



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
Management Committee Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2001  
Location: EPA Offices at 290 Broadway**

(Draft August 8, 2001)

The meeting was convened by Kevin Bricke at 9:35. The minutes from the May 17, 2001 Management Committee meeting were accepted as written, with the change in title of the meeting (removed “workgroup”) and a note that Mr. Blums comment from the previous meeting covered wetland restoration and mosquito control.

Lenny Houston of the Corps gave a presentation on the Corps environmental initiatives related to the Harbor. He reviewed the various authorizations and matching requirements of each program. Copies of the overheads are available from the HEP Office. The overall urban restoration effort takes in several smaller planning efforts, including Jamaica Bay, Flushing Bay, the Bronx River, Sawmill River, South River, and the Hudson River. One of the overarching efforts is the Hudson-Raritan Estuary restoration project and it is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of what needs to be done for habitat restoration in the harbor. Gene Flatow asked if the effects of newly proposed power plants would be considered in the plan. Karen Chytalo said that all new plants would be required by DEC to have cooling towers. Marc Matsil asked if riparian buffers would be included. Mr. Houston responded that they could be. Mike Wienstein said that monitoring should be a part of the plan. Mr. Houston added that all sites would have to go through extensive review and that not all of the currently proposed ones would make it. He also said that the Comprehensive Restoration Implementation Plan (CRIP) would involve a huge community outreach effort. One of the last slides shown was “the role of HEP”. There was some discussion about who should be the lead for HEP. Mr. Bricke asked that the HEP Office work with the Corps to refine the slide for presentation to the Policy Committee. Dennis Suszkowski asked if there was financial support for outside assistance with the Corps efforts. Mr. Houston replied that perhaps there could be contractor support for groups. Karen Chytalo mentioned the trend analysis that DEC performed for the Jamaica Bay wetlands.

Bob Nyman gave a brief update on the Congressional Briefing that had taken place on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff from 17 representatives and senators were present. Ms. Flatow said that HEP needs to be included in a bill, similar to Long Island Sound. Mr. Matsil mentioned the \$60 million legislation for habitat restoration that several environmental groups were pushing. There was apparently some confusion about budget requests and bill during the briefing, as there were at least two with similar funding amounts and names being circulated. Dr. Suszkowski said that we need a fact sheet on potential funding sources.

Laura Bartovics gave an overview of the 12 HEP CAC/STAC meetings, including a handout with the meeting highlights. A comment was submitted by the Freeport/Nassau Fishermans Alliance. Kevin Bricke suggested that the program should prepare a responsiveness document after the June 14<sup>th</sup> conference, based on what was said at the meetings. Dr. Weinstein said that NJMSC is sponsoring a COAST Day in Cape May, and that we should consider doing one in the harbor. Ms. Bartovics added that a newsletter would be prepared this summer.

Dr. Suszkowski gave an overview of the April 30<sup>th</sup> STAC workshop. He said that the chairs of the breakout sessions at the workshop were set to be on a panel discussion at the June 14<sup>th</sup> conference. A handout was provided which included emerging issues, as well as ongoing needs.

The annual budget discussion was next on the agenda. Bob Nyman presented a draft budget that was developed by the Management Committee Work Group for consideration. The most contentious item on the agenda was NYSDEC's request for \$105,000 of staff support. There was strong opposition to DEC taking one third of the HEP budget for participating in meetings that all other agencies did not receive compensation for. DEC argued that they receive support from other estuary programs that they participate in. After extensive discussion about the budget, the Management Committee voted nearly unanimously to adopt a budget that would be recommended to the Policy Committee. That budget did not contain the \$105,000. Mr. Bricke abstained from the vote. Mr. Fuchs of DEC cast the sole vote for a budget that contained the \$105,000 of DEC support.

Mr. Nyman said that he was seeking comments to the draft annual work plan that would be associated with the budget, when the Policy Committee approved it. The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nyman then explained that Bill Matuseski from the Chesapeake Bay Program had come to a previous MC Work Group meeting and had presented their successful approach to setting targets and getting public support for them. The Management Committee agreed that it would be acceptable for HEP to pursue developing similar targets.

Kevin Bricke gave a status of the HEP program structure revision. He noted that the dredging section was not included, but that it was expected to be inserted soon. This will be taken up at a future meeting.

The agenda was then developed for the Policy Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.