



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of August 19, 1999
Location: Hudson River Foundation**

(Draft Feb 4, 2000)

1. Kevin Bricke convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. The no modifications were made to the agenda.

2. The minutes of the May 20, 1999 MC meeting were accepted with the addition of a few changes suggested by Mr. Bricke.

3. Jennifer DiLorenzo introduced Judy Shaw of NJDEP who gave a presentation on urban issues. NJDEPs efforts with bringing planning to the local level, neighborhood redevelopment plans, the Hudson River Walkway, pollution prevention and environmental equity were all presented. Tara Paxton discussed watershed and outreach efforts focused on the Raritan Watershed. She indicated that she wanted to link more with HEP.

4. Karen Chytalo gave an update on the wetlands permitting MOU. She said that DEC had sent comments several months ago. DEC won't sign the current version, but were willing to work on it. A meeting has been scheduled for September 9th with DEC, the Corps, and NYC to discuss it. Marc Matsil said we need to strengthen the wetland permitting to reduce the loss of wetlands. Paul Gallay questioned the number of permits that were transferred. It was decided to remove the MOU from the Policy Committee's September agenda.

6. Bob Nyman gave an update on the EPA grant to NJDEP grant for atmospheric deposition work to augment the CARP and TMDL work. The work plan is still being devised by NJDEP.

Sheldon Lipke discussed the Linden-Roselle pilot trackdown project. He said that a work plan had been developed and that the large scale CARP project would be underway soon. Mr. Bricke said that beyond working out the technical details of methodology, the project needed to show actual reduction of PCBs. Mr. Bricke added that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Bernie Blum expressed concern about the Castle Astoria permit. Kevin Bricke recommended that people contact the Corps or Doug Pabst at EPA with questions about the process for review.

Mike Weinstein mentioned that there were to be special sessions at the SETAC meeting in Philadelphia on atmospheric deposition and dredged material that would be of interest to the Harbor. He added that NJ Sea Grant would be conducting a work shop on atmospheric deposition in the Spring of 2000.

Dick Draper said there was a need to communicate better with other work groups. Dennis Suszkowski said that communication within agencies is most critical.

Marc Matsil said that he was getting calls from consultants regarding the habitat map. He added that the habitat report is in final draft. Karen Chytalo said it was OK to have the wetlands MOU in the report, but that she wanted NYSDEC's comments included. Marc and Karen agreed to work out the language. Marc and Jennifer DiLorenzo agreed to explore printing the document at NJDEP. Mike Weinstein suggested that Jack Matise at NJ Sea Grant be approached. It was pointed out that a request had been made to the White House for habitat acquisition funds.

Bob Nyman handed out the ANEP newsletter.

Bernie Blum raised the issue of mosquito control. He requested that the approach to Jamaica Bay be reconsidered to include OMWM.

Marc Matsil said that he had submitted proposals to NYS for the Bond Act. He added that Paul Katzer had sent a large version of the HEP habitat map to NYSDEC in March. He said that because of the delays in getting the habitat status report printed, that the soiree needed to be postponed.

Dick Draper gave an update on the nutrient work group. He said that there had been three meetings with presentations by HydroQual. The MEG was sending comments to the chair of the group based on these meetings. The work group will meet on Sept 14th to go over the comments. He noted that there would likely need to be improvements in the SWEM model in the areas of NJ and perhaps in the East River. Mr. Bricke said the group should make recommendations for improvements to the model through their work plan.

Jim Olander gave an update on the pathogens work group. He noted that they had their first meeting in June and they were assessing the CSO model and that they intended to come up with a budget and work plan for completing the TMDLs. He said they may need to incorporate a new indicator organism. The work group had their second meeting on August 11th where HydroQual presented the CSO model, Bypass model and SWEM. LMS was also present and discussed the East River Model. Their next meeting is in Sept and they plan on discussing indicators and comparison of water quality standards. Sheldon Lipke said that there may be a need for alternate disinfection techniques because of chlorine residual issues and that pathogens may be the most difficult of all TMDLs. Paul Molinari is part of a workgroup investigating endpoints for pathogens. Dennis Suszkowski asked if bathing beaches and shellfish beds were considered the affected areas. Mr. Olander said yes and Mr. Bricke added that it would also include water quality standards. He said that future MC discussions need to take place on pathogens issues.

Mr. Lipke said that most CSOs are owned and operated by local municipalities and that outreach needs to be made to them. Mr. Bricke said that the pathogens work group needs to address outreach.

Mr. Bricke said there would be a proposal prior to the PC meeting to complete the dredging chapter. Dr. Suszkowski said it would be desirable to have a roadmap of how the agencies deal with each other. Mr. Bricke said that perhaps the PC needs a brainstorming session on the dredge chapter.

Bob Nyman presented the structure of the various toxics work groups, including the CARP MC. Mr. Gallay said it looked fine to him as per discussions with Mr. Bricke. There was no closure pending future discussions on the dredging forum.

Dr. Suszkowski described the CARP Statement of Principles. He said the last two CARP MC meetings discussed modeling work and that there would be a two tiered approach to modeling. He said that within 18 months, there would be a tool to look at the data, including for use with TMDLs and dredged material management and would cover water quality, hydrology and sediment transport. The funds would come to HRF to manage and that they would issue the RFP. The QA system will be finalized shortly. There is a proposal for a full time CARP manager. Mr. Bricke added that the modeling is not so much focused on TMDLs, but rather on a technical tool that will serve more than one purpose. Mike Wienstein asked if a synthesis of issues was necessary and if a workshop on endpoints was needed. Dr. Suszkowski asked if toxicity was to be the endpoint. Fred Grassle said the conceptual side is important.

Gene Flatow said she was planning a conference on Dec 10th that would evaluate where we are and where we should be. She added that NRDC may get involved with the Bight.

Nancy Steinberg gave a quick update on the Human Health indicator work.

It was decided that future minutes would be posted on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.