

Champlain Hudson Power Express Project

Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025

**draft**

On June 11, 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 NYC Offices and DEC’s New Paltz Office (via remote connection)

**Attendees and (location)**

Certificate Holders (CHPE): Josh Bagnato (remote), Sara Villagomez (DPS NYC), Bill Helmer (remote)

Department of Public Service (DPS): Noreena Chaudari (DEC New Paltz), Matthew Smith (remote), Chase Chaskey (remote)

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC): Heather Gierloff (DEC New Paltz) and Angela Schimizzi, Rob Fiorentino, Sita Crouse (all remote)

Department of State (DOS): Jennifer Street (DEC New Paltz)

Scenic Hudson: Alex Wolf (DEC New Paltz)

Riverkeeper: Drew Gamils (remote) and Dan Shapley (DEC New Paltz), David Stormer (remote)

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

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

New York City (NYC): Rebecca Swadek, Robert Loughney, Marit Larson, Jamie Ong, Jay Goodman (all remote)

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of March 12, 2025, Minutes
  - a. Moved and approved
3. CHPE Project Updates (Josh Bagnato)
  - a. All construction on track to be completed in 2025
  - b. Terrestrial segments 80-80% complete
  - c. Marine segments 60% done with work scheduled to be completed this summer in the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, and Harlem River
  - d. Converter station is more than 70% complete
  - e. ARC 65% done
  - f. Project is shifting towards restoration, and pre-commissioning
  - g. Questions
    - i. Riverkeeper asked why a notice was sent out regarding Hyde Park remedial burial tool work scheduled for July when the permit window dictates this work cannot begin until September?

1. Josh Bagnato is not aware of this notice being sent or any request to modify permits. He will follow up and asked RK to forward the notice to him

#### 4. Discussion and Motions (Hudson River Foundation)

- a. Approve release of 25% RFP-1 Restoration and Enhancement
  - i. \$3.5M allocated through two RFPs: \$2M in 2025 and \$1.5M in 2027
  - ii. Joint TWG meeting was held in May 2025
    1. RFP should be open to projects across entire geographic CHET scope
    2. Eligible activities and awards: \$100-400k for Planning & Design; \$500k-1M for Implementation; and \$25-100k for Monitoring & Mgmt
    3. Cost sharing/leveraging (matching funds) will be an eval criteria metric but not a requirement
  - iii. No questions; one comment: RK noted a typo in the HRF memo and HRF confirmed it had been corrected
  - iv. Scenic Hudson moved motion to approve the release of the RFP; seconded by River Keeper; carried unanimously
- b. Approve \$500k in spend to implement the North Cove living shoreline project under Project C
  - i. EDC and Parks are co-developers of the Harlem River Designing the Edge project
  - ii. Initial planning and development of the North Cove living shorelines are complete – ready to implement
  - iii. Motion moved by Riverkeeper, seconded by DEC; carried unanimously
- c. Approve transfer of \$3M from Trustee (BNYM) to Trust Administrator (HRF) account
  - i. Current balance with BNYM is \$6.6M
  - ii. Current balance with HRF is \$1.7M
  - iii. HRF expects expenditures of \$2.4M in 2025 and \$3.5M in 2026
  - iv. Tax advantages to moving funds to HRF
  - v. Question
    1. TU asked for clarification that the tax advantages on earned income are due to HRF being a non-profit
      - a. HRF confirmed the balance of the funds are held in a CD, tax free, and are re-invested in the Trust
  - vi. Motion moved by CHPE, seconded by Dan Shapley; carried unanimously
- d. Approve providing BNYM with an updated incumbency cert given officer positions have changed
  - i. Sara Villagomez (CHPE) will be the company representative
  - ii. Noreena Chaudari (DPS) and Sita Crouse (DEC) will be signatories
  - iii. Motion moved by River Keeper, seconded by DEC; carried unanimously

#### 5. Priority Project Updates

- a. Project F Oyster Reef Development (Hudson River) – awardee Normandeau Associates signed the grant agreement and sampling will start Summer 2025
- b. Project I Lake Champlain Fish Population Assessment – awardee University of Vermont reviewing agreements; project expected to start in August 2025
- c. Project H Academic Research Focused on Lake Champlain Fish Habitat Assessments – based on working group feedback, HRF requesting revisions of full proposal put forward by University of Vermont
- d. Project G Chambly Canal AIS – working group reviewed scope, HRF will ask the Gov Committee to approve and release Chambly Canal AIS RFP
- e. Project G AIS Economic Assessment – Planning for 2027 start
- f. Project A Migratory and Resident Larval and Juvenile Fish Habitat Characteristics – PAG formed, refining scope, next step is to determine implementation pathways and finalize scope

#### 6. Adjourn – motion moved by Scenic Hudson, seconded by DEC, and carried unanimously