



New York – New Jersey
Harbor & Estuary Program

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

of the New York – New Jersey
Harbor & Estuary Program
www.HarborEstuary.org

NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

February 8, 2013
Web conference

MINUTES

The web conference was recorded and can be viewed at <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/p8pph2sy8bo>

1. Introductions

2. Election Results

Election results were announced. Meredith Comi, Oyster Restoration Program Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper and former NJ alternate Co-Chair for the CAC, was elected as the new NJ Co-Chair.

3. New CAC Members

Existing members voted and accepted Dr. Judy Shay of The Sustainable Raritan River Initiative as a new HEP CAC member. The voting was conducted electronically after the meeting because of logistical issues.

4. HEP Updates

a. Fish Advisories Projects

Gabriela indicated that the projects in both states were starting to move along. Regina Keenan from the NY State Department of Health provided a brief overview of what is envisioned for the NYC workshop and asked CAC members to participate in the planning committee for the workshop. A few members indicated they were interested in participating.

b. 2012 and 2013 HEP Stewardship and Public Access Grants

Seven 2012 projects are ongoing and details are being worked out for an eighth project. Gabriela referred to the quarterly reports and HEP's website for more information. She also provided an overview of the 2013 grants cycle that was to be released shortly.

c. HEP 2013 Budget Process

The Policy Committee needs to define funding priorities for 2013. Once that happens, the CAC will have an opportunity to participate in the process as in previous years.

d. HEP Reassessment Process (Formerly known as HEP 2.0)

Alyssa introduced herself as the new coordinator of the process and provided a summary of the latest meeting and the status and next steps of several projects that had been proposed. A few CAC members stepped up to hold a conference call in the upcoming weeks to have a closer look at these projects and provide comments. Other members and participants were encouraged to join if interested.

Citizens Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

Meredith Comi, NY/NJ Baykeeper ✧ meredith@nynjbaykeeper.org ✧ 732-888-9870
Rob Buchanan, Village Community Boathouse ✧ avironvoile@gmail.com ✧ 917-656-7285

5. Public Access

a. Re-Joining Public Access Work Group with the CAC

Kate provided a brief background of this idea that had been discussed in several occasions. During the last Public Access Work Group meeting in December, the PAWG was in favor of re-joining the CAC and now CAC members needed to make a final decision by voting on the issue. After discussion, it was voted to re-join the groups, with the understanding that this does not preclude other structural changes within HEP in the future, and that a sub-group of the CAC could still meet separately if needed. The voting was conducted electronically after the meeting because of logistical issues.

b. Public Access Guide and Sea Level Rise Project Updates

The Public Access Work Group had been working on a Public Access Guide. Kate will be following up with those that volunteered to write sections to finalize the guide in the next two months. All are welcome to edit or provide feedback on the guide and should contact Kate for this.

Kate will present the Public Access & Sea Level Rise Project in a webinar, targeted for March. An invite to attend the webinar will be emailed to all HEP CAC and other interested parties via HEP's e-newsletter. In the meantime, information is available on HEP's website.

c. New Jersey Municipal Public Access Plans

Meghan Gosselink of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection presented on the new public access rules and Municipal Public Access Plan program. These rules detail when public access is required on proposed projects, and also establish the voluntary Municipal Public Access Plan program and the ability for a municipality to develop a Public Access Trust Fund. NJDEP has been cataloguing access points in the state (over 1,200 public access points prior to Sandy) as part of this process, and will be assisting in determining where (damaged) access can be replaced or whether new access points are needed. After the presentation, attendees shared comments and Meghan answered questions. She encouraged all to contact her with additional questions (Meghan.gosselink@dep.state.nj.us or 609-777-0586). NJDEP's public access website <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/cmp/access/> has additional information and public access list serve where people can sign up to receive updates.

6. Superstorm Sandy

a. FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework

Charles Heltsley of FEMA provided an overview of the National Disaster Recovery Framework. Then Donna Gill, the New Jersey Field Office Coordinator for the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery function, gave an update on their activities. They are coordinating with federal and state agencies in planning for long-term resiliency for the region. There is also a New York Field Office and the two offices are coordinating on common issues. There is an overarching Task Force (led by US Department of Housing & Urban Development Secretary Donovan) focusing on supplemental funding and coordinating with the National Disaster Recovery Framework. The states will be leading public information efforts.

Kate gave an overview of how HEP has been engaging in the process, providing comments and information to inform the recovery plan, such as restoration and acquisition priorities among other issues. HEP has met with the NJ and NY Field Offices, convening a joint meeting on estuary program priorities and resources. HEP continues its engagement with both of the field offices and with its partners concerning the issue of removing marine debris.

b. Harbor Coalition Update

Lilo Stainton gave an update on the NY-NJ Harbor Coalition latest activities to influence how Sandy supplemental funds are allocated, to ensure that projects that the Coalition's constituency cares about are funded. Lilo encouraged the CAC to contact her with questions (lilo@harborcoalition.org 212-935-9831 x113) or to visit the Coalition's website: <http://www.harborcoalition.org>.

7. Get to Know your Estuary: Bayshore Area

Joe Reynolds, of the Monmouth County Park System and Bayshore Regional Watershed Council, gave a virtual tour of the Bayshore area. Joe described the area, showed some of its environmental resources, challenges, Sandy effects, projects, and work that is being done in the area.

8. Water Quality Monitoring Workshop

Rob reminded the CAC that there is HEP funding available to conduct a workshop on water quality monitoring. The workshop is expected to take place in the fall and the planning process will start soon. Several CAC members indicated that they wanted to participate in the workshop and planning process. Rob and Gabriela will be in touch with those interested and schedule a meeting to start planning the workshop.

9. North Shore of Staten Island Update

Rob provided an update on two activities affecting this area: the Bayone Bridge raising project and the Ferris wheel. Some discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

ATTENDEES

Robert Alpern
Alyssa Arcaya, US EPA Region 2
Kate Boicourt, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
Rob Buchanan, Village Community Boathouse
Bart Chezar, Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club
Michelle Doran McBean, Future City, Inc.
Linda Eskenas, North Shore Waterfront Greenway, SI
Maggie Flanagan
Rebecca Foster, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Donna Gill, FEMA
Meghan Gosselink, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Damian Griffin, Bronx River Alliance
Carolina Griggs, NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Charles Heltsley, FEMA
Melanie Jackson
Jodie Jamieson, Hackensack Riverkeeper
Sam Janis, NY Harbor Foundation
Regina Keenan, NY State Department of Health
Louis Kleinman, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
Robert Laumbach, UMDNJ / EOHSI
Helen Manogue, Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy
Mike Misner, Eco Ocean

Gabriela Munoz, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
Caitlyn Nichols, Interstate Environmental Commission
Robert Nyman, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
Richard Palumbo, The Trust for Public Land
Dana Patterson, Edison Wetlands Association
Joseph Reynolds, Bayshore Regional Watershed Council
Marty Rosen
Manuel Russ, Concerned Citizens of Bensonhurst
Bill Schultz, Raritan Riverkeeper
Clay Sherman, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Rosalie Siegel, Port Authority of NY & NJ
Lilo Stainton, NY-NJ Harbor Coalition
Shino Tanikawa, NY Soil & Water Conservation District
Adina Taylor, Floating the Apple, Inc.
Nellie Tsipoura, NJ Audubon Society
Nick Tufaro, Middlesex County, NJ Planning Department
Nina Zain, The River Project