

## Assessing the Effects of Storm Surge Barriers on the Hudson River Estuary

Project Scoping Session | 10am - 4pm | March 25, 2019

Center for the Urban River at Beczak, 35 Alexander St, Yonkers, NY (directions - last page)

Wifi Password: HudsOn35

### DRAFT AGENDA

#### Scoping Session Purpose

- Provide an update on the Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility (HAT) Study
- Take stock of current knowledge of estuary effects of gated storm surge barrier systems
- Learn of the broad range of stakeholder concerns and interests related to the potential environmental effects of storm surge barriers on the Hudson River Estuary
- Get input on the draft Scope of Work, including scientific analyses and scientific workshop(s)
- Identify potential future prospects and funding for deeper science and a broader involvement from the research community

**9:45 AM Arrival & Greeting**

**10:00 AM Introduction/Welcome**

- Welcome remarks (Philip Orton, Stevens Institute)
- Agenda review and session ground rules (Bennett Brooks, Consensus Building Institute)
- Scoping Session participant self-introductions

**10:15 AM Project Overview and Discussion (Orton)**

- Review project purpose, approach, timeline, spatial coverage, intended work product, PAC composition and today's invitees (15 minutes)
- Discussion: Feedback on project approach and plans

**10:45 AM Current Knowledge of Barrier Effects on Components of Estuary Health (Orton)**

Review current knowledge of estuary effects of gated storm surge barrier systems and key estuary components critical for environmental health (20 minutes)

- Opportunity for question and answer
- Are there other components critical to the environmental health of the estuary?
- Are there other sources of current knowledge to be considered?

**11:30 AM Update of the HAT Study (Bryce Wisemiller, US Army Corps of Engineers)**

Broad overview of results from recently released HATS Interim Report; summary of environmental studies expected to be conducted by USACE as part of HATS

- Opportunity for question and answer

**12:30 PM Lunch Break (provided on-site)**

**1:10 PM Stakeholder Interests and Concerns**

Identification of interests and concerns related to the potential environmental effects of surge barriers

- Small group discussions, then report-outs and prioritization exercise
  - What environmental components of the estuary are high priority to maintain or improve in the Hudson estuary?
  - For which of these components are we concerned about the potential effects of gates or barriers?

**2:10 PM Near-Term Analyses within this Study**

Summary of project team's capabilities for near-term (next 4 months) scientific analysis; discussion of draft Scope of Work of scientific analyses to be conducted under project

- Discussion
  - Feedback on possible analyses within draft Scope of Work (priorities, potential analyses)
  - Are there other components of estuary health that we've discussed that should be modeled to inform the HAT Study? Which are possible in the near-term?

**2:50 PM Near-Term (Summer) Scientific Workshops – Presentation and Discussion**

Presentation and discussion on the possible goals and topics of 1-2 summer workshops on potential effects of surge barriers

- Presentation – briefly summarizing plans for holding workshops
- Discussion
  - Goals of the workshops
  - Feedback on topics of interest for topic expert reports and long-term research
  - Who are the appropriate experts to invite?

**3:20 PM Research Funding Needs and Opportunities**

Identify needs and opportunities for leveraging or finding additional funding for conducting near-term or long-term priority research on estuary effects of surge barriers

**3:45 PM Wrap-up, Next Steps**

Review key discussion points and next steps

**4:00 PM Adjourn**

**Attendance List (expected)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Bennett Brooks	Consensus Building Institute
Tracy Brown	Save the Sound
Matthew Chlebus	NY-Department of Environmental Conservation
Sarah Fernald	Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve
Joanna Field	NY-Department of Environmental Conservation
James Fitzpatrick	HDR, Inc
Heather Gierloff	Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve
Biswarup Guha	NJ-DEP water quality
Tom Herrington	Monmouth University
Sam Hersh	NYC-ORR
George Jackman	Riverkeeper
Steve Koller	Environmental Defense Fund
Marit Larson	NYC-Parks
Jim Lodge	Hudson River Foundation
Bernice Malione	Port Authority
Kristin Marcell	NY-Department of Environmental Conservation, HREP
Mike McCann	The Nature Conservancy
John McLaughlin	NYC-DEP
Jim O'Donnell	Univ. of Connecticut
Greg O'Mullan	CUNY Queens College
Philip Orton	Stevens Institute of Technology
Ryan Palmer	Center for the Urban River at Beczak
Rob Pirani	NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program
Lucia Pohlman	Waterfront Alliance
Chris Schubert	USGS Water Science Center
Bill Sheehan	Hackensack Riverkeeper
Peter Sheng	University of Florida
Amanda Stevens	NYSERDA
Jen Street	NY-Department of State
Dennis Suszkowski	Hudson River Foundation
Nava Tabak	Scenic Hudson
John Waldman	CUNY Queens College
Yifan Wang	Stevens Institute of Technology
Peter Wepler	USACE New York, Environmental Analysis Branch
Bryce Wisemiller	USACE New York
Chester Zarnoch	Baruch College

## **Directions to the Center for the Urban River at Beczak, 35 Alexander St, Yonkers, NY**

CURB is located along the east side of the Hudson River, one block north of Yonkers Train Station. For those driving, there are only 20 free parking spaces at Beczak Center. For those who can carpool or take transit, it is therefore highly encouraged.

### **By train**

Take the Metro North Railroad, Hudson Line or Amtrak and get off the Yonkers Stop. Exit the platform and follow signs to Alexander St (need to go under the tracks towards the water). The center is north of the train station (walk with the tracks to your right).

### **From the Saw Mill Parkway (heading north towards Yonkers)**

1. Take exit 5 (Yonkers Ave. / Yonkers).
2. Make a right at the light and stay straight on Yonkers Ave.
3. Yonkers Ave will turn into Nepperhan Ave.
4. Continue straight through four lights (crossing School St. New Main St., South Broadway, and then Riverdale).
5. After you cross Riverdale, Nepperhan Ave turns into Prospect.
6. Go straight through first stop sign (Hawthorne Ave.).
7. Make a right at second stop sign onto Buena Vista Ave.
8. Go straight through the light (passing the Yonkers Train Station on your left).
9. At second stop sign make a left onto Wells St. (going under the train tracks).
10. Make a right at stop sign onto Alexander St.
11. Beczak will be on the left side of the street.

### **From the Saw Mill Parkway (heading south towards Yonkers)**

1. Take exit 9 (Executive Blvd. – right turn off of Parkway).
2. Take Executive to the end and make a left onto Broadway.
3. Turn right at the first light onto Odell Ave. and take it to the end.
4. Turn left onto Warburton Ave. and continue to Ashburton Ave.
5. Make right onto Ashburton and continue to the end.
6. Turn left onto Alexander Street.
7. The Beczak Center is on the right hand side.

### **From the Cross County Parkway (heading west towards Yonkers)**

1. Exit to Saw Mill River Parkway northbound (to Albany).
2. Follow directions above: *From Saw Mill River Parkway (Heading North towards Yonkers)*

### **From the NY State Thruway (I-87) / Deegan Expressway, Sprain Parkway, Bronx River Parkway, and Hutchinson River Parkway**

1. Exit at the Cross County Parkway westbound
2. Exit to Saw Mill River Parkway northbound (to Albany).
3. Follow directions above: *From Saw Mill River Parkway (Heading North towards Yonkers)*

### **From the New England State Parkway (I-95)**

1. Exit at Hutchinson River Parkway north to the Cross County
2. Exit at the Cross County Parkway westbound
3. Exit to Saw Mill River Parkway northbound (to Albany).
4. Follow directions above: *From Saw Mill River Parkway (Heading North towards Yonkers)*