



**Technical Assistance Services for Communities**  
**Contract No.: EP-W-07-059**  
**TASC WA No.: TASC-4-HQ-OSRTI**  
**Technical Directive No.: 2.02 TD #2 Newtown Creek**

**Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group (CAG)**  
**Steering Committee Conference Call Summary**  
November 7, 2012

**Attendees**

Christine Holowacz, GWAPP/NCMC  
Ryan Kuonen, BK, CB#1 Enviro Chair, NAG, CAG Co-Chair  
Phillip Musegaas, Riverkeeper  
Paul Pullo, Metro Terminals  
Kate Zidar, Newtown Creek Alliance, CAG Co-Chair  
Walker Holmes, Skeo Solutions

**Overview**

The attendees discussed their pressing issues, concerns, and questions in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Steering committee members in attendance reached consensus on a series of recommendations for EPA, based on their issues and concerns. These recommendations are listed below, divided into two categories: “immediate” and “near-term.”

*Immediate*

1. Use the CAG as a broad, consistent means of communication and outreach.
  - a. The CAG is a communication conduit with an existing method of communicating to its members and the community at large.
  - b. If the representatives for particular constituencies or organizations (e.g., businesses) have questions/concerns that are more specific than is addressed by information provided to the CAG, they should be able to follow up with EPA.
2. Share information learned in technical assessments since Hurricane Sandy with the CAG as soon as possible. Even if a formal report is unavailable, the CAG would benefit from basic information in the form of updates, meeting minutes, press releases or other communication.

*Near-Term*

1. Develop a crisis management plan and communication strategy. This plan should include protocols, recommended actions, and established lines of communication in the event of future flooding, extreme weather events, or other disasters affecting Newtown Creek.
2. Gather lessons learned.
  - a. Business owners, residents, and agency staff have learned valuable lessons from Hurricane Sandy and the storm’s impacts. This is an opportunity to

gather new knowledge about handling and preventing Creek-associated disasters and to understand how similar situations could be handled differently in the future.

- b. Work is being done to assess, manage, and clean up the storm's aftermath. These efforts should be documented and shared with the public.

### **Next Steps**

Steering committee members in attendance also discussed how the CAG might adjust its priorities moving forward. Call attendees agreed that a CAG meeting prior to the December holidays would be a good idea. Possible meeting topics could be: discussion of lessons learned, update on results of post-hurricane assessments, and collaborative development of the communications strategy and crisis management plan.