



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

**Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group (CAG)**  
**Steering Committee Conference Call Summary**  
January 14, 2013

**Attendees**

Christine Holowacz, GWAPP/NCMC  
Deb Mesloh, LIC Partnership  
Jean Tanler, Queens Business Outreach Center  
Kate Zidar, Newtown Creek Alliance, CAG Co-Chair  
Leah Archibald, EWVIDCO  
Paul Pullo, Metro Terminals  
Phillip Musegaas, Riverkeeper  
Rich Mazur, NBDC, GWAPP, Greenpoint Business Alliance  
Ryan Kuonen, BK, CB#1 Enviro Chair, NAG, CAG Co-Chair  
Walker Holmes, Skeo Solutions

**Overview**

The Newtown Creek CAG steering committee convened by conference call on Monday, January 14, 2013, in order to discuss the CAG's priorities moving forward. A summary of the discussion is as follows, beginning with an overview of recent events, provided by CAG co-chair Kate Zidar:

- The steering committee members reviewed the priorities that the CAG set forth during its September 2012 meeting, which were to hold CAG meetings on the following topics, in order:
  1. General Update on Sampling
  2. Business and Industry Effects of Superfund activity
  3. Community Visions and Goals for Environmental and Economic Conditions on Newtown Creek
- The CAG held a meeting, with USEPA presenting, on the first topic, "General Update On Sampling in Newtown Creek," on October 10, 2012.
- On October 29, Hurricane Sandy hit New York City, leading to significant flooding and destruction in the Newtown Creek area. Due to this storm, the CAG shelved its original list of priorities in favor of disaster response. A small number of steering committee members gathered on November 7 in order to discuss disaster response; their recommendations included requesting any/all hurricane sampling results; development of an emergency response plan; and sharing of lessons learned from the storm. On December 17, USEPA and other agencies presented at a public meeting about the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

In the “post-Sandy era,” the steering committee discussed the following issues and priorities for the CAG:

- Should the CAG involve the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the future development of an emergency plan? OSHA’s response to Hurricane Sandy was, in the opinion of some steering committee members, nuanced and helpful.
- The steering committee agreed that the previously proposed meeting on business and industry effects dovetails nicely with Sandy aftermath; they would like to keep this as a topic for the next full CAG meeting.
- Issues to be discussed at the business/industry effects meeting include:
  - Difficult lending environment
  - Concern about bulkhead undermining
  - Intended depth of channel upon completion of remediation
  - Information on permitting – what will be involved for bulkhead repair
  - Location of staging site and traffic predictions
  - Liability and figuring out de minimis settlements (this is known to be a more long-term issue and perhaps cannot be discussed at this time)
- Potential speakers might include:
  - DEC
  - USEPA legal counsel
  - Mayor’s office
- Early March (potentially March 6) was proposed as a date for the CAG meeting. The meeting should be held in Queens.

### **Next Steps**

- Steering committee members will communicate via email to confirm logistics of the proposed March meeting, including: date, time, location, agenda, and speakers.
- Follow up with USEPA regarding the development of an emergency plan.
- Check in with the USEPA site team for Newtown Creek regarding the status of interim data, prior to issuance of the next report.
- Give thought to which entity (government, non-profit, etc.) would be best positioned to tackle “big thinking” for Newtown Creek regarding climate change, sea level rise, and storm surge issues. What might be the CAG’s role in such an effort?