



Quarterly Meeting of the Estuary Implementation Committee

Thursday, May 9, 2019 - 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

EIC Members: Kimberly Cole, DNREC; Mazeeda Khan, EPAR2*; Kathy Klein (EIC Chair), PDE; Rhonda Manning, PADEP*; Chad Pindar, DRBC*; Jay Springer, NJDEP; Mark Zolandz, EPAR3

Other Attendees: Emily Baumbach, PDE; Danielle Kreeger, PDE; Megan Mackey, EPAR3; Irene Purdy, EPAR2*; Kelly Somers, EPAR3

*Joined via teleconference

Draft Meeting Minutes

LUNCH

EIC BUSINESS

1) Introductions and Approval of Feb 22, 2019 EIC Meeting Notes

Kathy Klein called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked participants for attending the meeting in person and via teleconference. Kathy briefly reviewed the day's agenda and started the meeting with attendee introductions. Kathy asked for any changes to the draft February 22nd meeting notes. There were no changes offered.

2) FY20 NEP Work Plan

Kathy noted that Karen Forst could not attend the meeting because she is on jury duty for the rest of the week and possibly into early the following week. Kathy explained how there were not many changes in this work plan compared to the FY19 work plan. One addition to the FY20 work plan includes the formation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) or an analogous structure since this was a recommendation during the Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP) Program Evaluation. Another addition in this work plan includes purchasing a freshwater mussel costume designed for PDE outreach events. Using this costume during tabling events will help us to connect with more event participants, especially children and families. Kathy reported that Angela Padeletti will be assisting with more grants and management of PDE projects and programs. Money was moved out of Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) contractual and National Estuary Program (NEP) time from Danielle Kreeger's work plan to support these changes since she will be more focused on PennVest tasks.

PDE will also be using some funding for hiring a consultant to provide Environmental Justice (EJ) training. PDE needs to understand what our long-term goals and objectives should be on EJ before creating an EJ work group or committee. During the recent NEP meeting, and the National Environmental Justice Conference in Washington, D.C., NEPs and other organizations discussed how

they hired a consultant to work with staff internally before reaching out and engaging EJ communities in programs and projects. PDE will need to spend time attending EJ community meetings to listen to how others share their stories and to start developing relationships to explore how PDE and DELEP partners can assist these communities. Megan Mackey explained how the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership demonstrated that this is a necessary step to take to work efficiently with EJ communities. Hiring the right trainer to work on this is critical. EPA worked with the EJ coordinators in EPA and in the state agencies to edit the Commitment to Diversity and Environmental Justice in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). PDE can continue to work with these contacts in EPA and the states and hold periodic calls moving forward to look at the possible roles that PDE and DELEP can play working with these communities.

Kathy explained how PDE has been trying to make some changes to the PDE newsletter, including the creation of an outreach piece that is more like a magazine. PDE has been brainstorming some ideas with Meg McGuire of Delaware Currents on types of messaging and storytelling to reach different audiences.

Karen Forst reached out to partners about their match commitments and will be following up with partners on any missing information. Karen will also finish the FY20 work plan when she returns from jury duty. Megan Mackey explained how EPA formally reviews the work plan when it is sent in for the June 1st submission and does not provide additional comments. The state agencies usually review the work plan to make sure there are no conflicts or errors. Kimberly Cole will provide updated DelDot information to PDE.

3) NEP Program Evaluation Update

Kathy noted how the NEP Program Evaluation went very well. Almost all PDE staff participated in Program Evaluation activities. Several current and past PDE Board members, EIC members, and some partners outside the Estuary Program participated in the PE. It was great to have Mark Zolandz and Mazeeda Khan involved in the PE. Rachel Rouillard of the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) shared some of her experiences as a NEP Executive Director. Rachel also learned about PDE and DELEP programs and will share this information with her staff back at PREP.

Kathy wants to start adding some new activities to PDE Board meetings that are more hands-on and interactive with PDE staff members. The next PDE Board meeting is taking place on May 23rd at 9:00am at PDE. After the Board meeting, plans are being made for PDE staff and Board members to help with Governor Carney's kick-off cleanup event for his Keep Delaware Litter-Free initiative in Wilmington, DE. The Program Evaluation was a great way to get the Board members more connected with PDE's work. Board meetings where attendees only listen to report outs is a missed opportunity to connect the Board members with PDE staff and projects. PDE wants to continue offering hands-on opportunities for Board members such as cleanups or visiting projects sites (e.g., Bartram's Garden).

