



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of February 15th 2001
Location: Hudson River Foundation**

Prepared by Zoe Kelman
(Draft May 3, 2001)

HEP Management Committee began at 10:30 AM on February 15th 2001
Meeting was chaired by Mario DeVicario.

Gene Flatow discussed the general format for the June 14th conference. She would like to have both State Governors and Christie Whitman, the EPA Administrator attend. A letter inviting them to the conference has been drafted. The letter stresses the need for the agencies to recommitment to the CCMP.

Genie emphasized that the whole point of these public meetings and June 14th Conference is to recharge our energies and plan for priorities and targets.

ECO-2 Slide Presentation

Laura Bartovics presented the Eco-2 Slide Presentation as it is presented to the public.

Comments to the presentation:

Bernie - suggested having the presentation given to Bureau Boards.

Lingard Knutsen- Local environmental groups want more meetings in their communities for outreach and education.

Joe Ohla - suggested taping the presentation and distributing it to local communities.

Pete Statler - stated he felt the meeting went well because all agencies were represented.

Mario agreed that its important to have agencies at the meeting to respond to public questions immediately. Also stressed the presentation needs to be positive.

All public comments must be in by the March 31st deadline.

Newspaper article from Bergen Record following the first public meeting was perceived as negative by the group.

Gene discussed the Summary of Challenges. Some points she emphasized were:

Must develop a good program for consensus building. Must develop effective ways of reducing pollution at its sources. Must educate people to change their behaviors.

Must develop Creative and Collaborative funding.

Genie also pointed out that it is very expensive to distribute materials.

General Discussion followed:

Concerns were raised on the conference's general focus and whether the conference will include LIS and HMRP. At this time the other programs have not been notified. Space at the World Trade Center is limited. A recommitment means some type of action is to be taken.

Should the conference require a registration fee?

The response to some of these issues were:

The general focus of the conference will be on the ecosystem. Both LIS and HMRP will be included. The Pledge represents a commitment to get something done. It has been drafted and distributed to the CAC Chairs.

Bob Nyman stated that Federal briefings can not have any lobbying. State briefing will be led by CAC and STAC.

Approval of Six New Habitat Sites Proposed by HWG

NYS has approved the sites. Bob Nyman will contact NJDEP. The USACE and NY/NJPA will address this by next week. Each agency made a one week commitment to get back to Bob on whether their agency would approve the six new habitats.

Approval of Revised List of Toxics of Concern

Discussed the purpose of the contaminant list. The HEP list of contaminants of concern is a subset of the dredging list. Dennis Suszkowski commented that HEP, the HARs and the dredging program need to reconcile the differences between the lists. The Workgroup generally agreed.

Outstanding Issues:

The description of the Table of Parameters of Concern should include a purpose statement.

Revision by Bob Nyman "The table summarizes which substances exceed enforceable standards or unenforceable criteria on a widespread basis in the Harbor.

What is the process to get toxics listed or delisted?

Summary of Human Health Indicator Report Findings

Status: Ten Chapters of the Report have been sent out for peer review. Half of the comments have been received and incorporated into the documents. Nancy presented a few of the chapters at the meeting. For example:

PCBs trend in Striped Bass from the Hudson River Estuary.

Shellfish beds.

Floatables:

Indicator measures the total weight of debris collected per Mile Shoreline New York and New Jersey.

Volunteer programs are hard to assess because it has too many variables.

The Health Indicator Report is scheduled to be completed in 9 months.

Preliminary Findings of Priorities

NYS is concerned that the cost of supporting the program with staff time has not been included.

Program Structure Review

Bob Nyman distributed a draft HEP structure.

Gene Flatow identified the need for a storm event workgroup.

Gene recommends that minutes from every workgroup meetings must be posted and distributed.

Comments on the structure will be discussed at the next MC workgroup meeting.

Bob Nyman also distributed the New Biennial Review Process Information. Discusses a 3 year review period and GPRA.