

Case 10-T-0139

Champlain Hudson Power Express Project

Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025

On December 10, 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 (remote), Chase Chaskey (DPS Albany)

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC): Sita Crouse (DPS Albany), Heather Gierloff (DEC New Paltz), Nicole Balk (remote)

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

Scenic Hudson: Jonathan Clark (DEC New Paltz)

Riverkeeper: David Stormer (DEC New Paltz)

Adirondack Park Agency (APA): Ben Amos (APA Raybrook)

New York City (NYC): Jay Goodman (DPS Albany), Rebecca Swadek (remote)

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed.

1. A motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by NYC, seconded by DEC - unanimously approved
2. CHPE provided a project update
 - a. 94% complete project wide
 - i. Cable is fully installed in all segments from Montreal converter station to Astoria converter station
 - ii. Pre-commissioning testing has been underway
 - b. Terrestrial
 - i. Restoration is underway – some crews will resume restoration in spring because of winter
 - c. Marine
 - i. Cable lay vessels have completed all burial and are leaving New York
 - ii. Hudson mattresses is ongoing
 - d. Rockland County
 - i. 9W work continues
 - e. Questions
 - i. Is there a risk to COD slipping? Any remaining hurdles? Are you 100% confident to start in May?

1. We are confident we will meet our contractual COD. We are working to mitigate risks and handle issues as they arise
3. Hudson River Foundation - Proposed Motions for Consideration
 - a. Academy Street Living Shoreline
 - i. \$3.4M allocation over 5 years
 - ii. North Cove was awarded in September
 - iii. Academy Street Living Shoreline is designed to enhance habitats on the shoreline
 - iv. Project scope was reviewed by the PAG and TWG
 - v. HRF recommends awarding \$947,000 to NYC Economic Development Corporation and \$53,633 to NYC Parks for Project C
 - vi. NYC moved, CHPE seconded, all in favor – motion carried
 - b. Project G: Chambly Canal AIS Assessment
 - i. HRF received four full proposals in response to the RFP released in September
 - ii. PAG reviewed proposals and most members preferred the proposal but the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi (UQAC)
 - iii. HRF recommends awarding \$200,000 to University of Quebec at Chicoutimi
 - iv. NYC moved, DEC seconded, all in favor – motion carried
 - c. Project H: Academic Research Focused on Lake Champlain Fish Habitat
 - i. Invited proposal from University of Vermont/USGS was revised based on PAG/TWG feedback and underwent peer review in October
 - ii. Revised proposal and reviews were discussed with the TWG in November
 - iii. HRF recommends awarding \$949,976 to University of Vermont/USGS
 - iv. APA moved, City seconds, all in favor – motion carried
4. 2025 RFP: Restoration and Enhancement of Important Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
 - a. Released in Sept 2025
 - b. Received and reviewed 13 LOI
 - c. Invited and received 9 full proposals
 - d. External peer review planned for Jan 2026
 - e. TWG review and discussion planned for Feb 2026
 - f. Award decisions to be made in March 2026
 - g. Questions:
 - i. Who will be on the external peer committee?
 1. TBD
 - ii. Do the proposals cover all geographic areas of interest to the Fund
 1. HRF confirmed
 - iii. Was gov committee feedback in September taken and incorporated in full proposals?
 1. Yes, feedback was provided and the respondents used it to improve their proposals and HRF gave feedback to denials as well so they had rationale
 - iv. Are we oversubscribed?
 1. No, we are under the \$2MM cap – potentially all could be funded but only the best will be recommended for funding
5. CHET Priority Project Updates – HRF
 - a. Project A
 - i. Signing agreements with University of Delaware/Cornell University/USGS
 - ii. Project start will be in January 2026
 - iii. Scoping opportunities for remaining available funds (~\$1M) – will work with DEC and other members of PAG to find optys and next steps
 - b. Project F
 - i. Project funded in March 2025

- ii. Sampling started summer 2025 and completed fall 2025
 - iii. Analysis is expected to be completed in the winter 2026
 - iv. Scoping opportunities for remaining available funds (~\$170k)
 - c. Project G
 - i. Scoping project plan and developing cooperative agreement with NYPA/Canals
 - ii. Establishing PAG – anyone interested should let HRF know
 - iii. NYPA/Canals to draft scope for review by PAG
 - d. Project I
 - i. \$549,912 awarded to University of Vermont
 - ii. Project started in August 2025
 - iii. Fish sampling anticipated to begin in the spring
6. NYC made a motion to adjourn, DEC seconded, all in favor – meeting adjourned at 2:12pm

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