



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of 2/25/99
Location: Hudson River Foundation**

(Draft May 11, 1999)

1. Kevin Bricke convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. The agenda was reviewed.
2. The Management Committee approved the minutes from the December 15, 1998 meeting without change.
3. Bob Nyman reviewed the draft list of budget items for the 1999 HEP budget that was developed by the PC Reps at their Jan 7, 1999 meeting. There was discussion about the \$10,000 of travel funds. It was agreed that the chair of the CAC or other committees could be reimbursed for occasional meetings outside of the core HEP area. An example would be a Nutrients Work Group meeting in Stamford, CT.

The MC felt that the \$90,000 for the program office was a priority item for funding. The states then requested that the remaining \$210,000 (\$105,000 each) be allocated to them to support HEP activities. Kevin Bricke agreed that these three items (travel-\$10K, program office-\$90K, and state support \$210K) should make up the priority HEP budget items.

There was then discussion about the remaining items on the list. Gene Flatow said that Commissioner Meile agreed to printing the State of the Estuary Report as well as possibly other reports as long as there were others willing to pay for some items. Ms. Flatow also said that NYCDEP was willing to allocate one person one day a week to help develop the report. Jennifer DiLorenzo said that NJDEP could provide some printing services to HEP. Ms. Flatow raised the issue of perhaps getting some things printed through the Government Printing Office. Marc Matsil requested funds for printing the Habitat Work Group report and distributed a cost estimate for between \$34K and \$45K. NJDEP said that they would be able to print that report for the HWG. Mr. Matsil said he had very high standards and that he would want to review the capabilities of the NJDEP printing office before making a commitment. Bob Nyman was then tasked with convening a group of interested MC members and others to discuss how to get the remaining budget items funded. At a minimum, the group should include Marcia Bystryn, Jim Mueller, Phil DeGaetano, Joe Olha, Gene Flatow, and Jennifer DiLorenzo.

Kevin Bricke noted that \$90,000 was going to be proposed to the Policy Committee for use for hiring staff for the HEP program office. EPA would also provide the office space and the director. EPA would provide a workplan for the office and the states will provide workplans for their funds.

Bob Nyman said that he had been working to complete the Biennial Review and needed comments by March 11th. He also mentioned that he had gotten very little input for the Tracking Report. NJ was the only entity to provide significant comments while NY provided a couple.

6. Bob Nyman introduced the next agenda item, public outreach, and said that it was one of his goals to ensure that HEP had a coordinated Harbor-wide outreach effort. Nancy Steinberg discussed the HEP public outreach effort that she is coordinating on the NY side. She handed out a draft list of outreach materials that would be desirable to have, including fact sheets, newsletters, etc. Marcia Bystryn added that a coordinated outreach effort was needed to do the job right. Ms. Steinberg then distributed copies of the six tip strips and added that these were really the only up to date outreach materials available.

Jennifer DiLorenzo described the outreach effort on the NJ side. She mentioned that PSE&G and the Department of Motor Vehicles could be used to distribute some materials by getting these entities to include information in their mailings. She mentioned that NJDEP was also updating fact sheets. Ms. DiLorenzo said that their watershed program could distribute material and that they would be happy to add the HEP logo to it. They also have found that “teaching the teachers” is a very successful way to get environmental information out. She then showed an example of a coloring book that was produced.

Anne Galli said that we need concise information about what HEP is. She added that a poster would be a very good product to have. It was suggested that we try to have another Peter Maxx poster developed. There seemed to be general agreement that the CAC would be the best group to advise the MC on outreach. Jennifer DiLorenzo suggested that some of the CAC meetings take place in NJ.

5. Regarding the Statement of Principles for the CARP, Dennis has received comments and will be updating it. The Policy committee will be updated on progress.

There was then a discussion about the various HEP related toxic work groups and how they should be organized. Paul Gallay said that CARP was working on loading monitoring, evaluation of sources, and reduction of sources. Bridgette McKenna said that track-down work was being carried out for Linden-Roselle and for NYC and that perhaps that work should be under CARP and not the Toxics Work Group. There was discussion that perhaps the Toxics work group would handle management issues and the CARP group would tackle the technical aspects. There was no final decision on this. Gene Flatow requested that minutes be distributed to the MC. Bob Nyman agreed to distribute minutes from all the work group to the MC as they became available.

Jennifer DiLorenzo asked about the status of the nickel TMDL. Kevin Bricke responded that the design flow for the Bergen County plant was needed, and then the TMDL would be developed.

10. Kevin Bricke gave an overview of the toxics modeling effort related to CARP and TMDLs. He stated that there would be a short and a long term component. Funds are available from NJ for the model, and a small amount is available from EPA. The draft RFP will be distributed to the MC. Joe Olha stated that atmospheric deposition needs to be included. Mr. Bricke said that CARP has an atmospheric element. Phil DeGaetano said that the toxics of concern list needs to be delivered prior to release of the RFP.

Jim Mueller asked about the status of the Thomann-Farley model and why it wasn't being used. Mr. Bricke said to keep the process neat, an RFP would be used, and Farley could apply.

Paul Gallay said that the issues of dredged material are not necessarily the same as use impairments.

Fred Grassle requested the minutes from the modeling meeting.

Gene Flatow asked if the modeling effort would meet the 18 month objective that Tom Wakeman discussed last year. Mr. Bricke said it would be slightly longer, but is still short term. The agent for the RFP was discussed and it was stated that the decision rests with Frank McDoughs office. Paul Gallay expressed concern that the TMDL effort not be a constrain on the CARP modeling effort. Bob Nyman requested that comments on the draft toxics list be given to him in two weeks.

7. Non-Profit Updates

Anne Galli said that more than one account may be needed depending on its character. Information will be presented to the PC on a preliminary basis. Ms. Flatow said that a policy needs to be developed as to how funds are used. The CAC would like funds spent on outreach, education, research and restoration and acquisition. Marc Matsil suggested that we hook up with a corporate entity. Ms. Galli said we need to establish a level of credibility. Ms. Flatow said we need to establish priorities for funding. Fred Grassle said that the organization and administration of the accounts needs to be spelled out. He added that peer review may be necessary. Anne Galli will present the update to the Policy Committee.

9. Marc Matsil gave a status of the HWG. Bernie Blum said he didn't agree with the habitat process. Phil DeGaetano countered that he thought the Habitat Work Group was doing a great job. Mr. Bricke said that he expected the Policy Committee to act on the New Jersey sites at their meeting.

11. The draft Policy Committee agenda was reviewed and approved

Gene Flatow suggested that a Rain-Induced Work Group was needed. Kevin Bricke agreed to put it on the next MC agenda.

Information was requested on the State Revolving Fund. EPA agreed to provide a summary paper.

8. Nancy Steinberg gave an update on the status of the HEP website. She said that it would be linked to the data information management system. Ms. Steinberg gave out the URL for the website and asked for comments within two weeks. Anne Galli suggested that a map was needed on the first page. Bob Nyman agreed to Email the URL to the MC seeking comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.