



New York - New Jersey  
Harbor Estuary Program

**Policy Committee Meeting  
July 29, 2003  
Minutes**

1. The meeting was convened at the USEPA Offices at 290 Broadway, NY, NY at 10:15. Bill Muszynski chaired the meeting.

Mr. Muszynski provided introductory remarks and introduced new participants on the Policy Committee – Lynette Stark from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation representing Erin Crotty, and Ernie Hahn from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, who was sitting in for Commissioner Campbell.

Chuck Warren offered that he felt the program was losing some momentum and that he would like to see the state Commissioners at future meetings.

There were no suggested additions to the agenda.

3. The minutes from the January 28, 2003 PC conference call were distributed. Comments were to be directed to Bob Nyman within two weeks.

4. Bob Nyman then provided a PowerPoint presentation overview of Targets and Goals Effort and the desired outcomes for the day. Presentations would be given on each of the five sections of the document. Desired outcomes included finalizing the Targets and Goals document and the 2003 Agreement.

5. Bill Matuszeski then opened the next session as the facilitator. He said that the Policy Committee should seek to reach consensus on the document, meaning that they should each in general, like the document and can live with everything in it.

Mr. Nyman then provided a presentation on the fishing and swimming section. He also handed out a table of revised model projections. Revisions were made to the text based on the discussion.

Tom Creamer recommended that all the targets be consistent in form and either be “increase” or “decrease”.

He also requested, and the PC agreed, that the phrase, “...based on currently planned projects” be removed.

It was agreed that the notes at the end of the document would be retained, but that the asterisks within the text of the document be removed.

Chris Ward mentioned the cost/benefit work that the city had undertaken. He said that it was fiscally unrealistic to set “0 square miles” as a target. Ernie Hahn said that it was OK to state it in terms of a “goal”, but that there was not necessarily a commitment to get all the way there. Lynette Stark noted similar success in the Long Island Sound Study and the Hudson River Estuary Program in setting goals. Chuck Warren said that it was important to set up a process to carry out projects that may be considered a stretch to achieve.

It was agreed that revisions, based on the discussion for this and the other sections, would be sent to the PC within a week.

Bill Muszynski had suggestions for the “whereas” statements that he would transmit.

Dennis Suszkowski provided a presentation on the toxics targets. He said that for Target 4, we don’t currently have a target number, but are committed to getting it through CARP by 2004/2005. He also discussed the caveats for the FDA guidelines for Target 5. Mr. Hahn asked if striped bass was good species to use for the target. Dr. Suszkowski responded that said that it was and that resident fish tend to have higher body burdens of contaminants.

Dave Rosenblatt gave the floatables presentation. He said that we are not seeing any real trend with reduction of floatables on the shores. It was agreed that New Jersey data would be added to Target 8, if it was available. It was also agreed that the quotation marks would be removed from Goal 1D.

Chris Ward said that we need to consider priorities for environmental and social benefits for financial commitments.

Nancy Welsh provided the habitat presentation. She noted that much more money is still needed for acquisition and restoration. Tom Creamer noted that the Corps led HRE study has funds for planning. Construction costs must be shared and funds can not be spent on major acquisitions.

Debbie Mans gave a presentation on the Public Access targets. She said that there was no current baseline of data on access sites, but that she was working on it. Chris Ward suggested that there be an assurance that the baseline be completed in a timely manner. Ms. Mans noted that one issue is that in many cases, there is no guarantee that existing access sites will remain accessible.

John Tavolaro provided a presentation on the Clean Sediment and Navigation targets. Regarding Target 16, Mr. Creamer noted that at some locations, such as garbage transfer stations, garbage in the dredged material prevents it from being used beneficially. It was agreed that language would be added to Target 17 to better characterize the sediment loadings and to establish suitable reduction targets. Mr. Creamer also added that “regional sediment management” needs to be in the target. It was noted that a recent House and Senate mark-up may affect Target 18.

Genie Flatow gave the presentation on Stewardship. It was noted that we need to establish a baseline of stewardship activity, but that the program is currently working on that. When questioned about the existence of a congressional caucus, Ms. Flatow said that one does exist. Mayor Bollwage said that he was the President of the League of Municipalities and that they will help to implement actions. Acronyms will be added to a glossary.

It was agreed that all comments that the PC requested will be added and Mr. Nyman will distribute a revised version in two weeks. The PC will then provide comments within one week of that.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.