

Newtown Creek Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2018
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Lisa Bloodgood
Mike Dulong
Willis Elkins
Christine Holowacz
Ed Kelly
Kelly MacDonald
Paul Pullo
Mike Schade
Mitch Waxman

1. Recap of June CAG Meeting

- This CAG meeting was the first meeting with the new facilitator, Pat Field of the Consensus Building Institute (CBI). Willis Elkins shared that the meeting was productive, conversational and community-focused. The CAG discussed issues it has faced over the years and anticipates for the future. One major issue discussed was the need for outreach to unrepresented members of the community. Willis is encouraged about Pat's presence and hopes it can help combat the fatigue the CAG has been facing. One of Pat's roles will also be to keep track of follow-up items, so tasks do not get lost in the shuffle.
- Willis also noted that Pat will reach out to Steering Committee and CAG members soon to conduct interviews and gather a sense of their issues and priorities.

2. Upcoming Technical CAG Meeting

- Willis confirmed that the next technical CAG meeting with EPA will be July 24th. The agenda, location and time are to-be-determined. Willis requested that Kelly MacDonald post a "save the date" on the CAG website. Willis noted that the CAG needs to provide EPA with a technical topic of interest for the meeting.
- Willis shared that at the June CAG meeting, EPA provided a brief update of their sampling activities. The CAG was concerned about how the biota sampling repeats past sampling, which excluded intertidal species. A Steering Committee member suggested that this could be a focus of the next technical meeting.
- Ed Kelly suggested a technical meeting topic about the planned depth of the creek post-remediation. Steering Committee members were interested in both the projected creek depth and type of creek bottom (e.g., cement vs. clay capping). The committee is concerned about the impacts to commercial use of the creek and maintaining commercial depths. There was interest in hearing more about sediment-related Superfund cleanups on commercially active waterways. A CAG meeting about the commercial needs of the creek could also be a good opportunity to loop in local

businesses that will be impacted by the creek depth, and economic development corporations.

- If anyone else has suggestions for topics for technical meetings, contact Willis.

3. Upcoming General CAG Meeting

- The Steering Committee discussed having the next general CAG meeting in September. The agenda is to-be-determined.

4. Additional Information Requests and Presentation Ideas

- Ed Kelly requested creating a forward-looking timeline to track what still must happen before remediation. He thinks this can help the group refocus on the overall process. This could be included on the CAG's website. Willis suggested pressuring EPA to get a more detailed timeline for upcoming events, including the finalization of the remedial investigation (RI) report.
- Mitch Waxman suggested to the group to stop bringing up concerns about the Pruitt and Trump administration to EPA staff at the CAG meetings. He noted that these staff are likely disconnected from the administration and are unable to say anything about it. Other Steering Committee members suggested asking the EPA site team to update the CAG with any top-down administrative changes that specifically impact this project.
- Willis noted that Newtown Creek Group (NCG) has reached out about presenting to the community again. The consensus from the Steering Committee was to setup a small meeting with Steering Committee members, as opposed to having a general CAG meeting. Willis offered to follow up with NCG to see what topics/issues they are interested in discussing.
- Mitch expressed interest in gaining more information about the recently added PRPs (e.g., what type of chemical release occurred, transport method, etc.). Willis will ask EPA if there are legal documents (e.g., consent orders) they can share that have more information about the PRPs.
- Another presentation idea included inviting an economic development corporation to present to the CAG, as they have in the past (arranged by Ed).
- Mitch suggested inviting the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to the CAG. The CAG has not heard much from them since DEP solidified the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP).
- Another meeting idea was to have Riverkeeper or Newtown Creek Alliance (NCA) present their visioning plan for the creek.

5. Skeo's Assistance

- Skeo's contract expired on June 22 but was renewed quickly by EPA; support from Skeo is ongoing.