

Monthly EIC Call
Thursday, June 11th 2020

Participants: Emily Baumbach, PDE; Liz Butler, EPAR2; Kim Cole, DNREC; Kathy Klein, PDE; Danielle Kreeger, PDE; Catherine Magliocchetti, EPAR3; Chad Pindar, DRBC; Irene Purdy, EPAR2; Joe Sieber, PADEP; Kelly Somers, EPAR3; Jay Springer, NJDEP

Delaware Estuary CCMP Tracking 2020

- **E. Baumbach** walked through the online [Google Form](#) for 2020 CCMP project submissions and the [2020 CCMP Tracking Proposal](#)
- **K. Cole:** Does offering these prizes to only a few partners limit the number of stories in the Newsletter?
 - This is a great idea, but you don't want it to seem like the only way you will ever have a story in the Newsletter is if you get a one of these prizes
- **K. Klein:** We don't have an issue getting stories for *Estuary News*, but we aren't getting enough that we are turning stories away or anything
 - In the next newsletter, we are going to highlight the CCMP a little more and explain the new callout box feature that's related to stories and how they are tied to CCMP implementation
- **E. Baumbach:** We will need to think about the language we want to use in the email that goes out to partners to make sure we are sending out the correct messaging
- **Irene Purdy:** We are looking forward to any upcoming webinars related to CCMP and PDE
 - Please send those details out when they are available
- **K. Cole:** You can include some example projects that were submitted last year as examples for partners to see when they fill out the survey
- **E. Baumbach:** We will list a few examples of projects from last year in the Google Form
- **Chad Pindar:** If you take out the image upload question in the Google survey, people will not need to log into Gmail to fill out the survey
 - We don't want people to need to log into Google in order to give us their information
 - If you take the image upload out, then everyone can easily fill out the survey
- **K. Somers:** You can have folks send images to a new email address specifically used for collecting associated photos for CCMP activities
- **E. Baumbach:** I will remove the image upload option so people aren't required to sign into Google to provide their data and we can also use the old CCMP email for image uploads (CCMP@delawareestuary.org)
- **K. Cole:** Can you update the survey so that you can skip to the end to submit projects if you only have one project?
- **E. Baumbach:** I will look into the capabilities on Google Forms and make the changes if possible
- **E. Baumbach** walked through the updated excel spreadsheet with CCMP contacts for this year
 - Kathy Klein is providing another list of 300+ contacts that will be merged with the existing list, so we are hoping to reach several hundred current contacts from organizations across the Delaware Estuary this year

National Estuary Online Reporting Tool (NEPORT) 2020 Updates

- **E. Baumbach** provided 2020 NEPORT updates:

- This information mostly pertains to the state partners that help us to report habitat and leveraging projects to EPA each year
- I spoke with someone from EPA HQ recently to see how COVID-19 might be impacting NEPORT this year
- EPA is still planning to follow the same general timeline as previous years, but will most likely delay the deadline by a few weeks
- EPA knows that some projects and organization reporting abilities might be impacted by COVID-19
- NEPs are being asked to submit as much as they can this year
- PDE will get emails out to PA, NJ, and DE in the next few weeks

EIC Partner Updates

- **K. Klein:** PDE submitted the FY21 NEP work plan to EPA on June 1
 - This was a bit more difficult to pull together this year with everyone working remotely
 - We are waiting for EPA to look over the work plan and make any edits
 - Thanks to everyone for contributing match commitments and thanks to Kim Cole for getting \$75k match from a contact at DelDOT
- **I. Purdy:** A few months ago, Javier Laureano put out an invitation for a divisional Environmental Justice meeting to discuss the recent events on George Floyd and the associated protests since there's lots of energy and focus on this right now
 - Environmental Justice has been at the top of the list of interest and priorities for Javier
 - This discussion is taking place next week on Monday
 - This has been at the top of the list of Javier's interests
- **K. Klein** provided PDE updates:
 - PDE does not have any plans to open up our office in any big way in the future
 - We sent out a staff survey, and staff expressed that they are uncomfortable coming in anytime soon
 - The PDE office will most likely operate with a mix of working from home and working at the office when businesses begin to open back up
 - We tried not to renew our lease for our office space, but could not get out of the lease
 - We negotiated signing a three-year lease, so PDE is only committed for three years now instead of five
 - We made the decision not to hold Delaware River Festival at Penn's Landing this year given all the uncertainty
 - We have a committee creating a virtual week-long program for River Fest this year
 - There might be some opportunities for people to participate in some in-person activities (swan boats)
 - We've also cancelled the annual Experience the Estuary Celebration that was supposed to be in October
 - We will have some type of fundraiser and maybe have a smaller gathering in November or December
 - A PDE strategic planning survey went out to PDE staff, EIC, and some other partners to get feedback on PDE strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities
 - We are looking at how PDE's work aligns with the CCMP
 - There's a steering group assisting with the strategic planning process
 - We are hopeful that we will have this process wrapped up by the end of the year

