



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary
Program

New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Management Committee Meeting of August 18, 2005
(Final)

1. The Management Committee meeting was convened at 10:00 at 290 Broadway in Room 27A. Bob Nyman chaired the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and no additions were made.
2. The minutes of the May 19th and July 28th meetings were reviewed and approved as written.
3. Debbie Mans provided the CAC update. She announced the upcoming Estuary Live event at Liberty State Park on September 22nd. Laura Bartovics provided an Estuary Live handout and said that volunteers were needed for the day. Ms. Mans said that CAC is also in the process of revising its bylaws. She also said that public access continues to be a priority and that Baykeeper and the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance continue to work on the inventory of public access sites.
4. Laura Bartovics gave an overview of the Stewardship Summit that took place in June. She said that the effort was a departure from the traditional mini-grants program and would now focus on collaborative, region-wide efforts. She added that a request for proposals was to be released on August 19th.
5. Bob Nyman and Alex Brash discussed a draft proposal related to habitat program coordination, with a focus on the HEP habitat work group and the Corps Hudson Raritan Estuary Study and its Comprehensive Restoration Implementation Plan (CRIP). The idea would be to ensure that all efforts are complimentary and that issues related to lists of habitat sites, etc would be resolved. Jim Lodge announced that the Hudson River Foundation was planning on hosting a workshop on October to look at broader restoration planning that would assist the Corps with the CRIP. Chris Zeppie said that while future planning might take habitat protection and restoration in a new direction, it should not create a stumbling block for the use of the current HEP list. The MC agreed that the

current draft proposal should be further developed for Policy Committee consideration.

6. John Tavolaro discussed the history of sediment and navigation issues in the harbor and what HEPs involvement has been. He said that because there is no currently active HEP work group dealing with these issues, the program has little opportunity to make or report on progress. Eric Stern reviewed a draft write up for a proposed sediment work group. The MC agreed that it was a good concept and that it should be recommended to the PC in September. The authors of the paper will further refine how it will integrate with the various sediment management programs. A revised version should be submitted by Sept 14th.
7. The draft status chapters that are being prepared for the PC were then reviewed and suggestions were made for revisions. For all of the chapters, it was recommended that the accomplishments section should be expanded. During the discussion of the floatables chapter, John Tavolaro discussed the implications of potential budget cuts for the Corps' drift removal program. Under the current draft budget, there would be a reduction from \$5.5 million to about \$4.2 million and would result in the likely cutback of one of the three vessels, as well as the amount and types of operations they could undertake. There is also no longer the ability to move funds between categories to make up for shortfalls. The issue will be presented to the PC at their September meeting.
8. The Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) will hold its annual meeting in Newport, RI from October 11 – 14th. HEP will be represented at the meeting.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.