



SANCTUARY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 4, 2020, 12:00pm
Pier 40, 353 West Street New York, New York 10014

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Pamela Frederick, Alda Chan, Steve Zahn, Madelyn Wils, Noreen Doyle, Christine Fazio, Nicolette Witcher, Carrie Roble, Tina Walsh

Ms. Doyle introduced the purpose of the meeting, which was to provide the Directors background information related to the development of a new 10-year Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan. She also thanked Steve Zahn and the staff at DEC for all their work and support towards preparing the new ESMP.

Ms. Witcher then provided an overview of the ESMP process to date. She explained that the ESMP adopted in 2002 provides the base document and is designed to preserve and protect resources while at the same time fostering compatible public recreation and other permitted uses within the Park. The new ESMP will include an action plan for 2020 to 2030 with three management areas: (1) Education, (2) Research and Habitat Enhancement, and (3) Public Access and Resource Management. In June 2017, the full TAC convened and formed subcommittees for each of the three management areas. The subcommittees met throughout the next 18 months. The full TAC convened again in December 2019. Trust staff are now editing the full document with the goal of having a draft ESMP available for public review in the spring 2020.

Ms. Walsh then summarized the discussions with the Education subcommittee. She explained that the Education goals for the next action plan include: programming, venues such as Estuary Lab classrooms in the Park, participatory science, and sustainable behaviors. She explained that these goals include (a) increasing awareness of the educational spaces and facilities in the Park; (b) improving awareness of the Estuary and developing better metrics and tracking successes; (c) adding more lessons on climate change and plastic pollution; (d) developing greater depth in programming while continuing to serve a broad audience; and (e) continual recognition of Trust partners, including Park tenants and occupants.

Mr. Zahn then summarized the discussions of the Research and Habitat Enhancement subcommittee, which area will be a part of the Action Plan with the most growth and includes both baseline gathering (including biological and geophysical) and enhancement opportunities. He explained that it is important to first identify baseline characteristics of the Estuary in addition to considering treatments that can increase the habitat diversity as well as the biological

diversity of the Estuary. He explained that while capital funding is important for the habitat enhancements, funding is also needed to provide for monitoring and sharing of the information generated.

Ms. Roble then summarized the discussions of the Public Access and Resource Management subcommittee. She explained that the goals for the next decade include: providing additional access to the Estuary by finishing the Park; providing for a sustainable operation within the Park including involvement in regional climate change conversations and sustainability efforts; further collaboration regarding resource management, and ensuring Trust tenants and occupants are key partners.

Trust staff responded to Director questions. Ms. Witcher concluded that as part of the 10 year action plan, the plan likely would involve convening the full TAC at least annually during the 10-year term. She also stated that all Directors will receive a copy of the draft ESMP and will be notified in advance of the date of the public comment period and hearing,

The meeting adjourned at 12:40.