

Our Community, Our River

Debbie Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper



Passaic River Community Advisory Group (CAG)

- Co-Chairs = Ana Baptista, Ironbound Community Corporation/RPA and Debbie Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper
- Members include local residents, watershed and conservation organizations, academics, historic preservation, rowing clubs, etc. Federal and state agency personnel are also represented on the CAG.
- Created Fall 2009 and holds regular monthly meetings in Newark.
- Created under the auspices of federal Superfund law. Provides advice and recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency and its Partner Agencies to help ensure a more effective and timely cleanup and restoration of the Passaic River.

Community Priorities

- **A cleanup that is based in science and protective of human health and the environment.**
- **Immediate action** on the cleanup.
- **Comprehensive cleanup** that allows for both in-water and shoreline restoration, including mud flats, wetlands, waterfront parks, boat ramps and docks.
- **Restoration to occur immediately** following and/or integrated into the cleanup of the lower 8 miles, not years down the road.
- **Hot spot identification and removal** outside of the 8-mile study area should occur expeditiously and simultaneously with the 8-mile cleanup, but not be a replacement for a full cleanup.
- **Local job creation.**

Community Viewpoint

- Oppose
 - Burying of contaminated sediment in Newark Bay
 - Incineration (onsite or near site)
- Generally supportive of EPA's proposed cleanup plan, but have questions:
 - Disruption during cleanup of River, especially to boaters and rowers
 - Long-term maintenance of cap and ability to anchor or conduct restoration activities and other future uses post-cleanup
 - Minimization of economic impacts
 - Does proposed cleanup go far enough?
 - Coordination with other cleanup activities

Other Issues Not Covered by Superfund

- Combined Sewers Pollution
- Public Access
- Natural Resource Damages and Restoration

Call to Action

- Submit comments during EPA's public comment period
- www.ourpassaic.org
- Monthly CAG meetings
- Sign up for CAG listserve
- Contact your local elected official and ask them to support a full cleanup
- Write a letter to the editor supporting a full cleanup