



## New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

### **HEP Habitat Workgroup Meeting Minutes**

**April 27, 2005**

**Bloomberg Building**

**10am**

### **Habitat Workgroup (HWG) Charge from HEP**

Bob Nyman (EPA) led the discussion on the HWG charge from HEP. HWG accomplishments are the HEP Priority Acquisition and Restoration Site List, Wetland Mitigation White Paper, and OASIS mapping of HEP sites. The HEP Targets and Goals have new direction for habitat. Key species list is one of the new charges to the HWG. Someone suggested that LISS should be involved in the HWG. Shellfish and benthic restorations are areas that HEP should focus on. HEP is also lacking information on benthic biodiversity.

### **Harbor Roundtable**

A world class port and estuary are the focus of the Harbor Roundtable. They will be lobbying for this. The groups involved in the Harbor Roundtable believe that economics and the environment need to be linked. Corporation should be included. Where do we get the money to put together a plan to create a better harbor. HEP cannot obtain money for this therefore it the partners (members of organizations) that have to come up with a funding mechanism. The states are also doing a lot work in regards to restoration and acquisition. NJDEP acquired a lot of sites and HEP has played critical role in which sites NJDEP acquires. NY has their Open Space Plan as well as their Bond Act.

### **Acquisition and Restoration Sites**

USACE would be able to bring more sites to the HEP lists through the HRE. USACE-Headquarters wants sites to be prioritized and there needs to be criteria. The first site to restore should be the most cost-effective. The USACE lists are found in the Needs and Opportunities Report and RPA. How doe the HEP list mesh with these lists when non-HEP sites don not have the same information behind them. OASIS may have the USACE list. Public Access and the Habitat lists should be combined. There was a suggestion to ring other programs to the HWG meetings to have them present how they do things in regards to habitat.

**Next Meeting:** June 22, 2005