

**Revised Draft Structure/Charge for
Implementing the CRP within the HEP Framework**
(Draft April 28, 2010)

The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) addresses many different environmental issues facing the harbor. In the 2008 HEP Action Plan, these issues are organized around the following goal areas: Pollution in the Estuary; Public Access; Economically/Ecologically Viable Port; Public Education/Community Involvement; and Habitat and Ecological Health. The 2009 Draft Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP) has been adopted by the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) as a path forward for restoration and will address that goal of the Action Plan.

While primarily funded and developed under the leadership of the Corps of Engineers and the Port Authority, the CRP was envisioned to be a plan and mechanism for all those interested in restoration of the harbor. Continued coordination for planning and implementation is needed for the CRP.

In December 2009, the HEP Policy Committee generally concurred with the proposal to form a CRP work group under the Management Committee to steer the CRP, but asked that the charge be refined. This document is an attempt at that refinement.

Restoration Work Group

The Work Group is to be comprised of a core group of 10 members:

1. Army Corps - Lisa Baron
2. Port Authority – Rosalie Siegel
3. NOAA – Carl Alderson
4. State of New York – Steve Zahn
5. State of New Jersey – Kerry Kirk Pflugh/Dave Bean
6. HEP Office – Bob Nyman
7. NYC Parks – Mike Feller
8. NYCDEP – John McLaughlin
9. NY-NJ Baykeeper – Debbie Mans
10. Hudson River Foundation – Dennis Suszkowski
Support – HEP Office Restoration Coordinator

Other organizations and individuals will be brought in as necessary for specific topics.

Lisa Baron was selected as chair for this group.

The CRP is organized around 11 Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) that include both traditional habitats such as wetlands and maritime forests, as well as non-traditional areas such as sediments and public access. To some extent, HEP is already addressing some of the TECs via existing work groups. Some other TECs are being addressed under a less formal umbrella. The opportunity for public input could be provided at the periodic gathering of all involved groups described below under Restoration Conferences.

Charge to the CRP Work Group: The CRP Work Group is charged with providing overall long-term direction for implementation of the CRP as well as ensuring that short-term projects and objectives are appropriately addressed. This includes:

- 1) Evaluating restoration/protection opportunities:** maintain clearinghouse of restoration/protection opportunities through OASIS; obtain available information on sites; develop conceptual plans; identify priorities and partners; track/report restoration successes; work with partners to support acquisitions;
- 2) Advancing TEC Science:** evaluate data/science and identify gaps; propose research/pilot projects to address those gaps and increase knowledge about particular TECs;
- 3) Policy/Regulatory Streamlining:** Identify impediments/challenges to restoration; provide recommendations for solutions; work with appropriate agencies to resolve issues.
- 4) Identifying funding strategies:** Coordinate with Harbor Roundtable and others to promote projects and seek funding sources;

While the Corps has an internal team to address its agency programmatic needs, the CRP Work Group will augment that team by working with all interested entities to ensure coordination and foster implementation.

The CRP Work Group will report to the Management Committee. It will have the ability to bring in outside experts or form ad hoc subgroups necessary to address issues not covered by existing work groups. The Work Group will meet quarterly or as necessary.

Restoration Conferences (CRP Workshops)

All groups and individuals interested in restoration of the harbor would be invited to gather 2 times per year to coordinate/communicate with others. The conferences would be organized by the CRP Work Group and the HEP Habitat Coordinator would assist the CRP Work Group with logistics, agenda development, recording outcomes, developing support documents, etc.

Some of the activities envisioned for these workshops include:

- Presentation on progress on individual TECs.
- New site nominations for acquisition and restoration for habitat and public access.
- Updates on data management/mapping of sites using OASIS.
- Opportunity for the interested public to get updates on CRP implementation and to provide their insight.