

**AGENDA**  
**Croton Facility Monitoring Committee Meeting**

Thursday, January 18, 2007 – 7:00 PM  
*DEP Community Office–3660 Jerome Avenue*  
*Bronx NY 10467 (718)231-8470*

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| <b>I.</b> Welcome  | Greg Faulkner                            |
| <b>II.</b> Comments from the Public – Sign up to Speak   | 3 Minute Maximum - 30 Minutes.           |
| <b>III.</b> Review, Consider, Adopt Minutes from 12-21-06 CFMC Meeting   | CFMC Principals                          |
| <b>IV.</b> Croton Watershed Protection Program   | David Warne, Bureau of Water Supply, DEP |
| <b>V.</b> Describe, Discuss Project HIRE Program   | Glenda Self, Project HIRE, BCC           |
| <b>VI.</b> CFMC Discussion about Hiring, Training Program Options & Process and Set CFMC Working Meeting & February Agenda | Greg Faulkner & CFMC Principals          |
| <b>VII.</b> Adjourn  |  |

**NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
CROTON FACILITY MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007 – 7:00PM

The January meeting of the Croton Facility Monitoring Committee was held on January 18, 2007 at NYCDEP's community outreach office, 3660 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. The names of those attending: CFMC representatives, staff from DEP, its construction manager and members of the public, are attached. (*Attachment 1*)

The meeting began at approximately 7:30 PM; an agenda (*Attachment 2*), which had been previously circulated to the CFMC, was available.

Welcome

Greg Faulkner, Chair of Community Board #7 and of the CFMC, called the meeting to order and apologized for the late start of the meeting.

Public Session

Mr. Faulkner recognized Fay Muir, Clean Water for the Bronx, to speak first at the public session. Ms. Muir expressed appreciation to the CFMC for scheduling the watershed protection presentation at this meeting and thanked the CFMC and DEP for their efforts on hiring and training of local residents.

Anne Marie Garti, Jerome Park Conservancy, spoke about the importance of the running track and the ecology lab that have been part of the extensive planning done by the Jerome Park Conservancy. She said that the landscaping, benches and other amenities that DEP promised to the community would enhance the park so that it would be enticing to the public in the manner of Central Park. She said that when the Croton Filter Plant is completed, the use of the reservoir will change. Jerome Park Reservoir will contain Croton water; however, this water will not be treated water and it will not go directly into the city's drinking water supply. She provided to the CFMC principals copies of the Conservancy's master plan and copies of news articles regarding what she said were the agreements between the Conservancy and DEP.

Frank Schoenfeld said that NYC water will suffer due to global warming and the city must deal with the various threats to the environment. As he has at prior meetings, Mr. Schoenfeld called for President Bush to resign and at this meeting he called for Vice President Cheney to resign as well. Later in the meeting, Mr. Schoenfeld was allowed to interrupt the discussion to say that he worked from 1963 to 1973 as a member of the Painters Union.

Abby Bellows, NWBCCC, distributed a proposal that had been given by the NWBCCC to DEP. The requests relate to pre-apprentice training, preferential treatment to those living near the Croton Filter Plant, and jobs & training reporting criteria. Ms. Bellows

said that the Bronx BP wants these reporting criteria to be standardized on all Bronx projects. Ms. Bellows said the NWBCCC is prepared to negotiate the recommendations. The organization also wants increased funding for local residents, including a \$400 p/w stipend for persons taking pre-apprenticeship training.

Nadine Myles, representing Mosholu Montefiore Community Center & COVE Environmental Justice, said the community is somewhat confused about selection of community residents who will be trained. She expressed the importance of stipends because many are experiencing tough times. She said she recently met with the DEP Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner Anne Canty and Special Counsel Rich Friedman to talk about incentives. As she said previously, she supports revitalization and believes there should be revitalization of individuals

Jason Torres said that, in his opinion, 120 jobs are needed in the community for the Croton Filter Project, and all should be union jobs. He said a \$400 p/w stipend is a good thing, and the CFMC should approve the NWBCCC's proposal. Mr. Torres said he is an apprentice in the Carpenters Union and learned his skills through its good training. He was accepted as an apprentice at the age of 18 and he is still an apprentice at 24 years old. In response to a question, Mr. Torres said that Diane Springer in LIC taught his course.

Chairman Faulkner thanked the speakers and said that Mr. Torres' experience serves as a good example of the ways that apprentice programs change lives. He said that the CFMC would hear about Project HIRE's training and placement activities later in the meeting.

#### Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Faulkner asked the principals if they would adopt the CFMC minutes of December 21, 2006. Upon motion by Saul Scheinbach, seconded by Joe Gordon, the CFMC approved the minutes.

#### Watershed Protection

Mr. Faulkner asked David Warne to provide information about DEP's Watershed Protection Program, with emphasis on the Croton system. Mr. Warne said he has worked at DEP for 13 years. He described and showed the extent of New York City's 2000 square mile reservoir system, which delivers about 1.1 billion gallons of water a day to New Yorkers. Then he focused on the 375 square miles comprising the Croton watershed, which serves about 800,000 persons. He said that the Croton system is a critical part of the City's water supply, not just 10% of the city system. Through system adjustments, Croton can contribute far more to the city's supply and it is needed for redundancy. Mr. Warne compared the population density of Croton watershed (500 persons per square mile) versus the Catskill-Delaware watershed's population density (29 persons p/s/m). He said that 79% of the Croton watershed is already developed. Consequently, the challenges to protect the Croton watershed include the fact that there is that development, the area's heterogeneous land uses and its complex hydrology. Mr. Warne discussed point sources (wastewater treatment plants, gas stations, landfills, dry cleaners, septic) and non-point sources (storm water runoff, failing management practices for storm water, road salts and sands, septic failures and wildlife). There are

nearly 16,000 acres of wetlands in the Croton watershed. Wetlands assist runoff control but also contribute to water supply color problems and can foster contamination compounds. Mr. Warne then discussed the comprehensive nature of DEP's watershed protection efforts, working with a number of towns and counties as well as state and federal officials. These efforts include DEP funding for wastewater upgrades, retrofits, and inspections, farm and forestry programs, as well as \$100 million spent and pledged for land acquisition. Finally, Mr. Warne spoke of NYC's updated watershed protection regulations, water quality monitoring, wetlands research, and the importance of its partnerships. DEP not only provides funds, but also provides technical assistance and analyses, and provides security through its police force.

Mr. Scheinbach asked how much monitoring of landowners' use of fertilizer DEP performs. Mr. Warne said that while DEP regulations govern new activity in the watershed, existing homes and businesses work on pollution prevention through farm and forest programs established in the area. DEP funds farmers to help with Best Management Practices (BMP) on septic. While pesticides are not governed by DEP, golf courses and similar users are switching to lower amounts of pesticides and are discouraging waterfowl and other wildlife. Messrs. Scheinbach and Warne had a discussion about water flow gravity, with upstate basins spilling into lower basins before reaching the Muscoot Reservoir. Mr. Gordon asked if Pepsico and IBM plants must improve their facilities under DEP regulations. Mr. Warne said no. Mr. Scheinbach asked about education of homeowners and Mr. Warne spoke of the Cornell Cooperative Extension's active efforts.

Laura Stockstill, BP Carrion's office, asked if watershed regulations cover sensitive areas such as steep slopes or geographically sensitive sites near reservoirs. Mr. Warne said that wetlands protection and the siting of septic systems on steep slopes are carefully monitored. DEP is particularly vigilant to enforce its rules and voice its position over any large scale proposed development. Mr. Gordon asked how DEP enforcement is practiced. Mr. Warne said that DEP dispatches inspectors throughout the watershed to assess impacts and violations, and DEP works closely with DEC and local planning partners on enforcement. If DEP sees storm water runoff violations, DEC is immediately contacted. DEP also is in contact with EPA when necessary. Mr. Scheinbach questioned Mr. Warne about why algae blooms are not better controlled in the Croton reservoir system. Mr. Warne said that algae develop as a result of phosphorous loading. Although DEP's programs target phosphorous reduction, it is unlikely that they will be sufficient to eliminate future algae blooms. Enhanced storm water regulations being proposed by DEC may help correct the problem.

Mr. Faulkner thanked Mr. Warne for his detailed presentation. He said that much of the technical information was too complicated to understand by some members of the CFMC and the public, but he appreciated Mr. Scheinbach's request to hear about watershed protection as part of the CFMC's monitoring of the Croton Filter Project.

## Project HIRE

Mr. Faulkner asked Glenda Self, Project HIRE, to explain her training program and its potential results for job applicants.

Ms. Self said that her program provides 30 hours per week of classes for a period of 20 weeks. As part of the training, her students will build a full scale apartment. Project HIRE accepts Bronx residents for training, but it is not limited to Bronx residents.

