

**Case 10-T-0139**

**Champlain-Hudson Power Express Project**

**Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**December 06, 2023**

**draft**

On December 06, 2023, the Governance Committee for the Hudson River and Lake Champlain Habitat Enhancement, Restoration, and Research/Habitat Improvement Project Trust (the “Trust”) held a regular meeting.

Pursuant to New York State's Open Meetings Law, as amended, the meeting took place at the Department of Public Services Albany and NYC Offices, DEC’s New Paltz Office and APA’s Raybrook office (via remote connection)

Attendees:

Certificate Holders: Josh Bagnato, Bill Helmer, Jen Wjite

Department of Public Service (DPS): Heather Behnke, Matthew Smith;

Department Environmental Conservation (DEC): Heather Gierloff , Nicole Balk; Sita Crouse

Department of State (DOS): Matthew Maraglio, Rebecca Ferres

Trout Unlimited (TU): Roger Olson

Hudson River Foundation (HRF): Jonathan Kramer, Jim Lodge;

Scenic Hudson: Alex Wolfe Steve Valentine

Riverkeeper: John Libscomb George Jackman, Tracy Brown

New York City: Jay Goodman; (Rebecca Swadek and Merrit Larson (NYC Parks))

Adirondack Park Agency (APA): Craig Micheals

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed.

1. Motion to amend the agenda to include approval of September (9-27-23) general meeting minutes and November (11-03-23) Special meeting minutes made by DOS, seconded by DPS, carried unanimously
2. Motion to approve both September and November meeting minutes made by NYC, seconded by DEC, carried unanimously
3. Project updates
  - a. Parts of the project are actively under construction
    - i. Putnam, Dresden, Whitehall, Rotterdam, Catskill, Stony Point, Cementon
    - ii. Construction occurring at the NYC converter station location
    - iii. Project remains on Target for May 2026 in service date
  - b. EM & CP's
    - i. 14/15 land based EM&CPs approved
    - ii. Work progressing on in water EM&CPs
    - iii. Riverkeeper asked for the expected date of the in water EM&CP's
      1. March 2024
4. Motion regarding priority projects
  - a. DOS read a proposed motion into the record on behalf of the President "Shall the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project Environmental Trust governance committee (GC) approve the priority projects as outlined in the 11/10/2023 memo from the Hudson River Foundation to the GC?"
    - i. Trout Unlimited questioned whether Hudson River Foundation (HRF) would issue RFP's if necessary. HRF responded "yes"
    - ii. NYC stated that they appreciated the changes made to the oyster project
    - iii. HRF summarized the budget and spoke about the plan being a living document
      1. Trout Unlimited moved
      2. DPS seconded
      3. DOS called each member in turn
        - a. Motion carried unanimously
      4. Trout Unlimited asked about timeline moving forward
        - a. HRF stated that they would continue their outreach and will come back with more refined plans
        - b. The trustee bank needs an ecumbancy certificate
          - i. President (CHPE) will work with HRF to provide**
5. HRF led a discussion regarding non priority projects
  - a. NYC – Timeline makes sense but suggested potentially not spending non priority money until 2026
  - b. Trout Unlimited questioned HRF if they had any project ideas. HRF responded that they could suggest some and that they would use the existing HRF process

- c. Riverkeeper thanked HRF for their great work and stated
    - i. that priority should be given to the projects themselves, and used to fill gaps.
    - ii. Committee should ID shovel ready projects
    - iii. there should be predictable steps towards an executable project.
    - iv. Projects should focus on biotic impact
    - v. RFP criteria need to be very defined so committee doesn't have to review too many projects
    - vi. Committee should support both large and small projects
  - d. CHPE stated that they want any RFPs to be widely circulated and would like committee members to consider a press release announcing the priority project vote
    - i. **CHPE to circulate a draft press release to committee members with a description of what they were asking for**
    - ii. DEC requested that the press release focus on what the mitigation applies to and noted that this is not all project related compensatory mitigation
6. 2024 meeting schedule
- a. 3/6, 6/12, 9/11 and 12/4 all at 1:30 pm
7. Adjournment at 2:37
- a. NYC moved
  - b. DEC second
  - c. Carried unanimously.