



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

of the New York – New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program

www.HarborEstuary.org

**Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2008, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Future City, Inc. 1045 E. Jersey Street
Bonnell House, Elizabeth, NJ, 07201**

MINUTES

Introductions

Captain Bill Sheehan opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and noted that the CAC had not met in a long time. The previous meeting had been held on March 11, 2008 at the Hudson River Foundation. Attendees introduced themselves.

Election of a NY Co-Chair

The main purpose of the meeting was to nominate a replacement for the NY Co-Chair position, which has been recently left vacant after Carter Craft left the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. R. Nyman suggested asking the alternative CAC representative to the Management Committee for NY—Eugenia Flatow—to serve as interim NY Co-Chair until new elections are held. The current terms for the co-chairs end in June 2009 but, because the bylaws establish that elections are to be held during the first meeting of the year, another option would be to elect new co-chairs for both NY and NJ early in 2009. The CAC was in favor of this option and it was agreed to request nominations from CAC members until early January 2009 and hold elections in February.

CAC Membership and Voting Eligibility

The election of a new co-chair prompted a review of CAC bylaws and discussion about voting rights. According to the HEP CAC Bylaws, all CAC members have voting rights but they need to have attended half or more of the year's meetings to vote at any given election. However, records of membership status or attendance had not been kept lately. The HEP office will look for the most recent list of members and will send out a survey to the Google Groups list to inquire about membership status. It was suggested that the list of members should be posted on the CAC webpage.

CAC Bylaws

Because of the upcoming CAC elections, and given that the bylaws have been written in 2005, it was deemed timely to review and update them. Present members agreed to identify and address major issues in the bylaws during the meeting and subsequently request additional input from all CAC members. Any amendments to the bylaws will be approved in the next CAC meeting. After discussion, the following changes were proposed:

- Clarify that all members are voting members, except those representing government agencies
- Delete mention of the Public Access Subcommittee (Article IV, Section 1), as this has become a separate HEP Committee
- Delete references to work groups in Article IV, Section 1

Collaboration with NJDEP Coastal Management Program

Dorina Frizzera, Environmental Scientist with the Coastal Management Office of NJDEP talked to the CAC about this collaboration opportunity. NJDEP's Coastal Management Program (CMP) administers NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Program and grants. Among other duties, the CMP also oversees the Hudson River Walkway, which is now almost complete except for some gaps. The walkway runs from the George Washington Bridge to Bayonne, and the CMP is working to ensure that the gaps are completed.

One of the grant tasks that NJDEP's CMP has identified is to bring attention to the success of the Hudson River Walkway. The idea is to carry out different activities (walks, runs, bike rides, kayaking, birding, sidewalk sales, etc.) along the walkway and this is something that could fit with HEP and the CAC. Possible roles for the CAC would be to help with planning resources, and to help interested organizations carry out the activities through the Stewardship Grants Program. This project is currently in its initial stages and many details are not defined yet, including leadership roles, which could be shared between the CMP and others. This project would be carried out in 2010.

R. Nyman suggested that this effort could also include the Hudson River Park and have both sides of the Hudson offering activities, with ferries going back and forth between NY and NJ. Dorina welcomed the idea and pointed out that this could also involve the NY CMP.

Capt. B. Sheehan noted that several groups should know about this, including the Hudson River Fishermen Association and the Waterway Conservancy. Dorina asked the CAC to identify and invite appropriate organizations and contacts.

Capt B. Sheehan reminded the group that 2009 is the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage up the Hudson River and that the many events that will be planned for next year could make this effort redundant. Dorina said that timing issues would not allow NJDEP's CMP do this in 2009. Several participants agreed that there could never be too many events bringing people to the waterfront and water.

Don Chesley mentioned that Stevens Institute is planning to develop their section of the walkway and that they could have science-related activities at the site.

M. Doran McBean suggested re-visiting this in February and have the CMP attend the CAC meeting and bring their vision to the group, including what type of support they are looking for. It would also be desirable to present a map, even if draft, to provide a rough idea of the potential sites.

Other Issues

M. Doran McBean brought up the issue of fish advisories and subsistence fishing. In Elizabeth, NJ, as well as many other areas throughout the Estuary and beyond, there is a large population that depends on fishing as a source of protein, including pregnant and nursing women and children. There are not many alternative protein sources to offer these groups, which makes it difficult for them to comply with fish advisories even if they know about the risk. Other issues include lack of trust, language and cultural obstacles, and the challenge of conveying a difficult message on potential risk posed by fish consumption. This could be one of the themes on which CAC focuses efforts in the future.

The next meeting will be held in February 2009. A few possible dates were proposed and a final date will be picked based on members' availability.

The meeting was adjourned at around noon.

ATTENDEES

J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor, City of Elizabeth
Don Chesley, Stevens Institute of Technology
John Dobosiewicz, Kean University
Michelle Doran-McBean, Future City, Inc.
Dorina Frizzera, NJDEP, Coastal Management Program (*by phone*)
Gabriela Munoz, NEIWPC, Harbor Estuary Program
Robert Nyman, U.S. EPA, Harbor Estuary Program
Anne-Marie Runfola, Bronx River Alliance
Lisa Ryan, Hackensack Riverkeeper
Captain Bill Sheehan, Hackensack Riverkeeper, CAC Co-Chair
Clay Sherman, NJDEP
Jennifer Stark-Hernandez, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance