



New York - New Jersey  
Harbor Estuary Program

## **New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program Management Committee Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2004**

1. The meeting was convened at the Hudson River Foundation at 10:00 and chaired by Bob Nyman.
2. The minutes from the November 18, 2003 Management Committee meeting were reviewed. Dave Rosenblatt provided a modification to comments attributed to him regarding the NJDEP Commissioner.
3. Cathy Yuhas distributed copies of the H2O crossing guide that was developed for HEP by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. The guide discussed the issue of placing signs identifying waterbodies in the Harbor with the intent of familiarizing the public with the estuary. Carter Craft of the MWA summarized the report. It was noted that landmark bridges would probably need Arts Commission approval. Mr. Rosenblatt suggested that information be added to the sign that gets the message across of why it is important to protect the estuary. Mr. Craft will work with Joe Monaco from the Port Authority to further develop proposed designs and work to get them posted on a Port Authority properties.
4. Steve Romalewski of NYPIRG provided some background on the OASIS website. He then provided an online review of the portion of the site that highlights the HEP habitat sites. Nancy Welsh added that the effort is trying to integrate with the Corps' Hudson Raritan Estuary study and that it is desirable for the two programs to be complimentary. Mr. Romalewski added that the US Forest Service plans to continue to support OASIS in the long-term, but that they are looking for partners to help support it. Ms. Welsh requested that a press release be developed announcing the HEP use of OASIS.
5. Laura Bartovics provided an update on the outreach activities, including a handout. She noted that the National Estuary Day events this year are not part of the mini-grant program and that it has yet to be determined how they will be run. A planning meeting will be scheduled for April or May.

6. Veronica Crow then showed a PowerPoint presentation on the NJ Harbor Dischargers Group harbor survey that will compliment the NYCDEP survey. She noted that the Passaic River, Hackensack River, and Newark Bay areas were begun four years ago, and that the rest of the New Jersey Waters were begun in the Fall of 2003. HEP's intention is to provide a single harbor-wide assessment based on both surveys.

7. Mr. Nyman distributed the draft table of budget requests. He noted that there were more requests than funds available. Additional detail was requested on some of the items and was to be turned in within a month. Dennis Suszkowski said that he would be submitting a request on behalf of CARP. Nancy Welsh said that funds many not be needed for the list of priority species. She added that the requests that she was making on behalf of the Habitat Work Group would enable here to support their efforts to meet the Targets and Goals. Carter Craft said that the mini-grant program gave meaning to HEP at the local level. He suggested that he would work with others to identify other sources for the mini-grant funds, such as private foundations. Mr. Nyman noted that \$510,000 of non-federal matching funds were required this year, and that additional sources of these funds needed to be identified. He added that the leveraged funding information was also needed.

8. A discussion was then held about the upcoming Congressional briefings. Mr. Nyman said that he expected to conduct 16 staff briefings on March 9 and 10, while in attendance at the National NEP meeting in Washington, DC. Ms. Flatow said that it would be desirable to have a group briefing in the future, as was done a few years ago.

9. Ms. Flatow introduced the two new CAC co-chairs – Carter Craft from New York and Debbie Mans from New Jersey. She asked if unpaid volunteer time could be counted as match. Mr. Nyman responded that he did not believe so, but that it could likely be counted in the leveraging table. Ms. Flatow said that the CAC would like to do more site visits in the future.

10. Dennis Suszkowski then gave the STAC update. He said that the State of the Estuary final proofs would be reviewed today and that they would then be transferred to Laura Bartovics for printing. He noted that the next HEP/HRF seminar was on tomcod. Dr. Suszkowski said that he was recently invited to participate in a Delaware Estuary Program meeting to discuss PCB efforts. He said a sediment transport workshop was also held that looked at issues needing research. A report on the workshop will be produced by an employee at Woods Hole. He also distributed a recent newspaper article on Tom Wakeman's new assignment overseas.

Fran Dunwell said the Hudson River Estuary study was undertaking an assessment of blue crabs and juvenile sturgeon.

Ms. Flatow requested more in depth presentations by various work groups on their activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.