



NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program
Citizens Advisory Committee
Conference call minutes
Wednesday, August, 2012
10:00 am – 11:30 am

MINUTES: On August 29, 2012, the Citizens Advisory Committee held a call to discuss recent HEP news and developments, including plans for a HEP 2.0, the new expanded geographic area, and to seek input into what should be said by the CAC at the Management Committee meeting on September 12, 2012. The agenda for that meeting was discussed in brief. Updates and items of interest to members of the CAC included:

1. **CSOs and water quality:** the Sewage Right to Know law and the DEC rulemaking process getting underway now--this will determine how effective the notification really is.
 - a) Related issue: better water quality monitoring and data, and a system of carrots and sticks for NJ municipalities to meet goals of the Clean Water Act are needed.
 - b) Related issues: poor water quality used as pretext to limit access, inadequate tracking of dry weather discharges, onerous requirements for pilot boating programs, inadequate coordination of agency policies (EDC and everyone else), no follow-up or all-clear after incidents (Nancy Brous cited the example of warning signs that remained up well after the repair following the sewage fire had been completed).
2. **HEP 2.0**--is HEP going to drive this issue (of estuary restoration) or is it just a forum by which people are updated?
3. **Citizen science** networks and importance of expanding them
4. **Potential closing of the NOAA research lab** in Sandy Hook--crucial fisheries biology and ocean acidification research is threatened
5. **Edge development**, design guidelines, and question of fill--how can it be used for restoration, habitat and access purposes without opening gate for on and over-water development?
6. A thorough **inventory of who is working on what and where**--funding is tight and information so piecemeal, impossible to leverage funding dollars
7. The **lack of access and remediation** along former and current industrial waterways like the Kill van Kull; today's business zones seem to replicate policies of 60s, in which polluting industries are subsidized and disadvantaged communities ignored
8. **Climate change awareness on a local level** is needed.
9. Delisting of impaired waterbodies by the EPA and what changes to the '303d' list really mean
10. Fish advisory policies and update--how best to spend the funds (10K) on hand
11. Dredging policy and funding, especially for ongoing projects; lack of public review for major infrastructure campaigns; lack of funding for sediment management plan
12. Potential for small 'boots on the ground' cleanup efforts to engage the public and restore habitat
13. Possible links with/invitations to the Long Island Sound Estuary CAC

Attendees:

Bob Alpern

Kate Boicourt, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program

Nancy Brous, NYC Water Trail Association

Rob Buchanan, CAC Co-Chair/Village Community Boathouse

James Cataldi, NYCWetlands

Bart Chezar, Gowanus Dredgers

Meredith Comi, NY-NJ Baykeeper

Michelle Doran McBean, CAC Co-Chair/Future City, Inc.

Linda Eskinas, North Shore Waterfront Greenway

Merryl Kafka, NYSMEA

Caroline McLaughlin, NJ Sea Grant Consortium

Gabriela Munoz, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program

Doug Pabst, USEPA Region 2

Manuel Russ, Concerned Citizens of Bensonhurst

Judy Shaw, Rutgers/Sustainable Raritan River Initiative

Nina Zain, The River Project

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