



## New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

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

**November 3, 2005**

EPA, 290 Broadway, 27D

10am

### **Discussion: Kelly Kunert's Thesis- A GIS Approach to Habitat Restoration Site Selection & Prioritization in the NY-NJ Harbor**

The HWG decided that it would be beneficial to have Kelly Kunert present her thesis to the HWG. She will be invited to the next HWG Meeting that will take place in January 2006.

### **Key Species Project**

The HWG decided that the Key Species Subcommittee should continue with its efforts on this project. The consensus was that the subcommittee should look at the States' Wildlife Plans from NY, NJ and CT and the subcommittee should determine which types of species are missing in these plans that are important to the Harbor. This would allow us to come up with a list of 5-10 species along with a rationale as to why they are of concern in the Harbor. We have also been asked to determine why we need a list of key species and what does "key" mean and why they are key species. We also need to determine how the list will be used. The subcommittee will meet again in late November or early December to work on the above items.

### **Presentation: OASIS- Steve Romalewski**

OASIS has added the new polygon shapefiles for the HEP Priority Restoration and Acquisition Sites to OASIS. There are also links to the HEP Stewardship database. OASIS has also added public access points that were received from Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. Google Earth will also be utilized as a new tool for viewing HEP sites on OASIS. Natural areas were also added to OASIS and this information was supplied by NYC Audubon and NRG. OASIS would like to add more information to their website, such as anecdotes, and they would also like to make the site interactive with the public, i.e., the public can send in information to add to the site. The public interaction will be self-moderated. As of right now, OASIS is linked to many sources of information. There have been 2400 visits annually to the HEP site on OASIS. CMAP is moving to the CUNY Graduate Center. OASIS has also been talking to NJDEP and Rutgers University for arials of New Jersey.

### **HEP Budget**

Bob Nyman discussed the HEP budget process for the upcoming FY06 budget cycle. Workgroups need to provide input beginning in December 2005 that will be submitted for potential budget items. Items that will be funded will be decided by May 2006.

### **Policy Committee Meeting Update**

Bob Nyman passed out the draft meeting minutes from the last Policy Committee Meeting that was held in September 2005. At the meeting the Policy Committee adopted the CRIP as the HEP's restoration plan for the Harbor. Len Houston had made a resolution to the Policy Committee that he will revise for the Policy Committee.

### **Hudson River Foundation Workshop –Jim Lodge**

The Hudson River Foundation (HRF) had a workshop that focused on setting target ecosystem characteristics for the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) and taking existing concepts and mold them in a way that would be beneficial to the CRIP. The workshop was attended by scientists, non-profits, and government. There will be a report in 4-6 weeks. HRF is going to work with the USACE on the CRIP in order to develop what the targets will be. The first draft of the CRIP will be developed in a year. A resolution should be developed that states how the HEP will interact with the USACE and what the role of HEP will be. Bob Alpern wanted to know if the Bight will be included in the CRIP. Jim Lodge said that the workshop was an idea generating workshop and did not focus on the technical and science. Benthic and water column habitats were discussed at the workshop and Chris Villari wanted to know if the HWG would begin discussing these two types of habitat as well. Jim Lodge wants the Harbor to have a plan that puts the Harbor on the same level as Florida and San Francisco where they are getting a lot of money from the government. Alex Brash and Jim Lodge said that USACE does not really know what their process is for the CRIP and restoration therefore this is a big opportunity for the HWG to influence and be part of the process. NYSDOS should be involved in the process as well, especially the CZM department.

**Next Meeting:** January 19, 2006

## **Attendees**

Alexander Brash, NPCA  
Alice Belling, NYCDEP, 718-595-4366  
Anne Carpenter, NYCSWCD  
Bob Alpern  
Bob Dieterich, USEPA, 212-637-3794  
Bob Nyman, USEPA, 212-637-3809  
Bryan Becker, ALS, 609-294-3111  
Cathy Yuhas, NJSG/HEP, 212-637-3792  
Chris Villari, NYCDEP, 718-595-5565  
David Burg, Wild Metro, 212-308-9453  
Frank Steimle, NOAA NMFS, 732-872-3059  
Jane Sokolow, OASIS  
Jim Lodge, HRF, 212-483-7667  
Kristin Philips, Wild Metro, 212-308-9453  
Manuel Russ, CAC NYCDEP  
Mario Paula, USEPA, 212-637-3819  
Melissa Kuskie, NPCA, 212-617-2771  
Ray Hinkle, URS, 973-812-6886  
Rosalie Siegel, PANYNJ, 212-435-4405  
Steven Romalewski, CMAP/OASIS  
Yigal Gelb, NYC Audubon