



**Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP) Estuary
Implementation Committee Meeting (*Virtual*)
December 10, 2020 – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Kathy Klein, PDE; Emily Baumbach, PDE; Danielle Kreeger, PDE; Chad Pindar, DRBC; Catherine Magliochetti, EPAR3; Kimberly Cole, DNREC; Kelly Anderson, PWD; Megan Mackey, EPAR3; Irene Purdy, EPAR2; Jay Springer, NJDEP; Rhonda Manning, PADEP

- Kathy Klein welcomed EIC members to the call
- Danielle Kreeger: the October 28 STAC-EIC meeting notes were approved by STAC at the November STAC-MACC meeting
 - Chad Pindar motioned to approve the joint STAC-EIC minutes
 - Kim Cole seconded the motion
 - All were in favor and minutes were approved

STAC Updates and 2021 Activities

- D. Kreeger: There was a joint meeting of the STAC-MACC in November
- The purpose of that annual meeting is for participating organizations to provide updates on monitoring activities and future monitoring priorities through roundtable discussion
- There are 4 priorities taking place next year that STAC and MACC will be involved in
 - 1) The final Monitoring Assessment report that PDE has been compiling and will be added as an addendum to the revised CCMP
 - Monitoring report is being led by PDE with peer review from STAC and MACC
 - 2) 2021 Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit
 - 3) 2022 Technical Report for the Delaware Estuary and Basin (TREB) and next State of the Estuary Report (SOE)
 - PDE usually provides a SOE every 5 years
 - STAC members and other volunteers worked together to create a technical report (i.e., TREB) to translate into the SOE.
 - We distributed a survey on TREB indicators too see if the correct indicators are in the report and if any indicator updates are needed
 - DRBC has always been gracious to lead on chapters 2 and 3 on water quality and quantity
 - University of Delaware takes the lead on Chapter 1
 - Chapter on Climate Change is done by Penn State
 - PDE helps with some of the other chapters in the report
 - Goal is to get the contracts for writers in place in next two months and then conduct data gathering and analysis through 2021

- Goal is to write up the report in end of 2021 to early 2022 with some rounds of review and then have the report complete by July 2022
- 4) STAC Futures
 - Kristin Regan, STAC chair, prepared a poll for the STAC to get feedback on priorities to see how the STAC can function to address some CCMP strategies
 - STAC can help write proposals to fill data gaps
 - This is not an NEP requirement, but a volunteer-driven discussion to outline some technical priorities for STAC and we invite the EIC to provide any input on this discussion as well
- Next STAC meeting will be in late January or early February
- K. Klein: The budget for the Summit is \$60,000 and we are looking for \$30,000 to come from sponsorship (half the budget to come from sponsorship and the other half to come from registration)
 - Right now, we have funding from DRBC, PSEG, Delaware Sea Grant, DNREC, Exelon, Monroe Energy, EPA, Urban Engineers, and AKRF
 - We're going to send out some follow-up letters before the holidays to ask for some more support
 - Deadline to be a sponsor is Jan 15th
 - If you know anyone who would like to be a sponsor, please let us know
- K. Anderson: PWD submitted a few abstracts and have several staff who plan to attend the Summit as well
- D. Kreeger: We want to give a big shout out to DRBC for their new Advisory Committee on Climate Change that recently formed
 - There will be some special sessions and a workshop on climate change activities
 - Kristen Kavanaugh is the DRBC Committee Liaison and Howard Neukrug with UPenn is the Committee Chair
 - Tuesday at the Summit will be dedicated to the climate forum with some other concurrent sessions
- K. Klein: Registration for the Summit is open online
 - We are also working with the Urban Waters federal partners to plan an Urban Waters session
 - Still looking for a keynote speaker
- D. Kreeger: We want the plenary speakers to reflect voices of the next generation
 - We have one speaker lined up, but are still looking for another
 - We want to have a show of support for inclusion at the Summit
 - This remote format can also help increase the participation as we get the word out
- I. Purdy: Sarah Bouboulis reached out for a speaker for a tribal contact so we reached out to our tribal coordinator and will get back to PDE
- Kelsey Leonard represents the Shinnecock Indian Nation as the Tribal Co-Lead on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body of the U.S. National Ocean Council
- D. Kreeger: We have funds budgeted for speaker fees
- C. Pindar: Not sure if PDE has changed the way they send out email blasts
 - The emails that come through from Vertical Response always go straight to the junk
- K. Anderson: We have the same problem at PWD, and they don't even make it to the server

- I. Purdy: The PDE email blasts to EPA go to spam too
- K. Klein: We will need to work on this at PDE
 - I'll talk to Elizabeth Horsey about this and see what we can do
 - Maybe we need to send out some additional emails another way

