

Case 10-T-0139

Champlain Hudson Power Express Project

Environmental Trust Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

On June 10, 2026, 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 Offices, DEC's New Paltz Office and APA's Raybrook office (via remote connection)

Attendees and (location)

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

Department of Public Service (DPS): Jessica DiFiore, Matthew Smith (DPS Albany), Chase Chaskey, Jeremy Rosenthal (remote)

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC): Heather Gierloff (DEC New Paltz), Sita Crounse (remote)

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

Scenic Hudson: Jonathan Clark (DEC New Paltz)

Riverkeeper: David Stormer (DEC New Paltz)

Trout Unlimited (TU): Roger Olson (remote)

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

New York City (NYC): Robert Loughney, Jay Goodman (DPS Albany)

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed.

- Welcome/Intro/Approval of the March Minutes
 - March minutes were not presented for approval, they were not finalized/circulated in time. Will vote to approve the March minutes at the September meeting
- CHPE Update
 - All construction is complete and all testing finished
 - CHPE reached commercial operations in May
 - Restoration work has resumed and will continue through the fall
- Motions for Consideration
 - Priority Project F: Oyster Reef Development and Restoration –Fish Use of Restored Lower Hudson Reefs
 - \$230K was allocated under the 5-Year Implementation Plan
 - Project 1: Bottom Type and Oyster Density Sampling and Mapping: Hudson River from Yonkers to West Harlem Piers; \$100k in funding awarded
 - Complete. Final report available on HRF website
 - Project 2: Assessing fish use of low salinity oyster reef in the lower Hudson River
 - Proposal submitted by Rutgers University reviewed by HRF and PAG. Consideration for funding of \$130k by the CHET gov committee

- DPS moved, NYC seconded, all in favor – unanimously approved
- RFP: Habitat Restoration and Enhancement – 2025 Eligibility and Guidelines
 - Geographic Scope – In Lake Champlain, Hudson River, Harlem River, or East River + proximity to impacted resources
 - Types of Eligible Activities – Planning & Design (\$100k-\$400k); Implementation (\$500k-\$1M); Monitoring and Management (\$25k-\$100k)
 - Criteria for Eval – Nexus to the cable and impact; feasibility and timeliness; value and leveraging
- RFP Habitat Restoration and Enhancement II: 2026
 - In designing the RFP – HRF will develop a draft with the TWGs for consideration by the governance committee at the Sept 2026 meeting
 - Considerations – keep the RFP open to the same type of activities or choose to limit or change funding guidelines; keep geographic locations broad or limit focus to direct/primary connection to impacted waterways; keep allocation at \$1.5M or increase to \$2.7M (keeping to \$1.5M would allow for a third RFP with the remaining obligated balance of \$1.2M)
 - Once draft RFP is considered and approved by the governance committee in Sept, a request for LOIs will be sent (Oct) and then orgs will be invited to submit a full proposal (Dec) with proposals due in March 2027 and awarded in June 2027
- Project Updates
 - Priority Project A (preferred habitat characteristics for migratory and resident fish)
 - A total of \$1.2M was allocated under the 5-yr implementation plan
 - Project 1 (application of low-cost, automated habitat mapping system to the Hudson River)
 - \$250k awarded – project underway; data collection and planning documents approved; acoustic data receivers were installed in May, side-scan sonar surveys starting in June
 - Priority Project H (academic research focused on Lake Champlain Fish Habitat Assessments)
 - A total of \$950k was allocated under the 5-yr plan
 - Project 1 (classification and assessment of Lake Champlain fish habitat)
 - Awarded the full \$950k – agreements signed with University of Vermont; data collection planning documents approved; sampling to begin in spring 2027
 - Other projects
 - Projects awarded under 2025 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement RFP
 - All six agreements signed; all projects underway; all data collection planning documents approved or in process
- Closing
 - A motion to adjourn was made by NYC and seconded by DOS; the meeting adjourned at 2:05pm