

Case 10-T-0139

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Project

Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2024

draft

On September 11, 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: Josh Bagnato (remote) Sarah Villagomez (NYC)

Department of Public Service (DPS): Noreena Chaudari (DPS Albany), Matt Smith (Remote), Jeremy Rosenthal (Remote)

Department Environmental Conservation (DEC): Sita Crouse (DPS Albany), Heather Gierloff (DEC NP) ; Robert Fiorentino (remote)

Department of State (DOS): Matthew Maraglio (DPS Albany), Rebecca Ferres (remote), Laurel Bohl (remote)

Trout Unlimited (TU): Roger Olson (remote)

Scenic Hudson: Alex Wolfe (DEC NP), Steven Ballentine (DEC NP)

Riverkeeper: John Lipscomb, Dan Shapley, Luis Melendez (All DEC NP)

New York City: Jay Goodman (DPS Alb)

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m by Josh and a quorum was confirmed.

Josh asked for a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes. Motion was made by NYC and 2nd by DPS. Motion carried unanimously.

Riverkeeper introduced Luis and Dan and announced that John would be retiring soon. Congratulations to John.

Updates

Josh

- CHPE is in under full construction mode and work is actively occurring along all portions of the project except for the Harlem Rive.
- All EM & CP segments have been approved except for 2
- Apprx. 1/3 of the Lake Champlain and 1/3 of the Hudson River cable has been installed
- Apprx 50 % of the converter station has been completed.
- Work will begin soon on the Astoria Rainey cable
- Apprx 1000 people are working on the project.
- Project is on schedule for a May 2026 commercial operation. Work is occurring non stop and is about at the half way point.
- NYC discussed that NYISO evaluated in a reliability study what would happen if CHPE was not in service by May 2026 and asked if CHPE new why it was evaluated. CHPE has no knowledge of the study or its reasons.
- Riverkeeper stated that residents in Haverstraw were asking if blasting was occurring nearby. CHPE responded that there is an HDD in that area but not aware of any blasting. Riverkeeper asked for confirmation and CHPE said they would follow up shortly.

HRF update

- Hudson River Foundation gave a presentation to go over various documents including the trust activities and accounting report and financial accounting plan (documents previously provided to members).
- Hudson River Foundation gave a presentation and provided updates to the priority projects (documents previously provided to members). Specific discussion followed relating to several projects
 - Schodack Island – Riverkeeper asked for a tech presentation on the project for the TWG. HRF said that are trying to get modeling from OPRHP before such a meeting.
 - Harlem River designing the edge
 - Josh asked for a discussion about the work/function of the TWGs. HRF dsaid a lot of work needs to occur to have a valuable TWG meeting but underscored their importance

- Discussion occurred regarding potential need for recusals of committee members from attending TWGs
- NYC TU and RiverKeeper indicated they wanted to be involved on applicable TWGs but don't want to micromanage.
- Riverkeeper wants to be involved during project scoping (general comment not limited to this project)
- The group discussed how additional members could be added to TWGS. There was general agreement that TWG members can be provisionally added subject to be confirmation at the next Gov. Committee meeting. A Gov Committee member that is a member of a TWG is free to bring anyone they feel is necessary to advise them.
- HRF asked for a motion to approve the TWG members list as listed in the priority project tracking report dated 9/11/2024. Moved by DPS and 2nd by Riverkeeper. The motion unanimously carried.
- HRK asked for a motion to approve the budget allocations for 3 years (184k/year, 552k total) to support the RFP for Project i – Lake Champlain Fish Population Assessments. Moved by NYC, 2nd by DPS, unanimously carried
- General Discussion followed on the 25% non priority project funding pool.
 - HRF believe a data synthesis study is valuable but recommend waiting until 2026/2027 when anticipated relevant data becomes available.
 - What are the next steps for this pool of money? -HRF suggested a longer meeting at the next GC meeting to discuss. CHPE also asked Gov Committee members to suggest ideas. Gov committee agreed to expand the 12/4 meeting to 10 am – 3 pm
- General Discussion followed on the investment strategy. A motion was made by Roger and 2nd by DEC to continue with the current investment strategy which is a small cash account and low risk certificates of deposit.
- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by DPS, 2nd by DPS which was unanimously carried. Meeting concluded at 2:58 pm.