After making an application to Project HIRE, a test and interview are administered. No GED is needed for enrollment. Students who have weaknesses in writing, speaking or writing in English, or math may receive special tutoring/skills training through Bronx Community College. A criminal background check is performed before accepting a student. All students enrolled in Project HIRE must take courses in sexual harassment and workplace ethics.

Mr. Faulkner asked whether enrollees are chosen by test scores or other factors. Ms. Self replied that a 6.9 score must be achieved in either reading or mathematics. All students accepted into the program must be able to work and must be able to lift heavy materials. They also must be willing to take direction and obey instructions. Mr. Faulkner asked if Project HIRE is limited to one class at a time. Ms. Self replied that there are 33 slots per class and that the class operates in cycles. Ms. Stockstill asked if the first class of 33 students has been selected, and whether there is a list of those who want jobs and job training. Ms. Self said that about 112\* of the applications on file at DEP's community office are active and the applicants are still interested in jobs or job training. Project HIRE will review and assess those applications and make an independent check through separate outreach to see whether the individuals might be appropriate for the Project HIRE program. To fill a class of 33, Ms. Self said she must interview and test many more potential students than 33. Most in her program fall within the age range of 20s – 30s. Mr. Faulkner asked whether a person who doesn't yet qualify for Project HIRE's class can be given skills training elsewhere and then return to Project HIRE for acceptance into a class. Ms. Self said that they could. She said there are free programs that teach ESL and literacy. Ms. Stockstill asked when the first class will begin. Ms. Self said the first class will start in mid- to late February and another class will begin in March.

Ms. Self showed photographs of some of the Project HIRE students working on skills training and described some of their successes. She said that once trained, many of her students work as volunteers with a program called Hearts & Hammers that assists elderly residents in need of repairs. It is a way some students choose to give back in appreciation for having been trained and being qualified to work in construction and other trades. Mr. Faulkner requested more details about Project HIRE, including the initial process of selection and what options are available for those who fail to be accepted into Project HIRE. He asked for the extent to which low test scores can be overcome by Project HIRE's expert "gut" reaction to the quality of a candidate.

*\*the number is actually 120, according to DEP*

### CFMC Discussion

Mr. Faulkner thanked Ms. Self and asked the CFMC for comments. Ms. Stockstill said that she wanted the CFMC to explore the reporting requests for jobs and training progress that were made by NWBCCC in its handout. Mr. Faulkner asked other members who have comments or ideas to forward them to Martha Holstein ([mholstein@urbansol.com](mailto:mholstein@urbansol.com)) so that they can be reviewed by all CFMC principals. Mr. Faulkner added that the number of persons seeking employment is high; however, some of the applicants can get referred to other projects, such as Yankee Stadium, or at the Bronx Terminal Market site. Mr. Faulkner further added that when the contractors who are selected for the upcoming contracts on Croton have been directed to begin work, the CFMC must meet with them and be assured that they will “buy in” to the concept of local hiring and local purchases. Mr. Scheinbach said that if 600 jobs will be needed at Croton in the upcoming contracts, having 25% of them filled with Bronx residents is not enough. Ms. Canty said that additional outreach to Bronx residents can and will be done. Mr. Gordon said that if 600 jobs are to be filled at Croton, Project HIRE won’t be adequate to help train workers for those jobs. He said that the Bronx elected officials expect the community will receive jobs. Ms. Canty reiterated that DEP will do more. Mr. Gordon said DEP must do more as soon as possible. Mr. Faulkner said that everyone needs to assist in getting the word out and in performing outreach. Mr. Faulkner said that DEP must report additional information about jobs & training and about purchases from Bronx businesses. Ms. Canty said that the goal of the training and outreach is to equip people for a lifetime of work, not solely to put them to work at Croton. Mr. Faulkner requested that an upcoming meeting of the CFMC feature union apprenticeship programs and explore the unions’ outreach and acceptance of local residents.

