

Estuary Implementation Committee (EIC) Call Notes
Thursday, January 9th, 2020

Call Participants: Kelly Anderson (PWD), Emily Baumbach (PDE), Elizabeth Butler (EPAR2), Kimberly Cole (DNREC), Kathy Klein (PDE), Megan Mackey (EPAR3), Catherine Magliocchetti (EPAR3), Rhonda Manning (PADEP), Chad Pindar (DRBC), Irene Purdy (EPAR2)

- **Kathy Klein:** Rich Innes, the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) lobbyist in Washington D.C. sent an email saying that there is a bump in funding for all NEPs in 2020, but this bump will not kick in until FY21 contract process for the NEPs.
- **Megan Mackey:** There is a proposed bump, but we are still waiting for the operating budget, exact amounts, and more details about how the funding will be rewarded.
 - This funding will be added for FY20.
 - Megan will send an email that was received from EPA HQ on this to Kathy Klein for some clarification and additional information.

1. Review idea discussed during the last EIC meeting to hold monthly calls covering different CCMP strategies during each call to gather updated contacts and projects

- **E. Baumbach:** One way we can review all 39 CCMP strategies on upcoming EIC calls this year is to have each call focus on strategies under 1 of the 8 CCMP goals.
 - We can set up call topics for remaining calls this year in advance so EIC members can invite other agency representatives that have expertise on these strategies to join the calls.
 - On the calls, we can review the current strategy partners and performance measures listed in the CCMP and compare them to the projects that were submitted this year to see where there are gaps/additional information and partners needed.
- **I. Purdy:** We should still hold time on the calls for regular EIC business as well.
- **K. Cole:** Want to make sure that if EIC partners are inviting other staff members to join the call, their topics will be discussed on that call and not run out of time.
- **E. Baumbach:** If EIC members can let PDE know in advance of calls what other agency staff plan to participate, we can structure the call agenda to ensure we review those CCMP strategies first.
- **C. Pindar:** The EIC should review CCMP goals/strategies where we need more information and partner feedback on the first few calls.
- **E. Baumbach:** We can review the schedule for the goals and strategies to be reviewed on the 2020 EIC calls during the in-person EIC meeting on Thursday, February, 27th.

2. Review and confirm environmental justice contacts from EIC partner agencies for future meetings/calls.

- **E. Baumbach:** We'd like to still hold a tech-transfer/information sharing meeting in the next few months and invite some of the environmental justice (EJ) leads in the watershed to attend in order to get a better understanding of the work that's taking place in our region related to this topic.
- **K. Klein:** Prior to the meeting, we will send out a list of questions to tease out what each person can highlight during the meeting based on their current roles.
 - We should hold a webinar instead of an in-person meeting to make the meeting more accessible to participants.

- **M. Mackey:** Someone on a recent Delaware River Basin federal team call mentioned that the EPA Office of Environmental Justice provides at EPA Region 3 provides free training on this topic and a free overview of the EJSCREEN tool.
 - Reggie Harris is the contact person for EPA Region 3 on EJ activities.
 - EPA would like to provide this training at DRBC in the next few weeks.
 - EPA is holding a call in a few weeks to discuss what that training will look like.
 - An important conversation to have is how to prioritize working in EJ areas and review where there are known areas with EJ communities.
 - EJSCREEN helps to identify these locations with a suite of materials that hit a set of criteria and show where EJ communities would be located.
- **K. Klein:** We want to find the best way to engage and collaborate with these communities.
 - We don't want to impose and give the impression that we have all the solutions for these communities.
 - We need to hear from the communities to better understand what their needs are and build some trust.
 - We need some training in this area so that we can develop these relationships to help these communities while also addressing CCMP goals.
- **C. Pindar:** Recently heard the term 'JEDI' during a meeting for the first time and is curious how this plays into environmental justice.
- **E. Baumbach:** Environmental Justice is a subset of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles.
 - The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) has a workgroup dedicated to monthly JEDI calls and is working on creating a toolkit that will provide JEDI resources to organizations looking to incorporate these concepts internally and externally in their work.
- **C. Pindar:** Should we be thinking broader about the entire JEDI framework?
- **K. Klein:** JEDI also covers the way organizations work and hire to be more inclusive.
 - This is a movement with many foundations beginning to support environmental work in underserved communities in urban environments.
 - Some organizations are now moving towards providing funding directly to community organizations.
 - For PDE and the Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP), it will be important for us to build relationships with communities over time.
 - If we build trust, these communities can look to us to provide technical expertise and assistance with solving problems.
 - The Dodge Foundation is making this shift and will now be providing funding to community organizations for work taking place in New Jersey.
 - There's an EPA EJ grant out right now that PDE is looking at that has to be tied to the community where your organization is based (Wilmington, DE).
- **M. Mackey:** EJ small grants went to Wilmington, DE communities for the South Wilmington Wetlands Park.
 - This project started with EJ grants looking at the health impacts in the area and identifying issues and then conducting planning.

