

Newtown Creek CAG Steering Committee Meeting
Friday, November 18, 2016
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Present (by phone)

Willis Elkins
Mitch Waxman
Mike Schade
Ryan Kuonen
Leah Archibald
Krysia Solheim

Agenda

1. Recap of 10/20/16 Meeting
2. Fish Advisories
3. Recap of Riverkeeper, NCA, and NYC DEP Meeting
4. Technical Committee
5. Confirmation of New CAG Members
6. New Steering Committee Members
7. Upcoming Meetings

1. Recap of 10/20/16 Meeting

- The meeting with EPA Region 2 Regional Administrator Judith Enck and EPA's Newtown Creek site team went well.

2. Fish Advisories

- The CAG has asked for warning signs along the creek to highlight the dangers of eating fish and crabs in the area. On behalf of the CAG, elected officials sent letters to the New York State Department of Health to address this issue. The Health Department has not responded.
- Mike had a follow-up conversation with Judith Enck and the issue was raised at the October 20 meeting. Judith expressed interest in addressing the issue before the end of her term in 2017.
- EPA is working on creek signage. EPA will ask the Steering Committee for input on the signs to make sure they are accurate and use clear, direct language.
- The Newtown Creek Group (NCG) may be willing to fund the printing of the signs.
- Current draft language: "Caution, this is a Superfund toxic waste site! Eating fish and crabs from this waterway can be hazardous to your health."
- EPA staff asked for feedback on the potential signage locations along the creek.
- Signs will be in English, Spanish and Polish. Mitch suggested adding Chinese and Korean. EPA should check Census data to make the sure the signage reflects all major language groups in the area.

- Willis recommended mailing paper copies of the signs to creek-side businesses and asking them to post the signs in their common areas. Wanda will follow up. Leah can help distribute paper-sign copies to Brooklyn businesses.
- Mitch recently met an environmental engineer from AECOM who was fishing in the creek. He recommended sharing the signs with local bait shops as well.
- EPA is also looking at making signs for Gowanus Canal.

3. Recap of Riverkeeper, NCA and NYC DEP Meeting

- Riverkeeper and Newtown Creek Alliance (NCA) met with New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) representatives.
- The meeting's original purpose was to discuss the long-term control plan (LTCP) process. It focused instead on Superfund and information that NYC DEP staff had previously presented at a meeting.
- NYC DEP staff stated that combined sewage overflows (CSOs) are not a Superfund issue. The LTCP should address CSOs. The LTCP and Clean Water Act will be the mechanisms that clean up the creek.
- The Steering Committee discussed the need for the LTCP to address sewage before it gets into the creek, instead of addressing dissolved oxygen, bacteria, solutes, floatables and nitrogen once they are already causing problems.
- The Steering Committee would like to focus on the LTCP because NYC DEP will be finalizing it in the next eight months. The Steering Committee will invite the general CAG to future LTCP meetings through the CAG website.
- NYC DEP is currently accepting public comments until December 20, 2016, and will continue to accept comments throughout the LTCP process. The part of the process that NYC DEP is currently accepting comments on is not clear. NCA and Riverkeeper staff encouraged NYC DEP representatives to meet with them again to further discuss LTCP-related ideas.
- A recent meeting attended by Riverkeeper, NCA and NCG representatives included a discussion of CSOs. No presentation was given.

4. Technical Committee

- The CAG's Technical Committee has formed; it has 10 to 12 members. It will meet on November 20, 2016, to review the draft Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA).
- EPA has asked for feedback on the draft HHRA by the end of November. The Steering Committee received the documents from EPA in late October.
- Terrie has provided feedback on the draft HHRA for the Technical Committee's consideration. The Technical Committee will schedule a follow-up call with Terrie before submitting comments to EPA.

5. Confirmation of New CAG Members

- The Steering Committee confirmed Michael Haskell, Lisa Bloodgood, Johanna Phelps and Charles Yu as new CAG members.

- **Kryisia** and **Ryan** will reach out to current CAG members to make sure they are still interested in serving as active CAG members and to update their affiliations.

6. New Steering Committee Members

- The Steering Committee briefly discussed the possibility of including specific stakeholder seats on the Steering Committee. The Gowanus Canal CAG has such seats.
- **Mitch** will email Steering Committee members to discuss the idea further.

7. Upcoming Meetings

- The next CAG meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2016, in Queens.
- **Kryisia** will send an email to the listserv to discuss the December meeting and the 2017 meeting schedule.
- The Steering Committee will discuss a potential January 2017 meeting and agenda with EPA site staff on a conference call on December 1.