- There was a Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) webinar last week reviewing the money available to support projects related to CCMP implementation across the county
 - Local National Estuary Programs (NEP) have to write a letter of support for organizations interested in submitting a proposal
 - PDE will be collaborating with some organizations in the watershed and submit some proposals
- PDE is working to secure funding from Delaware for 2021 and working with the Finance Committee
- Had a call with Rich Innes, the Association of National Estuary Programs consultant and lobbyist
 - A few NEPs are looking to get funding through EPA for CCMP implementation, including the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the Puget Sound Partnership
 - I thought NEPs would not go for this funding since it might jeopardize other NEPs from getting funding in other ways
 - Would this be a conflict with Delaware River Basin Conservation Act or Delaware River Basin Restoration Program funding?
 - Might depend on the subcommittee appropriations (if same committee is seeing the same organizations put in proposals, it would be competing against same funding for our watershed)
 - This could be an interesting idea to explore to get more money for projects for CCMP implementation
- PDE selected and entered into a contract with a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) consultant for some trainings that will kick off in September to engage PDE staff, PDE Board members, and the EIC
- We are excited to get this process started and want the first phase of training to be completed by the end of the calendar year
- We have some money in FY21 to continue this work as well
- PDE put out a message on social media related to recent events on inequalities and social justice
 - It was a brief message, but we did not want to be silent, and engaged the staff on some feedback
 - PDE is committed to doing more work in the DEIJ area and we want to do better
- **Danielle Kreeger** provided STAC updates:
 - Elections are open right now
 - With the revised STAC Charter, we have added a Vice Chair and increased the cap on membership from 21 to 25
 - There are 8 new names on the ballot, and we also happen to have 8 open seats
 - The STAC is not planning to meet again until the joint STAC-EIC meeting later this year in September or October
 - Kristin Regan has been working on a poll for STAC future priorities
- **C. Pindar** provided DRBC updates:
 - The first quarterly business meeting was done via GoToMeeting
 - We tried to align the budget the way state of New Jersey did to modify fiscal year
 - During a recent public comment period, there was lots of testimony on the PennEast Pipeline project and the status of the natural gas regulations
 - There was an application made to DRBC for the full pipeline (2/3 in PA and 1/3 in NJ)
 - PennEast tried to conduct the project in phases, with the application sent to DRBC for the PA portion

- There was lots of public comment and concern on how DRBC would review the project
 - This project is being reviewed by the permitting group right now
 - There is a webpage on the DRBC website about the project and the application details
 - Staff still do not have a return to work date yet and are continuing to work remotely
 - Since the state revenue suffered, this will have an impact on the DRBC budget that's normally passed July 1
- **Jay Springer** provided NJDEP updates:
 - Last Monday, Commissioner Catherine McCabe announced the new division of Watershed Protection and Restoration
 - There are many existing programs involved in this new division, and we are not yet positive about where the Estuary Program fits into this
 - This transition will take place over the summer and into the fall
 - We will provide everyone with updates and Jay will let the EIC know if he will continue to be the NJDEP EIC member
- **D. Kreeger:** Are you still managing the 319 programs, or will the programs go over to the new division under a new contact at NJDEP?
- **J. Springer:** These are currently under my division and under Bruce Friedman
 - We don't anticipate that these functions will change
 - We are hoping to have the RFP for 319 sometime this summer, but will most likely get pushed to the fall and will only include more funding than the federal dollars (\$2.5 million total each year)
- **K. Cole** provided DNREC updates:
 - DNREC staff are still working remotely and do not have any dates to return to the offices
 - The state is still on track, but there are lots of budget cuts
 - The good news for the section is there's a lot of federal funding to support our work
 - There are some staffing changes right now where people are moving between agencies
 - Kelly Valencik working out of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) and assisting with Delaware Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) is moving over to DelDOT in the Transportation Alternatives Program
 - We will be transferring those duties to someone else
 - An Environmental Scientist III position was posted and is available
 - DNERR is updating a 5-years management plan
 - We are still working on the state's climate action plan with goal to be done by December
 - There will be some virtual public engagement in September
- **Joe Sieber** provided updates from PADEP:
 - The revenue outlook for Pennsylvania right now is fairly dismal, and there's lots of uncertainties with program funding
 - Staff are continuing to telework
 - Summer Kunkel is the new acting director in our Bureau since Jen Orr left
 - PADEP was rolling out an invitation for a PADEP diversity committee for inclusion with all the programs we manage
 - PADEP is now moving forward on this initiative and getting staff involved to see how we can improve diversity and build a culture of inclusion across the agency