Mr. Scheinbach said there appears to be an insufficiency of applications on file at the DEP community office, and he asked for clarification of the numbers of applicants. Ms. Canty and Mr. Friedman said that 641 individuals filled out applications for jobs. Some of those were union members and others were not affiliated with unions. From a solicitation from DEP last summer, 120 of the 641 responded that they were still interested in getting a job. Ms. Canty said that 400 more of the original 641 may still be interested, but they must be found (if they relocated) and polled to see if they have already found a job, are no longer interested, or still want to work at Croton or at another project, and whether they have the skills and education needed. Mr. Faulkner said that he believes that some of the original 641 became disillusioned or disinterested because of the time that has passed since they applied. Mr. Gordon said the CFMC should next meet in February to keep the momentum going, and to help monitor DEP’s and Project HIRE’s efforts. He said that the Croton Filter Project should serve as a model for other construction throughout NYC.

Mr. Faulkner asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Mr. Scheinbach at approximately 9:10 PM.

1/18/2007

**NYC DEP - CROTON FMC**

Attachment 1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization / Company</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Fay Muir	Clean Water for the Bronx	286 Reservoir Place Bronx NY	(718) 944-4668		
Sunder Lakshminarayanan	URS/MP Construction Manager	3701 Jerome Avenue Bronx, NY 10467	(718) 696-2000	(718) 324-3034	<a href="mailto:slakshminarayanan@pirnie.com">slakshminarayanan@pirnie.com</a>
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Leon Fendley	Dept of Parks & Recreation	1 Bronx River Parkway Bronx NY	(718) 430-1870	(718) 430-1818	<a href="mailto:leon.fendley@parks.nyc.gov">leon.fendley@parks.nyc.gov</a>
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Margot Perron	NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation	1 Bronx River Parkway Bronx NY	(718) 430-1890	(718) 430-1818	<a href="mailto:margot.perron@parks.gov">margot.perron@parks.gov</a>
Brian Farrelly	URS/MP Construction Manager	3701 Jerome Avenue Bronx NY 10467	(718) 696-2000	(718) 324-3034	<a href="mailto:bfarrelly@pirnie.com">bfarrelly@pirnie.com</a>
Dave Warne	Bureau of Water Supply DEP	465 Columbus Avenue Valhalla NY	(914) 742-2099		<a href="mailto:dwarne@dep.nyc.gov">dwarne@dep.nyc.gov</a>
Anne Marie Garti	Jerome Park Conservancy	3965 Sedgwick Avenue Bronx NY	(718) 601-1388 (718) 884-7864		<a href="mailto:annemarie@att.net">annemarie@att.net</a>
Martha Holstein	Strategic Urban Solutions, Inc.	335 Adams Street Brooklyn, NY 11201	(718) 625-1005 x. 223	(718) 625-1032	<a href="mailto:mholstein@urbansol.com">mholstein@urbansol.com</a>
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Richard Friedman	DEP Special Counsel	59-17 Junction Boulevard Corona, NY 11368	(718) 595-3604	(718) 595-3522	<a href="mailto:rfriedman@dep.nyc.gov">rfriedman@dep.nyc.gov</a>
Robert Barnes	DEP Community Outreach Office - Croton	3660 Jerome Avenue Bronx, NY 10467	(718) 231-8470	(718) 231-8857	<a href="mailto:robertbar@dep.nyc.gov">robertbar@dep.nyc.gov</a>
Laura Stockstill	Office of Bronx Borough President Carrion	198 East 161st Street Bronx, NY 10451	(718) 590-3881		<a href="mailto:lstockstill@bronxbp.nyc.gov">lstockstill@bronxbp.nyc.gov</a>
Arne Fareth	DEP - BEDC	96-05 Horace Harding Exp. Flushing, NY 11373	(718) 595-6189		<a href="mailto:arnef@dep.nyc.gov">arnef@dep.nyc.gov</a>
Josh Payne	The Riverdale Press	6155 Broadway Bronx NY	(718) 543-6065		<a href="mailto:jpayne@riverdalepress.com">jpayne@riverdalepress.com</a>

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Greg Faulkner	Chair, Community Board #7	2559 Sedgwick Avenue Bronx NY 10468	(718) 282-5193	(718) 609-2096	<a href="mailto:gfaulkner@lagcc.cuny.edu">gfaulkner@lagcc.cuny.edu</a>
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Frank Schoenfeld		80 Van Cortlandt Park S. Bronx NY 10463	(718) 548-8844		
Elena Gracia	DEP - Croton Community Outreach	3660 Jerome Avenue Bronx NY 10467	(718) 231-8470	(718) 231-8857	<a href="mailto:elenag@dep.nyc.gov">elenag@dep.nyc.gov</a>
Elias Oliveros		3477 Knox Place Bronx NY	(718) 324-4177		