



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2000
Location: Hudson River Foundation**

(Draft January 8, 2001)

The meeting was convened by Kevin Bricke at 10:05. The minutes from the May 12, 2000 Management Committee meeting were accepted as written.

Mr. Bricke reviewed the draft Policy Committee meeting agenda. He mentioned the MOU between the Corps and EPA concerning the new PCB criteria as well as the renaming of the HARS work group to the Remediation Materials Work Group.

Mr. Blum said he wanted mosquito control issues included in HEPs Health Indicator Report.

The 12 new proposed sites for inclusion of the HEP Habitat Acquisition and Restoration map are scheduled for action at the next PC meeting. Marc Matsil felt that the time delay in getting approval was unacceptable. It was indicated by the NYC Management Committee representative that they are continuing to review the sites and may have an issue with two of them. Kevin Clark will try to get the issue resolved within NYC agencies, but if that is not possible, it will be on the agenda for the Policy Committee to address.

Zoe Kelman gave an update on the progress with completing the CCMP tracking document. She indicated that there was still a lot of information that needed to be obtained to complete it and that she was working with the agencies to get it. There was to be a meeting on Oct 26th to provide more information.

Fran Dunwell from NYSDEC and the Hudson River Estuary Management Program gave a slide presentation on her program. She said that Dennis Suszkowski, Dick Draper and Al Fuchs all participate in that program. She indicated that they are using the HEP monitoring plan as a model. HREMP renews its commitment to 20 actions every 2 years. Forty project managers at DEC do portions of the actions. Some of the major focus areas include fish management, submerged aquatic vegetation, and benthic mapping with side scan sonar. They are developing indicators for marine waters, encouraging citizen water quality monitoring, considering increasing swimming opportunities, and assessing boating and river access. They are also involved with Brownfield projects with funding from the NYS Bond Act. There is a \$1.1 million grant program for locals this year. Over \$156 million has been committed to the

program over the past 5 years. Ms. Dunwell thanked HEP for inviting the HREMP presentation and said that she would like to see the two programs work together more in the future.

Gene Flatow provided a handout on the ECO-2 conference that the CAC and STAC are planning. She indicated that there would be a series of meetings in the communities, similar to the "Help the Harbor" meetings that were held in 1995. The purpose of the meetings is to get feedback from the public about what has been accomplished in the CCMP and what needs to be done. There will be a slide presentation that Laura Bartovics is preparing and agency staff are asked to attend as resources to help answer questions. Legislative briefings are planned for all levels of government. The ECO-2 Conference at the WTC will take place on June 14, 2001.

Bob Nyman presented a draft proposal for a new budget and work plan development process. He said that many participants have expressed a concern about the current process for allocating the HEP budget. Gene Flatow added that there needs to be a commitment from the agencies to provide staff. Tom Wakeman said that HREMP does a great job of packaging itself for support and that HEP needs to do the same. After much discussion, there was support by the MC to implement a new budget process. Bob Nyman will work with the MCWG to refine the proposed process for presentation to the Policy Committee.

Marc Matsil presented the six new habitat sites that the Habitat Work Group is recommending for inclusion on the Acquisition and Restoration map. No action was taken on the recommendations as agencies are still reviewing the sites.

Bob Hazen and Dan Kuehne gave an overview of their "paper" toxics trackdown work in New Jersey. Their project is evaluating the potential impact of contaminated sites on loadings of toxics to the harbor. They provided a handout and said that they are currently conducting a feasibility study. Results should be available in about 1 year. Kevin Bricke noted that in the Niagara River area a similar process was used to narrow about 1000 sites down to 22 as priority sites.

The Hudson River Foundation is working on completing the Human Health Indicator report and will be sending it out for peer review shortly. It is expected to be completed in January.

Dr. Suszkowski reviewed the status of the CARP modeling proposals. He said that an eight person model evaluation group had been put together to consider the proposals. A meeting was being planned shortly for the contractors to make presentations on their proposals.

Marc Matsil said that the Habitat Work Group would be evaluating mitigation ratios and that they would be developing a proposal to increase the ratios to achieve better environmental benefit.

Al Fuchs said that the Nutrients work group was going to track CCMP implementation for that module. He said that they don't want to focus on TMDLs for non-shared waters.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20.