



New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 7, 2001
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 – 12:00
Hudson River Foundation

Minutes recorded by Shino Tanikawa, NYC SWCD

Carter Craft of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance made the announcement for the two boat trips; May 19 for Hackensack and Passaic Rivers and June 3 for the East River/western Long Island Sound. The trips are free, but people must register by calling 800-364-9943 or by e-mailing info@waterwire.net.

Shino Tanikawa presented an overview of the Citizens Advisory Committee structure, membership and responsibilities.

Subcommittees

CAC should consider establishing subcommittees. **Outreach Committee** to provide input on outreach materials and program was suggested by Frank Eadie. Bernie Blum suggested a subcommittee on **mosquito control**. Laura Bartovics suggested a **public access subcommittee**.

Meetings

Bernie Blum requests a meeting in Far Rockaway once in a while. While it is not possible to host a meeting in every community of the Harbor, the meetings will rotate between NY and NJ. Meeting locations will have to be accessible by public transportation.

Joe Chesonis remarked that his group is increasingly having a hard time finding meeting places in NJ. Many schools and places of worship do not want to be associated with certain environmental issues.

Laura Bartovics presented a summary of comments from the February and March Help the Harbor meetings and discussed ideas for future outreach and education projects.

Slide show

Laura informed the CAC that the slide show would be posted on the web. She will also have available a set of slides for community groups to borrow for their use.

Newsletter

Laura will be working on newsletters on a regular basis (quarterly). The first issue should be available in the fall. Shino commented that it would be a good idea to solicit newsletter articles from CAC members.

Fact sheets

Bernie Blum wanted a fact sheet focused on Jamaica Bay. Shino informed him that the Jamaica Bay Task Force will be beginning work on developing an issues maps for the Bay.

Dredged material disposal was also suggested as a fact sheet topic, although some felt this would be a better newsletter topic. Related to this issue, the representative from the Nassau Long Island Fisherman's Association expressed concern for the erosion of banks from channel deepening. Shino informed him that the DMMIWG just established a sub-workgroup to discuss dredging-induced erosion. This group is headed by Tom Wakeman and Marc Matsil. Minutes will be posted on the web. Manny Russ added that water quality models should be used to evaluate water quality impact of dredging.

Shino suggested a fact sheet on constructed wetlands as stormwater abatement technology. Laura will update the CSO fact sheet to include non-conventional abatement technology.

Management Committee Agenda

Nassau Long Island Fisherman's Association requests a policy change regarding power plant operations. He would like the official policy to become "no kill" from power plant intakes. He has approached the Hudson River Estuary Program on this issue and Fran Dunwell did include this topic in her Action Plan 2000.

Andrew Voros, Director of NY/NJ COAST gave a presentation on the **Use of Dredged Material for Abandoned Coal Mine Remediation in Pennsylvania.**

COAST was established through bi-state legislation with board members representing both states. Among various projects of the COAST are the Vortex, web searchable database on "who's doing what" in the Harbor and downloadable GIS maps showing various environmental parameters.

The COAST is currently working on a pilot project that connects contaminated dredge material disposal, abandoned coal mine remediation, and industrial by-products recycling.

Abandoned Mine Lands

Nationwide, there are 565,000 abandoned mine lands (AMLs) scattered across 29 states. Pennsylvania alone has 9,000 abandoned mines with more than 5,000 with environmental problems. Pennsylvania has a 302-year history of coal mining and has produced 15 billion tons of coal. Coal fields can be just below surface to more than 2000' below and span an area of 10 square miles. Between 30 to 50% of coal is left alone to support the ceiling of the underground galleries.

Abandoned mine lands lead to ground collapses and subsidence, which occur more than 800 times a year in PA. In addition, minerals exposed in the galleries oxidize and produce sulfuric acid when inundated by rainwater, leading to acid mine drainage. More than 3,000 miles of rivers and streams and 250,000 acres of wetlands have been affected by the acid drainage, leading to a pH of 1.8 in some streams. There have also been 45 underground fires resulting from the production of sulfuric acid within the mines.

Dredge material disposal and industrial by-products recycling

Quarter of a billion ton of dredged materials is expected from dredging the navigation channels in the NY/NJ Harbor. Some of this material is not suitable for water disposal, but can be amended by mixing it with coal ash and other industrial by-products such as lime sludge and kiln dust. When dredge material is processed this way, the contaminants in the sediment are bound into the molecular structure of the matrix through chemical reactions, rendering them inert even when re-suspended in water. The resulting cement is durable and can be used as permanent structure much like the original geological structure at the abandoned mine. The industrial by-products are usually discarded in landfills.

Remediation pilot project

The site of the pilot project is a strip mine on a hillside. The mining operation also filled a stream at the bottom of the hill. The remediation pilot project will re-contour the hillside using the cement (amended dredge material) and daylight the stream. The nearby stream had a pH of 1.8 before the pilot project began. The pH is now 6.9.

Economically, this project is disposing dredged material at \$54.50 per ton while the OENJ project in Bayonne is priced at \$67.50 per ton. The cost is projected to decrease for this project to \$29 per ton in the near future. Projects of this type can provide 10 billion cubic yards of dredge disposal capacity in Pennsylvania alone, as well as opportunities for mining the remaining coal. All the coal mines in Pennsylvania also have rail connection to the NY/NJ metro region (used to transport coal to the consumer center).

Institutional resistance was one of the obstacles to this project. Suspicion over the cleanliness of the cement was a concern for the local communities. The COAST overcame this problem through a series of meetings with the community members.

Meeting Attendees:

Laura Bartovics
Shi no Tanikawa
Megan Callus
Zoe Kelman
Bill Marinaccio
Andrew Voros
Michael Menschel
Bernie Blum
Steve Lang
Bill Hine
Anu Carroll
Jacob Ward
Carter Craft
Joel Farber
Bill Fink
Paul Kuchynskas
Russ Nicholson
Annette Barry Smith
Joe Fishman
Bonnie Lane Webber
Frank Eadie
Manuel Russ
Jim Lynch
Christine Hirt
Vincent Mackiel
Joseph Chesonis