- Looking at impacts to Wilmington, DE could be a pilot program that can build out to the other cities that are part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (Philadelphia, Camden, Chester).
- **K. Klein:** There's another project in Wilmington, DE that Jen Adkins is involved with in Northeast Wilmington along Brandywine Creek where there are brownfield sites targeted for redevelopment.
- **I. Purdy:** For the webinar, folks can provide presentations on what their agency is doing related to EJ and then we can have some time for discussion at the end of the webinar and discuss where the Estuary Program wants to go with EJ as it relates to the CCMP.
 - Call participants can help provide some direction on this.
- **K. Klein:** One strategy we know we want to address is developing more relationships with community-based organizations across the region.
- **E. Baumbach:** We will send out an attachment with all EJ-related CCMP actions to webinar presenters to provide them with some background information.

3. Review potential next steps for Delaware Estuary Program Participation

- **K. Klein:** The CDRW is an organization that has built strong relationships with communities across the watershed.
 - It might be worth considering inviting Sandra Meola, the Director of the CDRW, to become a member of the EIC.
 - Partners were very engaged with developing the revised CCMP, but they don't feel they are necessarily part of the Estuary Program.
 - Organizations involved with CDRW are conducting on the ground work in the region that helps to implement CCMP strategies, but we are not interacting with these groups on a regular basis.
 - We could be doing a better job of engaging with these other groups across our watershed in a meaningful way.
 - Maybe this could turn into some type of advisory group.
 - There are many benefits to better engaging with these 'unofficial' partners in our region to learn about new programs and gather more information for CCMP tracking.
- **I. Purdy:** We want to increase the level of transparency moving forward with public participation.
 - We could start by asking Sandra to attend some upcoming EIC meetings.
 - I'd like some more information and ideas for how we can increase transparency between the Estuary Program and then have a discussion internally about it.
- **I. Purdy:** Do we need to have the Board or Steering Committee approve any new EIC members?
- **M. Mackey:** We don't need their approval per the current written agreement.
 - The agreement was written in a way that folks could easily join the EIC.
- **C. Pindar:** Even though it's not required to have the Steering Committee approve additions to the EIC, we should still make them aware of any new committee members.
 - The CDRW is a very balanced organization and would be a good voice, but they are a relatively new organization and am not sure what their lasting power is.
 - If their funding goes away, does the organization go away?
- **I. Purdy:** It might be better to do some more vetting with the Steering Committee on the spring call before reaching out and inviting other organizations to participate in EIC calls and meetings.

- **K. Klein:** We can put together a 1-page summary outlining the idea of adding new members to the EIC and how the potential new organizations could add value to the Estuary Program.

4. Spring Steering Committee Call

- **E. Baumbach:** PDE will create a Doodle Poll to send out to the Steering Committee for the Spring Call, most likely to take place in late March or early April.
 - **Send PDE any dates that will not work for your Steering Committee representative for a spring call in March and April by Tuesday, January 14th!**
- April 22nd and April 23rd will NOT work for some Steering Committee representatives.

5. EIC member Updates/Other Business

- **K. Klein:** PDE is signing another 5-year lease at the current office in Wilmington, DE.
 - We were considering moving locations, but decided to stay with our current location for now and will look into some other opportunities over the next few years to potentially buy or rent a new space.
- **K. Klein:** PDE received approval from the PDE Board of Directors to use some funding to hire a strategic planning consultant.
 - PDE's most recent strategic plan was a 5-year plan that ended at the end of 2018.
 - The consultant that PDE will be working with is George Krupanski.
 - George worked with PDE in the past and is familiar with our organization.
 - PDE wants to engage other DELEP members in the strategic planning process and will provide further information in the next few months.
- **K. Klein:** Soil testing was conducted on the hatchery property and there were no major problems found at the site.
 - The next step in the process is to develop an RFP for design to build the hatchery.
 - Bartram's Garden is committed to building a second building as an education wing next to the hatchery and PDE is a partner in this effort.
 - Bartram's has funding to design the outreach building, but does not have funding to build the building.
- **K. Klein:** The Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador was added to the FY20 grant.
 - PDE is working on how we want to structure that position and see how it fits into our work.
 - Since this program fits in with the DELEP priorities of EJ and public participation, we will talk more about this topic during the in-person February EIC meeting.
- **K. Cole:** Gregory Patterson will be the new chief of staff to the DNREC Secretary starting January 27th.
- **Note:** *There will be no monthly EIC call on February 13th since there is an in-person EIC meeting on February 27th and there are meeting conflicts (i.e., DRWI Winter Gathering) on February 13th.*