



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

Conference Call on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

MINUTES

Introductions

Michelle Doran McBean and *Roland Lewis* welcomed participants and all attendees introduced themselves.

October 5th meeting with regional CACs and U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck

Bob Nyman summarized the purpose of this meeting: U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck wanted to meet with the Citizens Advisory Committees of the six National Estuary Programs (NEPs) in EPA Region 2 (NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program, Long Island Sound Study, Peconic Estuary Program, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Barnegat Bay Partnership, and San Juan Bay) to learn about their interests and priorities and to provide an opportunity for CACs to interact and learn from each other. A draft agenda was shared with the CAC. During the morning session, the Regional Administrator (RA) and Estuary Program directors will be present and there will be brief presentations from the CACs, Q&A and discussions with the RA. The afternoon session will be for CACs only and will include discussions to identify cross-cutting issues as well as discussions on topics such as advocacy and communication that will allow CACs to learn from each other. Throughout the meetings, CACs will have opportunities to bring up issues of concern.

Bob Alpern asked whether there would be representatives of Coastal Zone Management, ecosystem restoration and other programs, as their presence would be key to achieve better integration of all the regional programs. *Bob Nyman* explained that this meeting was strictly for NEP CACs but that there would be ample opportunity to bring up this issue and possibly convene a future broader meeting as an outcome of this meeting.

Bob Alpern asked that climate change and sea level rise be one of the themes discussed and that materials about the Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) EPA program be shared prior to and during the meeting, as well as which NEPs already participate in the program. **Bob Nyman will send out the link to the Climate Ready Estuaries website (<http://www.epa.gov/climate-ready-estuaries>)**. He also indicated that Kate Boicourt recently joined HEP as the Habitat Coordinator and she will be leading an effort to assess the conditions for HEP to participate in the Climate Ready Estuaries program. The CRE is expected to release a request for proposals in the spring.

Bob Alpern also suggested inviting Dennis Suszkowski and representatives of other Science and Technical Advisory Committees (STACs) as he considers it would be desirable to have a single

Citizens Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

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

STAC for the whole region. *Michelle* suggested that, since the Regional Administrator wanted this to be a CAC-driven process, to invite the STAC and other groups to our CAC meeting.

Bob Alpern mentioned that another topic to be discussed should be how upcoming political transitions in several states would affect the NEPs, pointed out that political leaders should be contacted early on, and asked that a list of governors that are up for re-election be circulated prior to the meeting to provide context. *Roland* agreed and said that he would bring up this issue during his presentation. *Don Chesley* indicated this could be discussed under “Topic 2: Process” during the October 5th meeting. Other possibilities would be under “Communication”.

Bob Alpern also indicated that he will bring up his desire to see better integration of stewardship initiatives to encompass habitat, recreation and access issues, similar to the Long Island Sound Study approach.

Michelle asked how many people had RSVP'd already. *Bob Nyman* said that there were probably less than 20 people so far, mostly from HEP. Few attendees are expected from CACs in more distant areas, and HEP CAC co-chairs are welcome to reach out to their members to encourage attendance. **Bob Nyman will find out whether remote access would be available.** The proceedings of the meeting will be circulated among all the CACs. **Michelle will follow up with a targeted email to the CAC.**

Dan Mundy asked whether HEP CAC could play a role—by way of a letter of support, a resolution, or other means of exerting pressure—helping secure funds for habitat restoration projects in Jamaica Bay, which are part of the beneficial use of dredging materials from the Harbor deepening project. *Bob Nyman* indicated that CAC can certainly take a stance on any project or issue and suggested that *Dan* reviewed the CAC By-laws (<http://www.harborestuary.org/citadvcomm.htm>) where the procedure is described, consulted with *Lisa Baron* and the USACE regarding what type of action by the CAC would be most useful, and then followed up with *Roland* and *Michelle*. *Bob Alpern* indicated that he would like to see any available information on this topic and pointed out that congressmen outside of Jamaica Bay may also be influenced as well.

HEP CAC participation at the New Jersey League of Municipalities

Michelle briefed the group about ongoing activities to prepare for HEP's participation at the League's Annual Conference in November, where HEP will have both a panel presentation on November 16 and an exhibit table for the duration of the Conference. CAC co-chairs and HEP staff have been holding weekly conference calls to prepare for the event, which is proving to be very labor intensive. A conference call involving all presenters to plan HEP's panel is scheduled for next week. Some of the specifics that have been discussed include exhibit table displays, handouts and a streaming visual, making sure that HEP presents a unified message, and surveying municipalities for the type of information they would like HEP to provide. *Kate Boicourt* is currently working on a poster display for the exhibit. *Bob Nyman* mentioned that one idea for a streaming display could be the Estuary Live event that HEP carried out a few years back.

Meredith Comi indicated that both she and *Debbie Mans* would be available to help at the exhibit table. *Michelle* asked that they take a look at the schedule table that *Gabriela* sent out to the group and let her know what dates and times they would be available.

Roland mentioned that *Kerry Kirk Pfugh* (NJDEP) had indicated that the NJ League of Municipalities is a very robust event, with lots of events taking place at any given time, so it is essential to reach out to mayors if we want them to attend our session. *Bob Nyman* will be drafting an invitation letter to be sent to NJ mayors. ***Roland encouraged CAC members to volunteer to follow up on those invitations by calling mayor offices.***

Don Chesley pointed out that all municipalities have education funding issues and that HEP could help by directing them to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Education funding and other federal funding opportunities to develop education programs. *Michelle* indicated that there are funding challenges and ***Don said he would try to find out more about funding opportunities.***

Bob Alpern mentioned that he attended a meeting at EPA on climate change in June and he was impressed with *Kenneth Pringle*, Mayor of Belmar, who was the featured speaker. He suggested reaching out to him for the October 5th meeting. He reminded that HEP used to have a Political Advisory group, which was later joined with the CAC; hence CAC's responsibility to engage elected officials. He asked *Roland* and *Michelle* to follow up on this.

Next CAC Meeting on December 15th in New York City

The meeting is expected to take place at Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance's offices but *Roland* will confirm this shortly. The agenda has not been drafted yet but will likely center on HEP's budget for next year and briefing about the NJ League of Municipalities. *Michelle* praised the CAC for their involvement in the budget process earlier this year and suggested that CAC members start thinking about and preparing for the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

ATTENDEES

Robert Alpern
Don Chesley, Stevens Institute of Technology
Meredith Comi, NY/NJ Baykeeper
Michelle Doran McBean, Future City, Inc.
Roland Lewis, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
Dan Mundy, Jamaica Bay Eco Watchers
Gabriela Munoz, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program
Robert Nyman, US EPA Region 2
Manuel Russ, Concerned Citizens of Bensonhurst
Nina Zain, The River Project