

Case 10-T-0139

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Project

Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 06, 2024

draft

On March 06, 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, Sarah Villagomez, Bill Helmer

Department of Public Service (DPS): Noreena Chaudari, Matthew Smith; Chase Chaskey

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

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

Trout Unlimited (TU): Roger Olson

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

Scenic Hudson: Alex Wolfe

Riverkeeper: John Lipscomb George Jackman,

New York City: Melanie Franco;

Adirondack Park Agency (APA): Liz Schulyer,

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

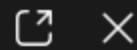
- 1.) New attendees
 - a. Noreena Chaudari Introduced herself as the new DPS representative
 - b. Sarah Villagomez Introduced herself as a new staff member with the Certificate Holder
 - c. Melanie Franco introduced herself as a interim NYC representative filling in for Jay Goodman
 - d. Liz Schulyer introduced herself as the New APA representative
- 2.) A motion to approve the December 06 meeting minutes – was made by DPS , seconded by DEC – carried unanimously
- 3.) Project updates – under full construction – remains on track for May 2026 commercial operations
 - a. Terrestrial -
 - i. all EM & CP segments approved
 - ii. NTP for all segments except 1 –
 - iii. crews working on almost all sections.
 1. Grubbing
 2. HDDs
 3. Trenching
 4. Vaulting Chambers
 5. 7-8 laydown yards are being used
 6. Cable delivery is continually occurring
 - b. Marine –
 - i. 2 HDDs completed from land to water. Final two anticipated this spring.
 - ii. Cable install anticipated this summer in Lake Champlain and Hudson
 1. Vessels arriving in the coming month
 - iii. Cable install anticipated in Harlem River in 2025.
 - c. Metro –
 - i. foundation work completed and steel being constructed at converter station.
 - ii. Astoria -Rainey construction expected this summer.
 - iii.
 - d. Questions –
 - i. River keeper – are trees being replaced during grubbing? – Josh – some will some won't. trees will be excluded in 6-8 ft area over trench
- 4.) Priority Project update
 - a. Jim HRF – see yesterday evening's memo – continue project scoping. Stakeholders being gathered to develop an ad hoc implementation team. Later quarter 3 and quarter 4 to begin implementing.
 - b. Riverkeeper asked about selection of implementation team – Jim offered attendance to anyone on the GC who wants to participate. Jim is reaching out to primary authors of case statements. Contact Jim directly to participate.
 - c. Non priority projects selection – Kramer HRF
 - i. Use a deliberative process
 - ii. Prioritize projects with a nexus
 - iii. Develop criteria
 - iv. Sub committee met last week (2/29) to discuss (RK, DEC, DOS)

1. Reviewed condition 165
 2. Discussed different types of projects
 3. Benefit
 - a. Protect restore and improve habitat/fisheries
 4. Impact
 - a. Minimize mitigate or study
- v. Take aways
1. Data synthesis would support a better understanding of data collected by CHPE
 2. Nexus is broadly defined
 3. Nexus should be one of several criteria but not a defining criteria for project selection
 4. Additional criteria need to be defined and be aligned with specific funding opps
 5. Consider allocating some funds linked to data synethis, community needs, and eco/biological opps
 6. Need a mechanism to solicit input and project proposals – TBD and refined
 7. Need to be aware of amount of \$
- vi. Next steps
1. Should data synthesis be scoped and moved forward?
 2. Additional sub committee work
 - a. Specify focus areas
 - b. Develop project selection and eval criteria
- vii. Questions
1. Alex – what is the way forward for developing criteria – Kramer discussed the need for providing clarity to those we request proposals from.
 2. John (RK) – this round may go slow because it's the first round. Asked if money could be pooled.
 3. General discussion followed – if the 25% money does not get distributed it does not violate certificate conditions. – Kramer cautioned that we need to be aware of cash flow issues potentially associated with iterative nature of trust deposits.
 4. John (RK) – the merits of the project will decide if a project moves forward. Consider phasing projects as a mechanism to continue to advance future iterations of a project
 5. APA – Liz – sooner the better to get the most impact.
 6. Should data synthesis be undertaken? – Josh asked if it was limited to CHPE data. - subcommittee would synthesize data with HRF including data collected by CHPE as part of the certificate. DEC asked for help from CHPE to understand the scope of all the data collected. Josh agreed to join next subcommittee meeting to discuss data collection

activities that have occurred. riverkeeper asked how data would be delivered.

- 5.) Officers - Josh asked for volunteers for officers for the next year
 - a. DOS volunteered for secretary
 - b. DPS and DEC volunteered for Vice Chair
 - i. DPS removed stated they had no objection to DEC serving as vice chair
 - c. Certificate holder volunteered to be Chair
 - d. No other nominations were heard
 - e. DOS moved to that DEC be vice Chair – DPS 2nd – unanimously carried
 - f. DPS moved the DOS be secretary and the Certificate Holder be chair – DEC s2nd – unanimously carried
- 6.) DOS moved that the meeting be adjourned. Scenic Hudson seconded, - unanimously carried the meeting concluded at 2:35 pm.

▼ Participants (21)



Q Search



Matthew Maraglio

Host, me



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APA Conference Room



bill helmer



Chase Chaskey DPS






















heather gierloff



Jim Lodge HRF





off



JH	 Jim Lodge HRF		
JP	 Jim Pinheiro		
JK	 Jonathan Kramer		
JB	 Josh Bagnato		
LB	 laurel bohl		
ES	 Lizz Schuyler (APA Con...		
MS	 Matthew Smith		
nb	 nicole balk		



nb  nicole balk 



NC Noreena Chaudari

N  nycvid-a  

RS  Rebecca Swadek 

rf  robert fiorentino 

SV  Sara Villagomez 

SC  Sita Crounse 

Mute all

Unmute all

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