Megan Mackey noted that PDE put on an excellent Program Evaluation site visit and submission package with a great narrative this year. Having the opportunity to go out and visit different sites across the Estuary gives a sense of the breadth and scope of the different programs and project sites. This year, it was nice to have the site visits more localized with more activities and presentations from PDE staff and partners during the Program Evaluation. The Program Evaluation review team enjoyed speaking with CCMUA staff, assisting with a storm drain sticker installation, and learning more about

the oyster shell recycling program. Irene Purdy explained how the freshwater mussel production hatchery is such an incredible accomplishment for PDE. It was great for Noemi Mercado and Laurel Low to learn more about the plans for this project to take back to EPA Headquarters. PDE will send follow-up information from the Program Evaluation to Noemi. PDE will also check to see if there is any other information Noemi would like to share with EPA Headquarters on the projects and programs reviewed during the Program Evaluation.

Some of the challenges reviewed in EPA's presentation of preliminary findings during the Program Evaluation included the need for the Delaware Estuary Program to establish a CAC or similar structure to gather feedback from the public and help to inform DELEP's decision-making process. Megan Mackey explained how DELEP needs to have citizens engaged on a regular basis with information easily accessible. Danielle Kreeger explained how PDE periodically receives a letter from a citizen asking about public meetings. All meetings with committees, including the STAC, the EIC, and Board Meetings are open to the public, but these meetings often are not the right type of meeting for public attendance if they want general information about the Delaware Estuary how they can get more involved in projects and programs.

Megan Mackey suggested looking through the list of participants from the CCMP revision workshops and individuals who provided input, to see if some of these individuals would be interested in getting involved on a CAC. Irene Purdy explained how having a formal CAC or CAC-like committee provides the opportunity for citizens to have a seat at the table and attend regular meetings to provide feedback on decisions through a managed process. There was never a formal CAC for PDE, but there was a CAC during the development of the original 1996 CCMP that worked with DELEP partners. Kathy recommended looking into the formation of a CAC in conjunction with DRBC's State of Our Basin initiative. Danielle Kreeger noted how there are many different models to use to form a CAC, but it depends on the organizational goals. Different citizens have different priority areas depending on the area of the watershed they represent. Megan Mackey recommended that we should challenge ourselves to engage more communities and work with new audiences moving forward. Emily Baumbach noted that many watermen came out to attend the CCMP open houses. Other CCMP workshop attendees asked to include watermen in specific CCMP strategies since they are connected to the waterways.

The Center for Inland Bays' STAC always receives helpful recommendations from members of their CAC since they have historical knowledge of the area. Their CAC often helps to bridge organizational decisions and ideas to members of the community. Jay Springer noted how CIB is a very small NEP, so they have the institutional knowledge and close partnerships already. We still need to find the best way to create a CAC for a larger geographic area like the Delaware Estuary. Irene Purdy suggested having a subgroup work on putting a CAC together for DELEP. Irene also recommended inviting Mark Tedesco to discuss how the Long Island Sound Study's CAC operates. Mark could provide some insight on forming a CAC in a larger NEP and answer questions at an upcoming EIC meeting. The EIC should also look at some other CACs in larger watersheds at an upcoming meeting.

4) STAC Update

Danielle Kreeger reported that the STAC met on April 1st at PDE. This was the first STAC meeting after several years of focusing on the TREB, CCMP, and Summit, so the group conducted robust roundtable updates and micro seminars. The STAC spent some time briefly reviewing items related to the TREB,

CCMP, and Summit. Danielle reminded participants that the STAC was originally the lead group to form the first Science Summit and assist with program planning and session moderating. There is always debate on whether or not to switch venues for the next Summit, but many individuals still like the retreat-style meeting. The Grand Hotel is also one of the only venues that can accommodate a large group for this event. The Chase Center in Wilmington, DE might be an option to look into. The STAC also reviewed the results of the Delaware Estuary Monitoring Inventory and Assessment effort during their meeting. The micro seminars at this meeting covered sea level rise models in NJ, SET data and marsh vulnerability to sea level rise, and future plans for the Mussels for Clean Water Initiative.

