some discussion on how to proceed, it was decided that CAC members should send their budget proposals to Michelle (futurecityinc@gmail.com) by Friday, February 19. Proposals should be sent using the template that was previously shared with the group. Zhennya volunteered to then help Michelle review and organize the proposals so the CAC co-chairs can submit them to HEP by the February 26 deadline.

Update on Joint Meeting of Long Island Sound Study and HEP CACs

Roland mentioned that the CAC co-chairs from these two Estuary Programs have been in touch trying to set up a joint meeting. The two groups are interested in getting together, learning from each other and working together but need to evaluate whether it will be possible to hold this meeting on March 11 (when the LISS CAC will be meeting in NY) or whether the meeting should be postponed until December.

Pathogen TMDL Development

New York and New Jersey are currently defining what standards will be used to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pathogens in the region. Several local organizations are concerned that the proposed standards are not stringent enough and are trying to be more involved in the TMDL process. At Roland's suggestion, Larry Levine agreed to give a presentation during next meeting to better inform the CAC about the issues.

Bob mentioned that the EPA's Regional Administrator, Judith Enck is very engaged in the subject and has agreed to participate in HEP at the Policy Committee level. On a different topic Bob announced that he will be taking a temporary detail for up to 60 days as Chief of the New York State Watershed Section. During that period, Richard Balla (the current coordinator for the Peconic Estuary Program) will act as HEP's director, but Bob will still be available if needed.

Next CAC Meeting

A meeting was scheduled for March 11 at MWA's new offices at the Seamen's Church Institute building at the South Street Seaport. Once it is defined whether this meeting will be held jointly with the LISS CAC, the agenda and other details will be sent out to the group.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

ATTENDEES

- Robert Alpern
- Kirk Barrett, Passaic River Institute, Montclair University
- Don Chesley, Stevens Institute of Technology
- Bart Chezar, Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club
- Michelle Doran McBean, Future City, Inc.
- Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC DEP
- Maggie Flanagan, South Street Seaport Museum
- Larry Levine, NRDC
- Roland Lewis, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
- Katie Mosher-Smith, NY/NJ Baykeeper
- Dan Mundy, Jamaica Bay EcoWatchers
- Gabriela Munoz, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program
- Robert Nyman, US EPA Region 2
- Manuel Russ, Concerned Citizens of Bensonhurst
- Zhenya Slotskin, Going Coastal, Inc.
- Shino Tanikawa, NY Soil & Water Conservation District
- Adina Taylor, Floating the Apple, Inc.
- Nellie Tsipoura, NJ Audubon Society
- Cortney Worrall, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
- Nina Zain, The River Project