Steering Committee Meeting Debrief

I. 25th Anniversary Panel Discussion at Summit

- K. Klein: We've decided to have a Steering Committee panel on March 3rd
 - Please let your Steering Committee members know the date
- D. Kreeger: It will most likely be a 1-hour panel session mid-morning or early afternoon
- K. Klein will send an email to the EIC and the SC for details on the panel
- D. Kreeger: We've had a Steering Committee panel at the Summit the past a few times
 - It might be helpful for Kathy to tee up a few questions for the Steering Committee and send to them (*What do you see in your state or area that are the top challenges? How is your work going to relate to CCMP implementation?*)
- Megan Mackey: We will get a hold on Cathy Libertz's calendar to see if she is available
- K. Klein: The Summit registration fee is \$100 and \$25 for students
- Rhonda Manning: We are still in somewhat of a spending ban right now, so we will see what we can do

II. Revising the Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP) Agreement

- K. Klein: We're going to have to spend some time in 2021 to review this agreement to have something teed up for the fall 2021 Steering Committee meeting
 - Steering Committee members will need to approve this document
 - Will be something we need to think about in the new year
 - We're not requested any action today, but wanted to remind everyone that this will be a priority in 2021
 - Engagement in general is something we should focus on
 - How to better engage others in the program in addition to better engagement from the Steering Committee
 - It's an ongoing challenge for partners to provide us with the work they are doing to track CCMP implementation
 - I see revising of the agreement and an engagement strategy as being top priorities next year for the EIC and wanted to see what others think
- Chad Pindar: I wasn't around for the last DELEP agreement revision, but I understand that it took much longer than people were expecting it to take
- Irene Purdy: Yes, it did take a long time and was an iterative process
 - Was about 7 years since the last agreement
 - Will be good to allow for enough time and pull out different parts of the agreement and different questions for the EIC and Steering Committee
- Jay Springer: It will take time since it's an interagency state agreement, especially with many administration changes and legal reviews
- K. Klein: With everything going on in the watershed, it's good for us to think about how we want to fit into the bigger picture and the role of the Estuary Program
 - It's a much different landscape now than when the last agreement was signed

- Other Estuary Programs struggle with CCMP tracking
- The Estuary Programs that have a more robust public participation effort are the programs that have more money since they have the ability to give out money to help increase the buy-in and participation of other entities and broader stakeholder participation.
- There's a lot of talk about engaging underserved communities, but I'm not seeing any changes in the way that grants are available
- We want to find ways and opportunities to help empower underserved communities
- We used to have a mini grant program with money from some of the NEP grant that we gave out that were around \$2,500 dollars to help implement work in communities through working with watershed organizations
 - Maybe we could give out funds to community groups rather than environmental organizations for rain gardens, storm drain marketing etc. that help to implement the CCMP
- M. Mackey: Many of the NEPs still have mini grant programs
- K. Klein: Maybe this is something that could be tied into Urban Waters for the four cities
- K. Cole: You definitely get people more involved and engaged by providing them with funding for their work
- J. Springer: It's a good way to get your foot in the door when working with groups you haven't engaged with in the past to help build those relationships
 - You also have to work to engage community leaders since there's a lot of mistrust there, so engaging local leaders and stakeholders will help champion efforts

FY21 Work Plan Review

- K. Klein: There's the DELEP workplan and then the work that PDE is doing in this document, but everything is intertwined
- It's the 25th anniversary of PDE and completion and publication of first CCMP, so there are opportunities to talk about those milestones
 - This also provides the opportunity to put out PDE's new strategic plan when it's completed
 - We're going to take what we have on strategic planning back to the staff for feedback and then we will have a draft for the Steering Committee and PDE Board to review
 - We're hoping to have done by the first quarter of 2021
- We're keeping the hatchery project moving
 - It's been stalled with the current leasing situation, but we think we have a path forward and we will be leasing the land from Philadelphia Parks Department instead of a sub-lease through Bartram's Garden
 - PENNVEST let us know that they didn't want us spending any money on design and other work until we finalize the lease arrangement
- D. Kreeger: PENNVEST is supposed to be meeting today to talk about our project
 - They want to modify the agreement on what we can and can't spend money on

- Once we get the lease, they will pay us back on expenses
- We're trying to avoid taking the lease to city council review to not further delay the process
- Our project officer at PENNVEST asked us about the leveraging opportunities to date and in the future
- We added up the grants we've secured, and it adds up to over \$1 million in grants that have nexus to hatchery propagation work and the Mussels for Clean Water Initiative
- We have about 2 years to line up funding for this project
- We just learned that we can grow mussels in stormwater ponds with ecosystem services related to clean waters
- K. Klein: Our other big workplan item for 2021 is the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and how we can use this opportunity to leverage funding
 - Right now, we're looking at the 5 Star Urban Waters Restoration Grant as an opportunity for possibly going in for funding to maybe do a project in Chester, continue to maintain the functions of that program, and do some more webinars
 - We have a list of ideas with the federal agencies and partners and are working to have representations from the four cities more involved in the workgroup
- K. Klein: Our Finance Director, Nancy Descano, is retiring in January 2021
 - We are building a transition plan and are looking for opportunities to address some of the tasks we can be doing better moving forward for administration and financial functions
- K. Klein: I've been involved in the Tater Table project working with DVRPC, WRA, and PWD
 - We've conducted a series of interviews with partners to gather information about people's experiences working in the sectors of nonprofit, government, and private/water utilities sector
 - This project provides the opportunity to bring different entities engaged in improving water quality together
 - We are going to have an amazing final report coming out of this project that will hopefully lead to some joint initiatives with the partners that have been involved in this effort