The STAC also discussed potential ideas for future briefs on PFOAs and HABs. Currently, standards are not stringent enough on PFOAs. While HABs is a very broad topic, the Delaware Estuary is on the edge of certain types of HABs due to nutrients in the system. Another suggestion was to develop a brief on microplastics. Danielle asked if the EIC had any problems with the STAC working on a brief covering toxicity and prevalence of PFOAs. Jay Springer recommended a brief covering relevant issues easily conveyed to the public to help share stories and possibly use in a future article. Kelly Somers explained how the Chesapeake Bay has a system where proposals can be submitted to the STAC online with workshop ideas. Danielle explained how the STAC asks members to volunteer to be leads on these briefs. Kimberly Cole noted that she will need to check in with DNREC staff working on the Watershed Approach to Toxics Assessment and Restoration (WATAR) as well as DNREC STAC members Kari St. Laurent and David Wolanski. Kimberly Cole noted that the Mid-Atlantic NERRs coordinators for each region have pots of funding they can use for projects and can work with Kari St. Laurent if they address coastal management needs.

The next STAC meeting will be a joint meeting with the STAC and Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee (MACC) in June. STAC elections are open through May 15th for a new STAC chair. Sue Kilham has been the STAC chair for over 10 years. Sue is stepping down as chair, but will still be a STAC member. Sue's plan is to retire in the next few years. The STAC normally self-selects a chair, but PDE's Executive Director and EIC can weigh in on this decision. One recommendation from STAC was to elect Ken Straight as the new chair since he is the only industry representative on the committee. Another idea was to elect Greg Breese as the new chair. Board member Ron Heun of Exelon was interested in being on the STAC. Doug Janiec expressed interest in joining the STAC as well. The STAC will have their annual joint meeting with the EIC in either September or October.

EIC members discussed how a majority of Board members usually do not stay for the EIC meeting following the Board meeting. Danielle Kreeger noted that there is not enough contact with the Board, and they need to meet more frequently than on a quarterly-basis to deal with organizational changes as they occur. The Executive Board Committee also needs to meet on a more frequent basis, maybe 6 times a year. Kathy explained that PDE needs to improve the overall engagement of Board committees. Irene Purdy explained how she always enjoys attending the joint Board and EIC meetings, but it would be great to focus on something that is a little different and more interactive during these meetings in the future.

5) CCMP Tracking and other CCMP-EIC Business

Emily Baumbach briefly reviewed some minor updates on the CCMP tracking tool. She then reviewed several CCMP strategies where lead agency contacts were still needed for reporting. Several EIC members indicated that their agencies could be listed on specific strategies for reporting this year.

Kim Cole is still coordinating with DNREC staff and will provide contacts soon. Rhonda Manning and Chad Pindar provided contact information for agency representatives that will assist with CCMP strategy tracking this summer. Megan Mackey and Irene Purdy noted that they would both be the EPA contacts to coordinate and collect CCMP strategy tracking information from EPA staff in Regions 2 and 3. PDE will follow up with Kelly Anderson since she was unable to participate in the meeting.

Emily will be reaching out to several other agencies in the region that were listed as Key and Collaborating Partners in CCMP strategies to see if they can provide tracking metrics to provide this year. The CCMP tracking and NEPORT worksheets will be sent out to partners by the end of May. Chad Pindar suggested reaching out to Abigail Weinberg at the Open Space Institute for strategies related to stemming forest loss. Irene suggested including an interactive map in the tracking tool to share with contacts if they need to look at the Delaware Estuary's boundaries. EIC calls will continue to take place on a monthly basis. Discussion on the frequency of these monthly calls will be revisited after CCMP tracking takes place. Once the preliminary results of CCMP tracking are shared, the EIC can also discuss engaging additional partners in EIC meetings and activities.

Kathy reported that the Delaware River Governor's Leadership Summit will take place on Thursday, May 16th at the Independence Seaport Museum. There will be a press event at 2:00 p.m. followed by a briefing session for representatives from the states in the Delaware River Watershed. Prior to the press event, there will be a closed door meeting with the governors from DE, PA, and NJ. Kathy will be attending this event and presenting on PDE and DELEP and how the revised CCMP relates to work taking place across the Estuary through the coordination of the states and EPA, DRBC, PWD, and many other partners across the region.

