



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2000
Location: Hudson River Foundation**

(Draft Sept 28, 2000)

Kevin Bricke convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Jennifer DiLorenzo called to say she had transportation problems and would not be able to make it to the meeting.

The minutes of the MC meeting were accepted with added comments from Gene Flatow.

Ms. Flatow requested that there be formal approval of the Wetlands Regulatory agreement. Marc Matsil agreed to draft a memo for the Policy Committee seeking approval at the next Policy Committee meeting.

The discussion then turned to the HEP budget. Bob Nyman presented a draft of the requests that had been made to date. Ms. Flatow said that agencies need to commit to do printing for the program. She added that non-profits and others contribute an enormous amount of time and energy to the program and don't get reimbursed for it. Dennis Suszkowski said that HRF continues to maintain the HEP library long after funds for doing so stopped. It was suggested that NJDEP could provide the funding for the website so that those monies did not need to come out of the HEP budget.

There was a request for funding for a Pathogens model evaluation group (MEG) to support review of modeling activities. It was suggested that funding be identified for MEG activities that would support not only pathogens, but other work groups as well.

The MC began to review the NJDEP budget requests, but because the NJDEP representative was not present to clarify questions that members raised, a two page description of all their projects will be requested in one week. New York agreed to provide the same.

Marc Matsil said that he would like to sponsor a Habitat Symposium to showcase the Harbor efforts and those of others. Bob Nyman added that the Corps is currently taking the lead on planning a two-day habitat conference and that perhaps the two could be integrated. Kevin Bricke said that the Mid-Atlantic Federal Partners for the Environment (MAFPE) could be folded into such a conference. Mr. Blum added that the conference is intended as outreach, that part of it should occur on the weekend.

Three items were then followed up on from the last Policy Committee meeting regarding the DMMIWG. It was announced that Tom Wakeman was approved as the DMMIWG co-chair. The two other issues, the request for a Transportation Work Group and the request for action on a HARS/Criteria Work Group, were tabled and put on the agenda for the next Policy Committee meeting. Dennis Suszkowski complained that the HARS discussions were not part of an open process and that no one from EPA was present that was prepared to discuss it. Others, including Ms. Flatow, said that there were no apparent goals for HARS.

Ms. Flatow then said the CAC wanted to redo the “Help the Harbor” meetings that had taken place prior to completing the CCMP in order to get public feedback. The theme would be, “What have we accomplished.” She would like to see the meetings provide new direction for the program and for it to develop a research agenda. She continued that legislative briefings would be desirable. Mr. Bricke said this should be a topic for the upcoming Policy Committee meeting. She also wanted the renewed commitment of the governors to HEP.

Zoe Kelman then gave an update on her efforts to redo the CCMP implementation tracking system. Kevin Bricke said that it would be useful to integrate it with Ms. Flatow’s “Help the Harbor” proposal. June 30th was set as the cutoff date for providing status on implementation.

Dennis Suszkowski said that target values or goals are needed for different areas of the Harbor. Karen Chytalo said that the program should set a few priorities and that we should also bring out some highlights.

Nancy Steinberg and Julie Way handed out examples of materials they are developing for the Human Health Indicator portion of the State of the Estuary Report. They said the Human Health Indicator Report would be completed by the end of the summer. The full State of the Estuary Report is scheduled for completion January 2001 and a website version is scheduled for March 2001. Ms. Steinberg added that she recently attended a meeting at the New Jersey Center for Environmental Indicators. Bob Nyman said he would follow up by setting up a meeting to try to integrate the “Help the Harbor” meetings, the tracking and the State of the Estuary work.

Bob Nyman handed out a summary of the process that has been undertaken by EPA to get the Dredging chapter rewritten. Lingard Knutsen of the Port Authority said that five years is too long to take to make the revisions. Ms. Flatow said that the “stakeholders” list included in the summary needs to be re-evaluated. Kevin Bricke said this would be put on the Policy Committee agenda.

Dr. Suszkowski gave an summary of CARP activities. He said that Booz-Allen was selected as the QA contractor and that the Corps was currently paying for the data management portion of the project. The modeling work will take place in two tiers with the first tier being completed within two years and the second on in four years. Mr. Bricke said that the trackdown work needs to be done successfully. Ms. Kelman said that NJDEP was re-evaluating how they were going to address trackdown work.

Marc Matsil gave an update on the Habitat Work Group activities. He said that 10 of the HEP sites were included in the Corps Hudson Raritan Reconnaissance Study. Mr. Blum wanted Dubos Point added to the list. He also handed out a DEC notice of violation at that location.

Ms. Chytalo summarized the 6 new sites in the Harbor that were recently recommended for NYS Bond Act funding. She said that comments were due June 2, 2000.

Ms. Kelman reminded the MC about the planned September 13-14 Stormwater Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.