



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary
Program

New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting of June 22, 2006
(October 3, 2006)

1. The Management Committee meeting was convened at 10:00 at the offices of the Interstate Environmental Commission in NYC. Bob Nyman chaired the meeting.
2. The minutes of the April 3, 2006 MC meeting were approved as written.
3. Cathy Yuhas provided a hand out and reviewed progress on the Key Species work. She said that an ad hoc group had met several times and developed a list of species, a rationale for including species on the list, and a statement of the purpose of the effort. She also provided an outline of information that would be included in each species write-up and a sample write-up using the horseshoe crab. There was discussion about how the materials could be used for education, including making reprints of the information and making it available on the website. Alex Brash said that it could also be used to as part of a report card on the health of the estuary. There was some discussion about which species of mussels was to be included, and Ms. Yuhas said she would clarify that. The MC thanked her for the presentation and said they looked forward to seeing the final product.
4. Ms. Yuhas then continued with a discussion about the geographic scope of the HEP core area and how that would influence which habitat projects could be added to the acquisition and restoration list. She presented several options on a map for the MC to consider. The MC asked for clarification of some issues, included identifying the study area for the HRE CRP work. Mr. Brash and Ms. Yuhas said they would work together and present options and recommendation for the next meeting.
5. Bob Nyman presented the draft memo from himself on behalf of the MC, with attachments from NYSDEC, NJDEP and the Long Island Sound Study, endorsing the use of the System Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM) for water quality analysis and any necessary TMDLs related to nutrients and dissolved oxygen. The MC agreed that SWEM was appropriate for the tasks and agreed that the memo endorsing SWEM should be finalized.
6. Jim Olander and Bob Nyman provided overview Powerpoint presentations on the status of the pathogens and nutrients TMDLs.
7. The Annual work plan for HEP that was based on the budget that was previously approved by the Policy Committee, was approved by the Management Committee. After approval for grant purposes by the EPA Regional Administrator, it will be submitted to EPA HQ.

8. Cortney Worrall presented her analysis of the Tidal Exchange that was based on her interviews with many of the Management Committee members. The MC agreed with her recommendations and asked her to implement them.
9. Laura Bartovics discussed the stewardship work plan development process and presented a diagram highlighting the major steps. Under the general timeline, draft conceptual projects will be developed in September, a final list of projects will be reviewed in October, and projects will be funded in November. Carter Craft suggested that there should be a steering committee with work group reps to decide on project ideas. The MC liked the overall plan and requested that the effort continue.
10. The current public access group for HEP is a sub committee of the CAC. There was considerable discussion, including a handout, about need to make the group a full work group on par with the other HEP work groups. It was suggested that the group better define its charge and consider how the effort will be integrated into state and other efforts. John Tavolaro suggested that navigation access issues be considered as well. It was decided that additional reps from several of the agencies needed to be involved.
11. The status reports, based on the targets and goals, are scheduled to be put into a final 2006 form by September. The reports will be updated on an annual basis.
12. John Tavolaro gave a brief update of the Regional Sediment Management Work Group. He said that they are setting up goals for a program and are developing write-ups on sediment quality, quantity, and dredging.
13. Charlie DeQuilfelt noted that a sea level rise study was underway out of EPAHQ and that HEP may want to keep an eye on their findings.
14. Alex Brash noted that the Senate interior subcommittee was expected to mark up the budget on June 27th that funds the National Estuary Program.
15. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.