

EIC Call Notes

Thursday, March 12th at 10:00a.m.

Participants: Emily Baumbach, PDE; Liz Butler, EPAR2; Kim Cole, DNREC; Megan Mackey, EPAR3; Rhonda Manning, PADEP; Chad Pindar, DRBC; Irene Purdy, EPAR2

1. CCMP Goal Discussion: Healthy Habitats Goal 2: Stem Forest Loss

- EIC members reviewed Healthy Habitats Goal 2 strategies, associated performance measures & key deliverables, current CCMP strategy partners, and CCMP projects that were reported during the 2019 tracking period.
- **Kim Cole:** Brian Marsh (brian_marshall@fws.gov) is filling in for Greg Breese at USFWS (Coastal Program, Delaware Bay Estuary Project).
- **Rhonda Manning:** Kevin Hess is still the PADEP contact right now for projects related to this CCMP goal.
 - Rhonda will provide some contacts at PADCNR.
- **Chad Pindar:** Contacts in southeast Pennsylvania can report out on riparian buffer projects and identify future project sites (could reach out to Natural Lands or TreeVitalize).
 - Nathan Boone with William Penn Foundation has given several presentations on forest work on a watershed-wide scale, so he could probably provide resources or contacts for CCMP tracking.
- **Megan Mackey:** The Watershed Resources Registry could be a helpful group to contact to identify CCMP partners and projects.
 - There is a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for each state, and Angela Padeletti and Danielle Kreeger at PDE were involved with this group in the past.
- **C. Pindar:** Not sure if PDE is in position to ask for the maximum amount for a grant request because of match (are we personnel or match constrained?).
 - We want to be able to take advantage of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act funding.
 - Could have a grant requirement for NFWF to report to PDE to capture the work taking place that relates to items in the CCMP.
 - The Schuylkill River Restoration fund and grant recipients fall into at least strategy H2.2 with riparian buffer work.
- **Emily Baumbach:** A few contacts with the United States Forest Service will be assisting with the tracking of some of these performance measures this year.

2. Monday, April 20th Steering Committee Call Agenda Items

- **E. Baumbach** reviewed some of the previously discussed Steering Committee call agenda items:
 - Give Steering Committee members an overview of where certain priorities come from to help garner support for efforts (Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin environmental indicators feeds into the State of the Estuary Reporting which feeds into CCMP actions).
 - Megan Mackey: This will help to provide background information on the scientific integrity which leads into strategic planning and CCMP priorities.

- Provide an overview of work currently going on across the watershed (William Penn Foundation, Delaware River Watershed Initiative, Delaware River Basin Restoration Program).
 - Delaware Estuary Trust update
 - **Irene Purdy:** The trust seems like a topic that PDE's Board of Directors would be more heavily involved rather than the Steering Committee members.
 - Several EIC members agreed that there should only be an update on the trust on the call if there have been any new advances by PDE in terms of establishing a funding mechanism or other components of the planning process.
 - **C. Pindar:** A topic for the Steering Committee could be to review CCMP strategies that are lacking organizations actively tracking projects.
 - Present a list of CCMP strategies where not enough progress is being made with potential solutions and ask for Steering Committee support and expertise.
 - **M. Mackey:** The CCMP can be captured in the work of many organizations across the region, and the Steering Committee could help make this happen.
 - Kathy Klein has talked about how the agency partners signed off on the CCMP, but there are other efforts (e.g., William Penn Foundation) where groups aren't as aware of the strategies in the CCMP and how their work relates to these actions.
 - **C. Pindar:** This could be the opportunity as a grant condition to report to PDE for work that's related to the CCMP and utilize the CCMP for ranking projects.
 - **I. Purdy:** We will need some background material to brief Steering Committee members if there are going to be some decision points on this call.
 - Could discuss the additional \$62,500 in the work plan and if there is any strategic direction these funds could be applied to for the Estuary Program.
 - **K. Cole:** We need to figure out if PDE is going to play more of a coordination role of the efforts across the watershed or conducting more on-the-ground work, and also figure out what role the Delaware Estuary Program will play.
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- **PDE** will get out a draft Steering Committee agenda to the EIC the first week in April for a quick review.
 - **PDE** will get a final Steering Committee agenda out with associated materials two weeks before the call on April 20th.