

## Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Actions Post-CCMP Management Conference

### S-1. Continue the management conference

**Key Elements:** The HEP Management Conference was convened by the USEPA Administrator to develop the CCMP. The Management Conference includes all the committees and work groups associated with the program, including the Policy Committee, Management Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, Science and Technical Advisory Committee, and the following work groups: Pathogens, Toxics, Nutrients, Public Access, and Habitat. The Policy Committee provides overall program direction while the Management Committee meets quarterly and is responsible for overseeing implementation of the CCMP.

#### Description of Activities to Date

The Policy Committee includes 8 high level representatives. The HEP Management Committee is made up of 18 representatives including: Citizens Advisory Committee (4), Interstate Environmental Commission, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group, New York Local Governments, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of State, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (2), United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Department of the Interior, United States Environmental Protection Agency- Office of Research and Development, and United States Environmental Protection Agency- Region 2 participate on the Management Committee . All technical work groups are open to public participation.

**Planned Activities:** The Management Committee is currently seeking to bring representatives from New Jersey Local Governments, which have been vacant for some time.

(HEP Office 2009)

### S-2. Review conference membership to ensure adequate participation from implementers

**Key Elements:** The CCMP identifies a wide range of entities, both public and private, to implement specific actions. HEP will review Conference membership to identify those entities with implementation responsibility that are not adequately represented on the Management Conference and solicit their participation.

#### Description of Activities to Date

The Policy Committee has been modified over time to include its current 8 members. The most recent addition was the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. New Work Groups have been added, including Public Access and Regional Sediment Management and appropriate representation was sought.

(HEP Office 2009)

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### **S-3. Establish a program office**

**Key Elements:** A program office was established to reinforce the separate identity of the HEP Management Conference and ensure continuing staff support for the Management Conference as well as HEP workgroups.

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#### **Description of Activities to Date**

A program office was established in 2000 and it is located at the USEPA Region 2 offices in NYC. The program office currently includes a director provided by USEPA and a program associate from New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. In the past it also included an outreach coordinator from NY Sea Grant and a technical specialist from NJ Sea Grant.

**Planned Activities:** HEP is currently in the process of hiring a habitat coordinator, which is expected to join the office in the spring.

(HEP Office 2009).

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### **S-4. Facilitate watershed-based planning and implementation**

**Key Elements:** The geographic scope of the Harbor/Bight system is enormous therefore HEP should develop and implement programs at the lowest appropriate level.

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#### **Description of Activities to Date**

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), in partnership with the States of NY and NJ, the City of NY, the US EPA, USACE, and Federal Highways Administration, developed a Comprehensive Port Improvement Plan (CPIP), aimed at identifying and constructing port enhancements with minimal adverse effects. The Plan and its accompanying CPIP Environmental Assessment were released in 2005. The targets developed are Greenport Initiatives. (USACE 2004, HEP Office 2009)

Numerous HEP partners have participated in the RSM Work Group, including USEPA, USACE, PANYNJ, NJDOT, NJDEP, NYSDEC, NYCDEP, HRF, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. The Work Group has recently released a RSM Plan that articulates objectives for the sediment management approach covering sediment quality, quantity, and dredged material.

**Planned Activities:** a new permanent workgroup is recommended to be formed under HEP whose sole mission would be the implementation of this Plan. This new Workgroup would include State Sediment Management Advocates or their representatives, and would report to the HEP Management Committee and Policy Committee. Sub-workgroups would be formed to address the three priorities of sediment quality, sediment quantity, and dredged material management. The chair of the RSM Work Group is currently drafting a charge for the new work group with input from the MC and will present it to the PC for full consideration shortly.

(HEP Office 2009)

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### **S-5. Encourage non-profit organizations to fund estuary protection efforts**

**Key Elements:** HEP will encourage existing non-profit organizations to fund appropriate recommended CCMP actions. This is part of HEP's funding strategy for program enhancements and project implementation.

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#### **Description of Activities to Date**

Non-Profit organizations are involved in the Management Committee through the Citizens Advisory Committee as well as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. Non-profits are also involved at the workgroup level.

**Planned Activities:** Continue non-profit organizations involvement on the Management Committee and workgroups.

(HEP Office 2003)

Numerous non-profit organizations fund and carry out CCMP actions such as habitat restoration, beach cleanups, and outreach and education efforts. HEP encourages these actions by providing a variety of resources (whether monetary through grants, materials, or participating in events), facilitating collaborations, and/or promoting these events. (HEP Office, 2009)