

**Case 10-T-0139**

**Champlain-Hudson Power Express Project**

**Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 12, 2024**

On June 12, 2024, 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: Jeremiah Sheehan, Sarah Villagomez

Department of Public Service (DPS): Jessica DiFiore,

Department Environmental Conservation (DEC): Heather Gierloff ; Greg Kenney, Robert Fiorentino

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

Trout Unlimited (TU): Roger Olson (remote)

Scenic Hudson: Alex Wolfe, Steven Ballentine

Riverkeeper: John Lipscomb George Jackman,

New York City: Jay Goodman

Adirondack Park Agency (APA): Liz Schulyer, Robert Kreider

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed. Jeremiah Sheehan introduced himself as filling in for Josh Bagnato for the certificate holder

- 1.) Motion to approve the March meeting minutes – was made by CHPE , seconded by NYC
  - a. carried unanimously
- 2.) Project updates - Jeremiah
  - a. Project remains under full construction and will be continued into Lake Champlain in the coming months
  - b. Converter Station construction is ahead of schedule
  - c. All terrestrial sections have Notices to Proceed
  - d. Prelay of concrete matressing has begun in Lake Champlain and the Hudson River
  - e. The notice to proceed for Lake Champlain has been issued
  - f. Hudson River Cable lay is expected for this summer
  - g. Cable deliveries have been arriving on schedule
  - h. Project is still on schedule for the 2026 milestone
- 3.) Priority Project update – Jim/HRF
  - a. Hab characteristics in mainstem HR
    - i. 2 yr data collection effort
    - ii. Would like to issue RFP. nte 175K to support release of RFP
  - b. Restoration of adult and juv fish hab (Schodack)
    - i. Would like funding approval NTE 500k
  - c. Harlem River designing the edge
    - i. Would like to start work on NYC outreach to form cooperative agreement
  - d. Design guidelines for shoreline enhancements
    - i. Would like to start work on NYC outreach to form cooperative agreement
  - e. Bronx river aquatic connectivity - dam removal
    - i. Would like to start work on NYC outreach to form cooperative agreement
  - f. Oyster reef development
    - i. Would like to release rfp nte 230k for assessment and mapping
  - g. Invasive species Lake Champlain
    - i. Would like to release rfp nte 200k
  - h. Lake Champlain - academic research
    - i. Would like to release rfp nte 300k
  - i. Lake Champlain fish population assessments
    - i. Would like to release rfp nte 184K
  - j. Jon Kramer discussed the approvals needed to move forward
    - i. Jon asked for a motion to approve the technical workgroup members listed in the priority project tracking report dated 6/12/2024 including Trout Unlimited for the Bronx River project.
    - ii. Jon discussed 5 yr implementation cash flow – 2024 planed allocation is 1827000. current recommendation is 1589000
  - k. Discussion
    - i. Scenic Hudson asked how big the respondent pool to the RFP would likely be
      1. Jon believes that it will depend and general discussion followed
    - ii. DEC asked if all RFPs would go out together so the GC members cold help with the launch

1. Jon (HRF) responded that he would like them all in a common format and that a discussion about release strategy is warranted before the RFPs are fully scoped
    - iii. River Keeper asked if meetings have started with the TWG regarding the scope of the Schodack Island project and if HRF will lead the TWGs
      1. Jim (HRF) Replied that conversations have begun with OPRHP and DEC, that they were preliminary and that great cost projects were not available
      2. Jim said that HRF would lead unless others were interested
  - I. Jon requested a motion to approve the budget allocations as listed in the priority project tracking report dated June 12, 2024
    - i. Cert. Holder moved
    - ii. APA seconded
    - iii. Motion carried unanimously
- 4.) General discussion
  - a. HRF asked if it was appropriate to have partnership agreements with agencies if projects occur on their property and questioned if there were other restrictions on funding to agencies. They noted that it is important that all decisions are reasonable and defensible. – Jay and Jon will think about this and come to the September meeting with recommendations
  - b. Discussions occurred concerning the non priority projects
    - i. Planning has been centered on the priority projects and more work needs to be done
    - ii. Jon believes that there was general agreement on a data analysis/synthesis project at roughly 240K that would focus on data gaps and would like to discuss at the Sept. meeting
    - iii. Riverkeeper suggested that results of studies that are already ordered by the certificate still need to be collected/collated and that the data analysis/synthesis study include those results. Riverkeeper would like to provide input to this study
- 5.) Adjournment at 2:42 pm
  - a. NYC moved
  - b. Scenic Hudson seconded