



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of May 20, 1999  
Location: NJDEP Offices in Trenton, NJ**

(Draft August 2, 1999)

1. Kevin Bricke convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. The agenda was reviewed and adjusted to allow additional participants to arrive.

2. Jennifer DiLorenzo welcomed the MC to Trenton and explained that the purpose of holding the meeting here was to allow HEP participants to hear about NJDEP programs directly and for NJDEP programs to get a better understanding of HEP activities.

Jim Mumman discussed the algal sampling program and distributed a map of the sampling locations. Kevin Bricke said we should be sure to integrate their activities with the Nutrients Work Group. It was noted that Bob Connell of NJDEP sits on that group. Mr. Mumman said the data was available on Storet. He also discussed water quality data and noted that it is related to shellfish waters and that closed waters are not included. 200 network stations are sampled 4x per year for nutrients. Discussions have occurred concerning expanding the number of stations in the Harbor.

Stu Nagourney gave an overview of the atmospheric deposition work being conducted in NJ. Twelve to eighteen months of data have been collected so far on mercury, PCBs, PAHs, Chlordane, and other parameters. Nonylphenols were detected for the first time in the air through this work. Dennis Suszkowski noted that HRF, EPAHQ and EPA Region 2 also provided funds. Mike Weinstein offered to hold a workshop in Sandy Hook on June 21 to further discuss the issues.

Gary Buchanan discussed the NEPPs environmental indicators. He noted that there were some differences between the HEP list and the NJ NEPP list. Dennis S. said that the HEP indicator work is in the data gathering mode. He also said it was possible that EPF funds may be available for future monitoring. Fred Grassle said the habitat indicators may need to be revisited.

Charles Jenkins gave an overview of NJDEP CSO work. Kevin Bricke indicated that there was to be a meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> between EPA and NJDEP to discuss CSOs and stakeholders.

3. The MC then approved the minutes as written from previous meeting.

4. Kevin Bricke then discussed the HEP Office Director Position. He requested comments be submitted on the position description within 2 weeks. Joe Olha suggested that the director should also be charged with identifying rate limiting steps for implementing CCMP actions.

Gene Flatow said the CAC had a presentation by NRDC on a project they are undertaking to develop a report card similar to the one they did for the Long Island Sound Study. She said it would be a good mechanism to reach out to the locals.

Mike Weinstein noted that NJ Sea Grant was releasing an RFP for a coastal ecosystem health specialist at the Ph.D level by March 1, 2000.

The position descriptions for the other HEP office staff were then discussed. It was made clear that these staff could not do fund-raising. It was agreed that the outreach person would also need to be in contact with many other outreach and public relations programs, not just the states. There was some discussion about whether we could find a qualified staff person through the SEEP program. Kevin Bricke said that other programs had gotten good people through the SEEP program. Jennifer DiLorenzo suggested that NJDEP would be able to provide a staff person for \$40-45k. Mr. Bricke asked her to work with Bob Nyman on that.

5. Bob Nyman gave an update on the draft FY99 HEP Annual Work Plan. He noted that the MC Work Group had made suggestions as to how the additional \$30k Clean Water Action Plan add on should be spent (\$1k for web site maintenance and \$29k for incremental work on the state of the estuary report). The MC agreed to these allocations. Mr. Nyman asked that final comments be submitted within two weeks. The states and HRF were reminded that work plans were needed for their particular tasks.

The MC then broke for lunch.

After lunch, Lance Miller discussed outreach efforts and posed the question, "Are the current publications doing the job?" He said we need to make links to locals and pay attention to watershed planning.

Liz Rosenblatt discussed the nonpoint source efforts, 6217, integration of NPS into TMDLs and the 319 program. Sandra Cohen discussed the TMDL work and said there was special emphasis on the Whippany River. Phil Liu mentioned some of the modeling work. Kevin Bricke noted the May 10<sup>th</sup> MOA between NJ and EPA for the development of TMDLs.

6. Gene Flatow suggested that there was a need for a Rain Induced Work Group. Kevin Bricke said that the program was resource limited at this point and that he thought it would be best to use the Pathogens work group. He said that it could be supplemented with other water quality people as necessary. Gene Flatow said that nonpoint source and storm water was not being addressed by the CSO group. Mr. Bricke said that for now, the group should focus on pathogens.

For the next MC meeting, it was requested that there be updates from the pathogens, nutrients and toxics work groups and that there be a discussion about how to integrate these groups. Hal Stanford said that science and management need to be integrated. Dennis Suszkowski suggested that there also needed to be more integration within agencies.

It was noted that on the roles of the MC Work Group (PC Reps), one of their specific roles is to get a decision from their PC member.

It was requested that the “fate of the Dredging Forum” and the status of the dredging chapter be put on the next PC agenda.

Marc Matsil raised an issue related to wetlands permitting. A draft MOU has been developed by the Habitat Work Group that would enhance wetland permitting. However, there appears to be a problem with getting NYSDEC to agree to sign it or even talk about it. Dick Draper was tasked with following up within DEC and to get back to the MC with recommendations. This will be put on the agenda for the next MC meeting. Marc also mentioned that he wanted to have a soiree in Central Park to celebrate the completion of the Habitat Map.

Dennis Suszkowski was concerned with the approach to the Linden Roselle pilot trackdown project. Kevin Bricke described the history that lead up to the current pilot project and said that it was in the interest of the program to conduct a successful pilot prior to moving on to additional track-down work.

The next MC meeting will be held on August 19, 1999.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm