



New York - New Jersey  
Harbor Estuary  
Program

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program**  
**Management Committee Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2004**  
(Final)

1. The meeting was convened at the Hudson River Foundation at 10:00 and chaired by Bob Nyman.
2. The minutes from the August 19, 2004 Management Committee meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
3. Bill Nurthen gave an overview of the State of the Estuary Roundtable meeting that took place in August. He noted that at the end of that meeting, there was a call for a better focus on some habitat restoration projects. Because of its experience with funding large projects, the Port Authority (PA) was asked to take the lead on helping to secure new resources for environmental restoration in the harbor. He noted that much of the work on defining the state of the estuary and setting goals had already been done by HEP. A PA generated white paper on the issue is currently undergoing internal PA review. Mr. Nurthen said that the draft contains components that deal with organizational structure, long term planning, and funding a short list of projects through the FY06 federal budget, perhaps WRDA. He said that a small group would be formed to develop the list of projects. He added that Richard Larrabee, Director of the Port Commerce Department at the PA, had brought a sense of environmental stewardship to the agency and that he recognizes that there must be a balance of port and environmental goals. Mr. Nurthen also said the some preservation of habitats could take place without funding if areas like Arlington Marsh are preserved. Dennis Suszkowski mentioned comments that Jim Tripp had sent after the Roundtable and that he was particularly interested in acquisition, restoration, sediment quality improvement, and air quality issues associated with the port. Dr. Suszkowski said that he was compiling information from the Corps HRE and other projects, as well as CARP, for inclusion in the short term plan. Jim Tripp said that the environmental agenda was not being funded by the federal government and that there was no document that could be presented to legislators. Bob Nyman said that he thought the short-term effort was very useful and thanked those who were playing significant roles in putting it together. He added, however, that care should be taken with terminology so as to not give the impression that these projects are the entire environmental agenda for the harbor. Mr. Nyman considers the CCMP to be the overall agenda for the harbor and that the Roundtable effort could be considered to be

implementing a major portion of it. Mr. Tripp said that it would be useful to have some sort of resolution endorsing the short term effort. The Management Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to provide him with such a resolution.

4. Dennis Suszkowski then gave an update on the CARP Vision Statement. He handed out a draft and said that he was still waiting for NJDEP to decide who would sign it for the Department.

5. Tom Kelsh and Lynn Dwyer from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) gave a presentation on what their organization is and the types of projects it is currently working on. They are currently involved with several somewhat local programs including the Long Island Sound, Delaware Estuary, and Chesapeake Bay. They said that they currently get \$25 million of direct federal appropriations per year. They are working with several programs and try to pool or leverage funds to increase the impact of the project. Ms. Dwyer said that corporate sponsors may be attractive partners to pursue, but with the current economy, it may be difficult to line them up. The MC thought that there was considerable potential for working the NFWF in the future as additional funding sources are developed, and thanked them for their presentation.

6. Cathy Yuhas handed out the current draft of the Targets and Goals status report. She noted that there were still some data gaps either because the data wasn't available or because she had not received it yet. She said that she would like to wrap it up for this year and recommended that we not do a wide distribution until a report based on more complete information is available next year. The Management Committee agreed with this approach.

7. Laura Bartovics gave an update on the education and outreach work. She noted that the latest issue of the Tidal Exchange just came out and that she was seeking ideas and articles for future issues in order to continue to improve its usefulness. Possible ideas for the next issue included the Harbor Roundtable and the Targets and Goals report. She also provided a timeline for the next round of mini-grants.

8. Joe Monaco gave an update on the status of the water body identification signs that the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is working on with the Port Authority. Several examples were displayed and comments were sought. The MC suggested that signs meant for pedestrian walkways could have more information and a map background. Signs meant for viewing from cars crossing bridges should be simpler and have only one logo on it, like HEPs. The comments will be forwarded to the bridge sign designers at the Port Authority for revision.

9. Bob Nyman discussed the status of the nutrient management approach and management zone papers that were under consideration by the two states. NYDEC and NYCDEP had provided comments and NJDEP was planning on meeting internally Nov 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues. Mr. Nyman said that once all the comments were submitted, and additional information was gathered, a revised version would be developed.

10. Debbie Mans gave the CAC update. She announced that Michelle Doran McBean would be the NJ representative to the Management Committee and that the CAC was continuing to fill slots on their steering committee. There will be a joint meeting of the CAC and Habitat Work Group in January. The public access project funded by HEP is moving ahead. She added that there was to be a December 9<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting to discuss the bi-state fish advisories.

11. Bob Nyman said that HEP's next implementation review would take place in 2005. This review is conducted by EPA Headquarters staff and others. Its purpose is to confirm that the program is making progress in implementing the CCMP. The HEP Office will take the lead on developing the necessary documentation by the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. There will be a site visit by the review team sometime in the spring.

12. Mr. Nyman said that the National Estuary Program had been reauthorized for another 5 years and that this was a typical length of time for this kind of program. The reauthorization level is \$35 million per year for all 28 programs. He also handed out copies of the April 2004 House and Senate letters to the appropriation committees regarding funding levels. Genie Flatow said that it would be a good idea to brief the NYC Council Waterfront Committee.

13. The schedule for the HEP budget process was handed out and it was highlighted that the work groups and advisory committees were to develop suggested budget ideas during December and January for submission to the HEP Office. While the total amount of funding available is not yet known, it is likely to be similar to last year's budget.

14. A series of brief announcements was then made. There were some changes expected in some of the committees including NYC and EPA representatives to the Policy Committee, the new NJ CAC representative to the Management Committee, and new committee chairs for the Habitat and Nutrient Work Groups.

In 2005, the NEP National meeting will be held in Washington, DC on March 6-10 and the ANEP meeting will likely be held in Newport, RI in October.

Doug Adamo announced that the Big Egg Marsh was to receive a Coastal America Partnership Award on December 1<sup>st</sup> and that all were invited to attend.

It was noted that responses were still needed from several Policy Committee members regarding the approval of the Crescent Beach Additions for the habitat site list. NYC said that they had just approved the site and would provide an email confirmation. MC members whose Policy Committee representative had not yet responded were asked to seek their approval.

15. The Management Committee agreed that the next Policy Committee should be scheduled for the January/February timeframe.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:00 pm.

