

NY-NJ Harbor TMDL Oversight Meeting
290 Broadway, NY, NY
October 16, 2006
Minutes
(Final)

Participants included: Kevin Bricke, Bob Nyman, Rosella O'Connor, Antony Tseng, Jeff Gratz, Wayne Jackson, Jeff Myers, Phil DeGaetano, Phil O'Brien, Narinder Ahuja, Debra Hammond, Pilar Paterson, Shadab Ahmad, Barbara Hirst (on phone), Jeff Reading, Kerry Kirk-Pflugh, John St. John, Robin Miller, and Charlie Dujardin.

1. Minutes from the August 3, 2006 meeting were approved as written.
2. Robin Miller provided a PowerPoint presentation on the "What it would take" management questions outputs that HydroQual had developed. A copy of the presentation is available. She said that the projections were based on actual loads, rather than permit limits. Some of the POTWs may in fact be doing better than they are required to do. An equitable baseline will be needed for future calculations. She added that most of the harbor is well mixed surface to bottom and therefore, looking at something other than the bottom segment won't make much of a difference. Regarding the adequacy of SWEM calibration for the Bight, it is sufficient for an overview of the Bight, but for more detailed analysis, additional data would be desirable. The load reduction scenarios run to date show benefit to the Bight, but HydroQual concluded that the model is not calibrated well enough to do a TMDL there. It was noted that the load reductions modeled are SWEM-wide, not just in the harbor core.

There was agreement that there needs to be some way of translating dissolved oxygen numbers to ecosystem impacts. An example is comparison of LIS fish trawl survey data to DO values. A small group will be convened to investigate what can be done for the harbor and will likely be made up of Karen Chytallo, Wayne Jackson, Mark Tedesco, and someone to be named from NJ.

It was requested that the HydroQual presentations, LISS TMDL document, LISS Phase 3 Action Plan, and the approval letter be distributed to the participants.

John St. John presented PowerPoint of a draft approach that could be used for the next steps for the nutrient work. It involved: completing the analysis for the LISS Phase 3 and 4 implementation calculations and then assess improvements throughout the HEP core area; NYS and NYC to complete Jamaica Bay planning and then assess additional improvements; and then continuing the assessment to develop needed controls in remaining most impacted waters to address local problems, and then work downstream building upon improvements already determined. Response regions for sequential analysis would need to be defined. The approach suggests that analysis for the Hackensack proceed. Decisions need to be made on how CAIR, HOT, STPs, CSO, SW and the ocean boundary will be handled. The model would be run to develop DO response curves and that information could be fed into cost curves when they become

available. It was pointed out that nitrogen reduction is more difficult in the winter and that the assessment should consider annual vs. seasonal conditions. The oversight group liked the draft approach and Nyman was charged with taking it to the Nutrients Work Group to develop a scope of work to do it.

Jeff Reading and Bob Nyman are working with Bergen County MUA to obtain information on their Hackensack River model to evaluate its utility for TMDL work.

The toxics agenda item was removed from the agenda due to time constraints. Robin Miller gave a very brief overview of the matrix. It will be added to a future agenda.

3. Charlie Dujardin gave the pathogens Powerpoint presentation. He said that the model works well for open waters, but under predicts pathogen levels at the beaches, suggesting that there is another local source.

Phil O'Brien requested that a definition of "open waters" be agreed to. HydroQual was asked to put together a draft technical definition for the oversight group to consider.

It was pointed out that there was no decision at the previous meeting on the use of the 104 single sample maxima.

Options were laid out for selecting the critical year – using 1988, 2003, or doing an assessment on 13 years of data. No decision was reached and the oversight group agreed to hold a full day session on design conditions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.