

**Case 10-T-0139**

**Champlain Hudson Power Express Project**

**Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**March 12, 2025**

On March 12, 2025, 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 and (location)**

Certificate Holders (CHPE): Josh Bagnato, Sara Villagomez (remote)

Department of Public Service (DPS): Noreena Chaudari, Matthew Smith (DPS Albany)

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC): Angela Schimizzi, Mary Anne Bonilla (DEC New Paltz)

Department of State (DOS): Matthew Maraglio Jennifer Street (DPS Albany)

Scenic Hudson: Steve Ballantine (DEC New Paltz)

Riverkeeper: Drew Gamils and Dan Shapley (DEC New Paltz)

Trout Unlimited (TU): Roger Olson (DPS NYC)

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

New York City (NYC): Rebecca Swadek, Robert Loughney (remote)

Hudson River Foundation (HRF): Jim Lodge, Jon Kramer, Laura Logozzo (remote)

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed.

1. A motion to approve the December meeting minute was made by DPS, seconded by APA - unanimously approved
2. CHPE provided a project update
  - a. 69 percent constructed
  - b. On target for May 2026 operational date
  - c. Terrestrial
    - i. 60 percent complete
    - ii. HDD 90 percent done
    - iii. Cut and cover 70 percent done
    - iv. 900 people working every day
  - d. Marine
    - i. Worked paused over the winter
    - ii. 1/3 left in Lake Champlain
    - iii. Upper Hudson almost done
    - iv. Lower Hudson and Harlem River in summer
  - e. Metro
    - i. Converter station and Rainey Cable

1. 1/3 of line installed
  2. 65 percent of converter station complete
  3. All easements but one obtained
- f. Questions
- i. Riverkeeper asked for an update on concrete matting in Hudson – Josh said he didn't have the info handy.
  - ii. Riverkeeper asked about start date of lower Hudson portion – Josh said it will be dictated by permit windows
3. Hudson River Foundation
- a. See Jim Lodge's email from 3/4 and relevant attachments which are incorporated herein by reference. Including memo detailing December meeting discussion on 25% pool (non-priority project) of funding
  - b. HRF requested the following motion" Motion to approve the Implementation Plan and Budget Allocations for the 25% pool of Funds as described in the Memorandum: CHET Implementation Plan for the 25% pool of funds: Programmatic Steps and timeline dated March 4, 2024."
    - i. Angela spoke on behalf of Heather G to say that this work should not be duplicative with other work
    - ii. Jim said that there would be lots of opportunity for collaboration with TWGs and Gov Committee would have final say.
    - iii. Josh suggested HRF work on future language in the RFP giving preference for those projects that prioritize working together and using existing funds
    - iv. Josh requested a motion
    - v. DOS moved
    - vi. DPS seconded
    - vii. Carried unanimously
4. HRF discussed "Project F" oyster reef development and restoration
- a. RFP released in Oct 24- received 4 proposals
  - b. TWG discussed in February
  - c. HRF recommend award to Normandeau Assoc. for ~99K
  - d. HRF requested the following motion "Motion to award 99,965 to Normandeau Assoc to implement (Project F): Bottom Type and Oyster Density Sampling and Mapping: Hudson River from Yonkers (Yonkers Yacht Club) to West Harlem Piers (125<sup>th</sup> Street)"
    - i. CHPE notified all that Norm. is a contractor for them for other portions of the installation/studies
    - ii. Some general discussion followed about status of oyster in lower Hudson river.
    - iii. TU moved
    - iv. DOS second
    - v. Unanimously carried
5. HRF discussed Lake Champ Fish pop assessments (Laura) – project I
- a. Two LOIs received following RFP
  - b. Two proposals received
  - c. HRF recommend awarding project to U of VT. Summary sheet provided to members before meeting contains more details
    - i. HRF asked for a motion "Motion to award 549,912 to the University of VT to implement the Lake Champlain Fish Population Assessment Project (Project I)."
    - ii. DPS moved
    - iii. CHPE seconded
    - iv. Carried unanimously
6. Josh asked HRF "What's next" in terms of implementing projects
- a. Alert the applicants
  - b. Move through contractual process (several weeks to several months)

- c. Milestones will be defined in grant agreements and updates provided to GC at quarterly mtgs. Milestones will be calibrated to the nature of the work.
  - d. May recommend inviting grant recipients to a future GC mtg.
  - e. Josh reminded all that it's great to have some projects authorized!!!
    - i. Riverkeeper asked how they would be notified of milestones
    - ii. Jim suggested that it would be provided in a format similar to those provided to GC meetings.
    - iii. RK asked about press releases – John (HRF) suggested waiting until everything was under contract.
    - iv. NYC/Bob L asked about process for RFP winners/anticipated timelines
      - 1. HRF said contract will include start date and funding timeframes – portions of money will reside with HRF and will be invoiced following certain milestones/deliverables.
      - 2. Bob asked if there was a standard contract. – John said there is.
      - 3. Bob asked if contract would go through GC, John said he did not feel it necessary as long as they are reporting to GC. No one disagreed
7. Other project updates – see summary sheet sent prior to mtg
- a. Academic research on Fish Habitats in Lake Champ (Project H) – U of VT proposal had some changes that was not expected so HRF is going to go back to U of VT and ETG to discuss differences between proposal and LOI
  - b. Project C - Designing the Edge (Hudson/Harlem)
    - i. Next steps – Project advisory group needs to provide input and scope of Work and develop cooperative agreement with EDC
    - ii. NYC provided a presentation
    - iii. Dan (RK) – discussed a greenway potentially planned for Manhattan side. Asked about the pressures of the limits of the nav channel/any discussion on de-designating certain parts of the nav channel. – general discussion followed. – lots or bulkheading exists on private lands
  - c. Project G Invasive Species Prevention and Management
    - i. PAG established
    - ii. Working on setting up an RFP for fall 2025 (Chambly Canal)
    - iii. HRF will keep GC updated
  - d. Broadly discussed other projects
8. Election of officers
- a. Josh discussed existing rolls
  - b. Josh asked for nominations
    - i. DEC volunteered for vice Chair
    - ii. DPS volunteered for chair
    - iii. CHPE volunteered for secretary
  - c. TU moved that the Secretary cast a single ballot for the slate
  - d. APA seconded
  - e. Carried unanimously
  - f. Josh will remain as CHPE's rep on the board with Sara V
9. Josh asked for any additional business – none
10. Josh asked for a motion to adjourn
- a. DPS moved
  - b. DOS second
  - c. Carried unanimously.

	ETGC			ETGC			ETGC			ETGC
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>HRF Options and Considerations for RFP-1 on Habitat Restoration and Enhancement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding allocation decision</li> </ul>	ETGC									
<b>Development of RFP-1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRF drafts RFP</li> <li>Joint-TWG meeting (all ETGC welcome to attend)</li> <li>RFP approval by ETGC</li> </ul>		Joint-TWG		ETGC						
<b>Release RFP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepting LOIs (4 weeks)</li> </ul>										
<b>LOI Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of LOIs by joint-TWG</li> <li>Invitations to submit full proposals</li> </ul>					Joint-TWG	ETGC				
<b>Accepting Full Proposals (6 weeks)</b>										
<b>Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panel (TBD) reviews proposals and provides recommendations</li> <li>ETGC approves awardee(s)</li> </ul>									Joint-TWG	ETGC