

Newtown Creek CAG Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Present

Christine Holowacz
Ed Kelly
Mike Schade
Mitch Waxman
Rich Mazur
Rosemary Han
Ryan Kuonen
Willis Elkins

Agenda

1. Debrief from February 2017 CAG Meeting
2. Remedial Investigation Next Steps
3. Upcoming Presentations for April 2017 CAG Meeting
4. Housekeeping

1. Debrief from February 2017 CAG Meeting

- Overall impression – the CAG meeting went well and EPA was responsive and open to community perspectives.
- Sitting in a circle was a good layout for promoting an inclusive environment. It made attendee introductions easy and created a community-friendly environment. The circular seating also put EPA and the CAG on the same level.
- When talking through technical risk assessment documents and CAG responses, having copies of the risk assessment available to share would be helpful so that CAG members can follow the discussion.
 - Either EPA or the CAG's Steering Committee should provide printed copies in the future.
- The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* published an article about the February 2017 CAG meeting: <http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2017/2/2/epa-officials-trump-stay-away-newtown-creek>.
- The CAG's relationship with EPA feels like it has improved. CAG members appreciate seeing more EPA staff involved and present at the meetings. The Steering Committee recognizes that EPA is giving community comments serious consideration.

2. Remedial Investigation Next Steps

- **Willis** will follow up with Caroline Kwan and the EPA team to get a complete copy of the draft Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation document. Ryan, Sean and Willis received a copy of the Executive Summary and will share it with the Steering Committee.

- EPA, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) and the Newtown Creek Group are currently reviewing the draft Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation document.
- The Steering Committee would like to send its comments on the document to EPA by the end of March 2017.
 - The **Technical Committee** will review the document and possibly ask Terrie (Skeo) to assist with the review.
- Connective Strategies Associates, Inc., the representative for the Newtown Creek Group (potentially responsible party), offered to give more presentations to the full CAG about Newtown Creek-related topics. Would the Steering Committee rather devote more CAG meeting time to presentations from NYC DEP and EPA rather than from the Newtown Creek Group?
 - The Steering Committee would rather prioritize presentations and continued discussions with NYC DEP and EPA during CAG meetings.
- The Newtown Creek Group is trying to set up a follow-up meeting with Riverkeeper (**Sean** can follow up). Steering Committee members emphasized that the content of meetings between Riverkeeper and the Newtown Creek Group should be shared openly with Steering Committee for full transparency.

3. Upcoming Presentations for April 2017 CAG Meeting

- Upcoming CAG meetings are planned for April, early June and September 2017 (skipping July and August holidays).
 - Can bring this schedule up on the next call with EPA and finalize meeting dates.
 - Tentative proposed meeting dates are April 5 and June 1, 2017.
 - **Rosemary** will email EPA and ask about final meeting dates.
- Location: **Mitch** will be at Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan's office next month and can follow up on potential meeting locations. The library on Grand Street is one possible meeting location.
- Proposed Agenda Items
 - i. EPA presentation about its responses to the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment and draft Remedial Investigation reports.
 - ii. The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) approached Ed and requested about 15-20 minutes at the next CAG meeting to present on dredging opportunities and economic/commercial opportunities for Newtown Creek as a commercial waterway. Ed has seen the presentation. He thinks it demonstrates the value of waterways for transit and business, and provides education on dredging processes and how dredging works at contaminated sites. The purpose of the presentation is to educate and raise awareness.
 - **Ed** will circulate presentation slides for the Steering Committee to review. The Steering Committee will make the final decision on whether to invite EDC to present at the next CAG meeting.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently updated its report on Newtown Creek with high-resolution soundings of Newtown Creek.
 - **Willis** can circulate the updated report to the Steering Committee.

4. Housekeeping

- Ryan requests that all Steering Committee members review the CAG membership form (<https://goo.gl/forms/hSLOrgzFRkplZOsg2>).
 - **Ryan** can recirculate the email again.
- Next monthly call with EPA is Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 3 p.m. eastern.
 - Steering Committee members or EPA staff on the call could circulate notes after the call to keep the entire Steering Committee up to date.