

## **Newtown Creek CAG Steering Committee Call**

Friday, December 6, 2013

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Attendees**

Leah Archibald  
Lilli Genovesi  
Christine Holowacz  
Ed Kelly  
Ryan Kuonen  
Deb Mesloh  
Phillip Musegaas  
Paul Pullo  
Mike Schade  
Jean Tanler  
Walker Holmes

### **Meeting Summary**

1. Welcome and roll call.
2. The Steering committee reached consensus to ratify four new CAG members, all of whom expressed interest in joining the CAG at the October meeting:
  - a. Jan Mun (NCA).
  - b. Mae Emerick (Parsons).
  - c. Marice Love (Row New York).
  - d. James Curcuru (Resident, GWAPP).
3. Steering committee membership: Ryan Kuonen explained that the CAG operating procedures limit the steering committee to 15 members, without term limits. Currently, there are 14 members. Mike Schade and Ryan Kuonen, the CAG co-chairs, will reach out to all current members in order to gauge their continued interest and energy for serving on the steering committee. It is possible that some members may choose to step off of the steering committee, thereby making room for new members. Ryan reminded the steering committee, “this is a marathon, not a sprint”; therefore, there will be ample time for many people to dedicate time to the CAG’s leadership body. Steering committee members also discussed currently active CAG members who might have interest in joining the steering committee if numbers allow; the CAG co-chairs will reach out to these CAG members after the co-chairs have determined how many spaces are available.
4. October meeting followup: Mike Schade facilitated a discussion of the eight meeting topics that the CAG prioritized during the October meeting. These are listed below in order of priority, along with a summary of comments and discussion.
  - a. Prioritized topics:
    - i. Mayor's Office/Transition/Tide Gates
    - ii. CSOs
    - iii. BOA/Ultimate goals for the Creek
    - iv. Community health effects, including DOH study

- v. Eventual disposition of dredged materials
  - vi. Risk assessments (human health and ecological)
  - vii. Aeration
  - viii. Community outreach
- b. The steering committee also discussed background/reference sites as a topic for a CAG meeting. EPA talked about background/reference sites during the November CAG meeting; the CAG may benefit from a more detailed discussion with EPA about these sites, the process for choosing them, and their role in the remedial investigation.
  - c. Regarding aeration: Riverkeeper is finalizing a letter to NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about the expansion of the aeration project beyond English Kills. The project only addresses dissolved oxygen. Riverkeeper is concerned that the aeration may redistribute bacteria and pathogens. Riverkeeper has requested that DEP sample for bacteria and pathogens in order to determine if bacteria is being spread beyond the water column. Phillip Musegaas agrees that aeration would be a good meeting topic; he recommends that the CAG invite DEP to speak after Riverkeeper has sent the letter. Phillip will contact DEP about speaking to the CAG.
  - d. Paul Pullo mentioned an old plan for installing a large pipe between Long Island Sound and Newtown Creek; he offered to gather information about this and bring what he learns back to the steering committee.
  - e. Regarding a meeting with the Mayor's Office: The steering committee members present on the call agreed that this is an important topic; however, due to the timing of the mayoral transition, the Mayor's Office would likely not be available until the spring. Phillip Musegaas offered to reach out to contacts in the Mayor's Office in January to ask if they would be willing to speak to the CAG.
  - f. Regarding community health effects and the status of the New York State Department of Health (DOH) study: Mike Schade offered to reach out to DOH for an update and to ask when a health study-focused meeting would be timely.
5. November meeting followup: Ryan Kuonen suggested that the data provided by EPA during the November meeting could offer opportunity to form a Data Subcommittee. Steering committee members on the call agreed. Ryan and Mike will ask steering committee members if they are interested in participating in the Data Subcommittee when they do check-in conversations (mentioned in #3 above). At the next full CAG meeting, co-chairs will ask if any CAG members are interested in joining the Data Subcommittee. Mike Schade asked steering committee members who would like a copy of the data that EPA shared at the November meeting to contact him directly with a request.
6. 2014 meeting schedule:
- a. The steering committee agreed that quarterly meetings will likely be sufficient for 2014, with steering committee calls in between the full CAG meetings.
  - b. One steering committee member pointed out that an organization's work is done in committees; for this reason, the steering committee will seek to form subcommittees as needed.
  - c. The steering committee would like to aim for meetings in January, April, July, and October.

- d. Meeting topics in 2014 may include:
  - i. Aeration.
  - ii. Mayor's Office.
  - iii. DOH health study.
  - iv. Background/reference sites.
  - v. Risk Assessments (the steering committee acknowledged that this topic may be premature at this time).
- 7. January meeting:
  - a. Potential meeting dates are: January 22, 23, 29, and 30.
  - b. Potential meeting topics:
    - i. Preferred topic: Aeration with DEP – Phillip Musegaas will pursue this possibility.
    - ii. Backup topic: DOH health study – Mike Schade will reach out to DOH to ask about the timeliness of this as a January meeting topic.
    - iii. Backup topic: EPA process for selecting background/reference sites – Co-chairs will ask EPA if this topic would be feasible in January.
  - c. Steering committee members present agreed that a 6:30 PM start time makes it easier for CAG members to travel from work to the meeting location. They also agreed that a start time later than 6:30 would conflict with facilities' required meeting end times.
- 8. Next Steps:
  - a. Refine logistics for January 2014 meeting:
    - i. Confirm topic (based on availability/willingness of guest speakers).
    - ii. Confirm date (based on availability of confirmed speaker).
    - iii. Secure location in Brooklyn (Ryan Kuonen).
  - b. Ryan Kuonen and Mike Schade will reach out to steering committee members for check-in conversations.