6) DELEP versus PDE

Kathy explained how we want to more clearly share the message on our website that PDE is the home of the DELEP working with many partners across our region. PDE still needs to find a place on the website to explain PDE's relationship with the Core Partners of DELEP as well as the many Key and Collaborating Partners listed in the revised CCMP. Danielle Kreeger recommended drafting some language or creating a chart that explains DELEP versus PDE. Irene recommended including the core partners and highlighting their contributions to the program. EIC members discussed how there needs to be a few short and simple sentences that defines DELEP and PDE on the website. This paragraph can review what DELEP is, the partners in DELEP, and explain PDE and the relationship to Core Partners (i.e., PDE coordinates DELEP, but is also a member of DELEP). Emily and Kathy will create some draft language and visuals for PDE's website and can gather feedback from the EIC on the next monthly EIC call.

7) Fall Steering Committee Meeting

Kathy Klein reminded meeting participants that the next in-person Steering Committee meeting will take place sometime in Fall 2019. Daniele Kreeger explained how there are normally 3 or 4 high-level agenda items during these meetings reviewing something informational, something actionable, and then a programmatic update (e.g., freshwater mussel hatchery, wetlands project update). Some past Steering Committee meeting locations included Urban Engineers and the Fairmount Waterworks in Philadelphia, PA. The Steering Committee will most likely receive a high-level update on CCMP tracking results. Danielle noted that this meeting would be a good opportunity to discuss advancing

the concept of a Trust or Fund for the Delaware River and Bay. The idea of a Trust can also be discussed by the EIC on a monthly call leading up to the Steering Committee meeting. Some other agenda items for this meeting could include providing updates on plans for a CAC and any progress on EJ-related items.

Kathy noted that the 2019 Experience the Estuary Celebration will take place at Vie in Philadelphia on Thursday, October 10th. Since Steering Committee members prefer not to have the Fall meeting the same day as the dinner, PDE will need to poll the EIC and the Steering Committee for a meeting date. Danielle Kreeger explained how the joint STAC-EIC meeting usually takes place sometime in late September to mid-October. We will want to schedule the Steering Committee meeting a few weeks after the joint STAC-EIC meeting to allow time for any remaining items that need to be resolved before the Steering Committee meeting. The joint STAC-EIC meeting could take place the week of October 21st or October 28th. PDE will also poll the EIC and Steering Committee for a meeting during the week of November 11th.

8) Other Updates

Kathy Klein reported that DRBC received a \$540,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation for branding and educating the public on improving water resources in the Delaware River Basin. Chad Pindar noted that this 'State of Our Basin' initiative will be modeled after the State of the Basin Report, but will incorporate more public oriented and crowd sourced information.

Kimberly Cole reported that DNREC is accepting submissions for the 2019 Delaware Watershed Photo Contest. A training workshop on creating a flood ready community will take place on May 17th to train local community members in Delaware. The Clean Water Delaware Clean Water Rally will take place on June 5th in Dover, Delaware.

Jay Springer reported that there was another successful South Jersey Scrub this year. In a short period of time, the event came together very well with lots of press coming out for the event. The kick-off took place in Camden, NJ at Gateway Park. NJDEP recently announced they will be providing \$10 million in grants for water quality improvement projects in the Barnegat Bay Watershed. The next round of water quality restoration grants will go out at the beginning of the summer for both the Upper and Lower Delaware regions. NJDEP will be switching to an electronic application system. There will be a series of public information sessions and a webinar this summer on how to use the new electronic system.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Art Contest Award Ceremony at Fairmount Waterworks in Philadelphia, PA – **May 29th**

Highmark Walk in Wilmington, DE – **June 8th**

EPA Region 2 NEP Director's Meeting in New York, NY – **June 17th**

Spokesdog event at Cobbs Creek in Philadelphia, PA – **June 22nd**

Philadelphia Coast Day in Philadelphia, PA – **September 7th**

Delaware Coastal Cleanup – **September 14th**

NEP Fall Tech Transfer Meeting at Center for Inland Bays in Dewey Beach, DE – **October 1st to October 4th**

Experience the Estuary Celebration at Vie in Philadelphia, PA – **October 10th**
Delaware River Watershed Forum in Allentown, PA – **October 16th and 17th**

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