

San Juan Bay Estuary Program  
Management Conference Minutes  
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 am Wednesday, May 26, 2021  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER - 8:00 A.M. – 8:15 A.M.

- Welcome – Jorge San Miguel, SJBEP MC Chairman
- Roll Call – Brenda Torres, SJBEP Executive Director

**List of attendees**

Jorge San Miguel, PRESIDENT, MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE SJBEP  
Pedro Gelabert, PRESIDENT, CORPORATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE SJBE  
Rafael Machargo, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (DNER)  
Doriel Pagan, PRESIDENT, PUERTO RICO AQUEDUCT AND SEWER AUTHORITY (PRASA)  
Juan Carlos, PRASA  
Carmen Guerrero, DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) CARIBBEAN DIVISION  
Rafael Machargo, SECRETARY, DNER  
Marisol Jimenez, PRESIDENT, CETIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)  
Manuel Hidalgo, PRESIDENT, PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD (PRPB)  
Ramon Lloveras, CHAIR OF THE BANK AND FINANCE SECTOR  
Rebecca Rivera, PRPB  
Evelyn Huertas, EPA  
José Rivera, EPA  
Jorge Bauza, SJBEP  
María Gabriela Huertas, SJBEP  
Maricela Perryman, SJBEP  
Excused: Ariel Lugo – PRESIDENT, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STAC)

Presentation of Video highlighting Estuario's oil recycling project

II. PROGRAM REPORT - 8:15 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

• **Executive Director's Update – Brenda Torres SJBE Executive Director**

- Shift to virtual operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2021-2022 priorities: Environmental justice, reduce nutrient pollution, marine litter reduction, green infrastructure and resilience, NEP program evaluation, Hazard Mitigation Plan, CCMP Revision
- Focus on communities, multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plan, green infrastructure; illicit discharges detection and elimination (IDDE)
- Strategic initiatives are focused in our five program areas:
  - NEP Program Evaluation- findings will inform the CCMP Revision
  - CCMP Revision will allow us to use the data from the Hazard Mitigation Plan, IDDE to develop new actions
- Strategic five-year plan will draw a roadmap to lead our efforts with specific goals and objectives
- Accomplishments (2020-2021): Annual Water Quality Monitoring Day held virtually, Urban Forest Network, Vivero Estuario, Oil Recycling project, Co-Management Condado Lagoon, Citizen Scientist Certification workshops held virtually, Estuario Education program- Bird Census held virtually, Communications program has been instrumental in the shift to virtual activities and events

**CCMP Background Analysis– Maria Gabriela Huertas, SJBEP Project Coordinator • FY2022**

*\*Presentation attached*

Presented status of actions by 5 focus areas, pending questions, road map of activities, and timeline

**Activities – Dr. Jorge Bauza, SJBEP Science Director III.**

*\*Presentation attached*

Presented list of projects that will be in Work Plan 28

DISCUSSION ITEMS – 9:00 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.

**• Discussion: FY2022 proposed activities**

*Discussion points:*

- Projects that have a budget of \$0 are supported by the staff of Estuario with 320 funds
- Through collaborations with Proyecto Enlace, Península de Cantera through the Urban Waters Program as per Activity 9: Resilient Communities Support, we support the communities in the Caño Martín Peña\*  
*\*Please note: As per the feedback given in the meeting, Activity 9 will be changed to “Caño Martín Peña: Resilient Communities Support*
- Status of Hazard Mitigation Plan:
  - Currently validating the information generated by the Junta de Planificación to identify gaps in the watershed-based actions
  - Completed identification of community assets, now working on workshops for identifying risks
  - Using the website to continue collecting information
  - Summer 2021 will be focused on working with communities, and in the fall 2021, we will focus on working with municipalities
- Outdated information in the website, could be the Grant Writer who manages this
  - Brenda will follow up and look into this
- Diversification of revenue streams and work of the Grant Writer is important
- Grant Writer can provide support to other organizations and communities who have the most need but perhaps not the resources to apply for funding
  - This would be not only the Estuario’s responsibilities, but EPA can also support this across the island. Carmen mentions perhaps a follow up conversation to discuss how we can provide these skills/services

Caño Martín Peña Urban Waters Federal Partnership is scheduled for June 8, 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**• Approval of proposed FY2022 SJBEP Work Plan**

- Deadline to submit work plan is June 1. Estuario commits to submit by Friday, May 26
- Minutes and document to provide signatures will be distributed

IV. NEW BUSINESS – 9:45 A.M. – 10:00 Noon

**• Leveraging resources to support SJBEP CCMP implementation**

- Thanks to a call by Ramón Lloveras we were able to submit a proposal to Popular and receive \$120K to implement an aggressive restoration project in coastal ecosystems to create blue/green jobs.
- We are in a good moment, Estuario is already a brand, we have a reputation thanks to the efforts of multiple people, including Pedro Gelabert, and we can now pursue more ambitious projects.
- Sea Grant invited us to submit a proposal.

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