



New York - New Jersey  
Harbor Estuary  
Program

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2003**

The meeting was convened at 10:00 at the EPA Offices at 290 Broadway, NY, NY. Bob Nyman chaired the meeting.

1. The minutes from the December 13, 2002 meeting were approved as written.
2. Bob Nyman gave an overview of the Policy Committee conference call that was held on January 28th.
3. Nancy Welsh presented 3 habitat sites for Management Committee consideration that were being recommended by the Habitat Work Group. The sites were Weequahic Lake, Many Mind Creek, and Arverne Renewal Area. She also handed out draft definitions of “priority” and “high priority”, but noted that the HWG was still working on them and that they were not to be used for today’s discussion.

Mr. Blum spoke in favor of the Arverne site, as did Ms Flatow. She stated that it was critical to Jamaica Bay and that it was within the flood zone. Dennis Suszkowski questioned the connectivity of Weequahic Lake to the harbor. Ms. Welsh noted that historically, they were connected.

After additional discussion, the three sites were approved as recommended, and will be passed to the Policy Committee.

Dave Rossenblatt asked how the habitat list was used. Mr. Nyman responded that it was used by multiple entities when considering projects to undertake. By being listed, it shows that multiple agencies and organizations have reviewed the sites and think that their restoration or acquisition are reasonable. Dick Draper said that NYSDEC considers the list when making Bond Act decisions. Ms. Flatow said that the Port Authority also uses it.

4. The budget for carrying out the nutrient related work was then discussed. It was noted that

there appears to be a shortfall, due to additional requests for work related to the targets and goals. Ms. Flatow suggested that HEP keeps track of the Chesapeake Bay goals effort, upon which we are modeling our work. Mr. Rosenblatt asked if all the targets and ranges will be done by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Nyman responded that many will be. Ms. Welsh noted that it is difficult to estimate the total amount of funds needed for the habitat work because each situation is different.

5. Laura Bartovics provided an update on the mini-grants program. She said that the two clean sweep projects had been combined and will be resubmitted. She added that the selection process and recommendations were reviewed by a group. There was no set geographic allocation, but it ended up with about half in NY and half in NJ. Dr. Suszkowski questioned if it was appropriate for the South Street Seaport to receive two awards. Ms. Bartovics said they were both good proposals, but future mini-grant efforts would examine whether to award more than one grant to the same organization. The MC approved the recommended mini-grants.

6. Ms. Bartovics continued with a brief update on the planning for the March Volunteer Monitoring workshop. Ms. Flatow added that she would like to have recognition for groups.

7. The January 31, 2003 draft of the Clean Sediment and Navigation Goal was then reviewed. Modifications were made directly on the draft and are not included in these minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.