



Technical Assistance Services for Communities
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Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group (CAG)
Steering Committee Conference Call Summary
June 20, 2012

Attendees

Leah Archibald, EWVIDCO
Sarah Durand, LaGuardia-CUNY
Ryan Kuonen, BK, CB#1 Enviro Chair, NAG
Phillip Musegaas, Riverkeeper
Paul Pullo, Metro Terminals
Jean Tanler, Queens Business Outreach Center
Kate Zidar, Newtown Creek Alliance
Walker Holmes, Skeo Solutions

CAG members who could not attend the call but indicated support via email for ratification of operating procedures and proposed new members:

Christine Holowacz, GWAPP, NCMC
Rich Mazur, North Brooklyn Development Corp.

Operating Procedures

The group ratified the draft operating procedures.

New Members

The group ratified the following new CAG members: Michael Hofmann and Will Elkins.

Discussion of Next Steps

- Kate Zidar noted that public health concerns have been an issue for years and that she will circulate a Newtown Creek Alliance letter that summarizes the health assessments of the last few years to the steering committee. She suggested that the CAG be a forum for discussion of health assessments.
- New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has recently held meetings about public health assessments; NYS DOH is hoping to schedule more meetings. The group agreed that it would be efficient to combine the NYS DOH public health assessment meetings with a CAG meeting at which NYS DOH talks about the Newtown Creek public health assessment.
- Sarah Durand (and Kate Zidar) will circulate potential dates that have been proposed for a DOH meeting; the group will determine if these are feasible for the next CAG meeting – the dates are approximately in mid-July.
- The group discussed the relation of the Superfund human health risk assessment (HHRA) and thought that it would be useful if EPA could provide material about

the HHRA prior to the meeting with NYS DOH. If any of the EPA site team could attend the meeting in order to answer Superfund-related questions, that would also be helpful.

- The steering committee would like to wait on setting a firm meeting schedule (i.e., quarterly or other period) until they know more about how and when EPA activities at the site will proceed. The group agreed that it would be helpful for EPA to periodically post information on what is happening at the site. The group discussed the EPA Newtown Creek website and what information it houses.
 - Some steering committee members will sign up for EPA's Newtown Creek Superfund Site mailing list in order to get a better sense of what site-related updates the list provides. If the list proves useful, the CAG website could link to information on how to sign up.
 - Sarah Durand mentioned that she has heard rumors of activities on the creek, such as removal of barges and boats and wondered if EPA could provide clarification on those rumored activities; she will contact Wanda Ayala and report back to the CAG.
- The group will pick a meeting date, then tackle the logistics of meeting planning by email; if necessary, calls may be scheduled.
- Phillip Musegaas suggested that after a July meeting, the CAG would likely not need to meet until September or after, with a steering committee meeting prior for planning purposes.
- The group discussed an idea for a future CAG meeting topic: Lessons learned from the Gowanus CAG. Acknowledging that the Newtown Creek and Gowanus Superfund sites are different, and that the CAG processes are not the same, the group noted that there are apparently disputes at Gowanus over what falls under Superfund and what does not. Because the Gowanus site is further along in the Superfund process, the group speculated that there may be lessons learned or intelligence to glean from talking to members of the Gowanus CAG.

Action Items

- Skeo Solutions will type notes for the call.
- Skeo Solutions will contact Wanda Ayala at US EPA to discuss the proposed July CAG meeting.
- Skeo Solutions will post and announce the ratified operating procedures.
- New CAG members will be contacted.
- Sarah Durand/Kate Zidar will circulate potential NYS DOH dates.
- All steering committee members will help with logistics for meeting planning as needed.