EIC Partner Updates on Recent/Upcoming Estuary Activities

- K. Cole provided DNREC updates:
 - The Delaware Resilience and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) is wrapping up their Summit today
 - The Delaware Nonprofit Source Program has a call for proposal out until Feb 8th
 - The state is still on track for Delaware Climate Action Plan
 - Synthesizing information from a public workshop and technical experts
 - Looking to have draft of the plan to the Secretary for review at the beginning of January and then send to the Governor's Office
 - We are still on track for a winter 2021 unveiling of the plan
 - In Delaware starting on January 1st, make sure you are bringing your own carry out bags since the plastic bag ban will be in effect
- C. Pindar provided DRBC updates:

- We are wrapping up the 2020 Water Quality Assessment Report and are looking at the previous 5 years of data for that report
- For stage 2 PCB TMDLs, we are working with coregulators on that with EPA and the states
 - Have a meeting next week to finalize next steps with the coregulators
- Next Toxics Advisory Committee meeting is on Jan 28th
 - Group will be discussing PFAS monitoring plan for the Estuary and some DRBC monitoring updates will be presented
 - A monitoring plan for 1,4-dioxane that some coregulators are working on will also be presented at Toxics Advisory Committee meeting
- DRBC took action on the New Jersey LNG export terminal that's getting a lot of press right now
 - DRBC approved the plans
- I. Purdy: Recently had a Camden call with team leads on Community-driven Solutions, and they are working on community collaboration and addressing EJ concerns with an environmental public health roadmap
 - The roadmap will provide health, economic, and social outcomes in Camden
 - I'll bring information to the Urban Waters meetings on this as well
- Cathy Magliochetti provided EPAR3 updates:
 - Our new branch chief is Amy Cowell
 - Federal partners workgroup with USFWS met to talk about the Steering Committee composition for the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act
 - Steering Committee is represented by the four states with USFWS having a permanent status and then rotating the representation from the rest of the organizations
 - EPA noted that we'd like to see lots of leveraging of ongoing efforts since we have an existing CCMP and look forward to funding opportunities coming out of the conservation collaborative
- K. Cole: Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife will also be serving on the Steering Committee, most likely Dave Savakis
 - Our understanding is that other Fish & Wildlife state agencies will be on this Steering Committee
- J. Springer provided NJDEP updates:
 - Last week, Commissioner Catherine McCabe announced that she will be retiring effective January 15th to spend more time with her grandchildren and family etc.
 - New Jersey Nonpoint Source Water Quality Restoration Grants will go out with an RFP either before the end of the year or early in 2021
 - Project in Delaware watershed will be given priority, and there are also some statewide initiatives related to CSOs and green infrastructure
 - 40-50 HUC 14 water bodies on the edge focused for restoration work that might result in additional waterbodies being added to the 303(d) list
 - Focusing on watershed initiatives and climate change
 - Transition on internal changes will be starting soon and in effect in beginning on 2021
- Kelly Anderson provided PWD updates:

- We are continuing to monitor, model, and analyze data for DO, bacteria, salinity, drought, and nutrient planning as it relates to ongoing programs
- Have a couple major deliverables due to regulatory agencies
 - Year ten EPA agreement for *Green City, Clean Waters* plan and working on compiling and drafting that now
- PWD has a number of really great presentations and abstracts submitted for the Delaware Estuary Science Summit in March
 - Presentations will take a deep dive into some of the research and technical work to support environmental priorities in the Estuary related to nutrients and salinity
 - This will be an opportunity for some of our research and technical staff to give updates on what they are working on
- Staff are still working from home with no indication of when we will be reporting back to the office
- We recently posted PFAS data collected on the PWD website
 - <https://www.phila.gov/water/sustainability/protectingwaterways/Pages/PFAS.aspx>
- Also initiative for 1,4-dioxane sampling in the Delaware River and aware of DRBC's work and other water suppliers interested in this topic
- R. Manning provided PADEP updates:
 - PADEP is updating a stormwater guidance manual
 - State water plan efforts are moving along with meetings open to the public and dates posted on PADEP's website
 - We're in the process of updating the first state climate action plan
 - Staff were recently notified that teleworking will continue until at least June 30th
- Study on west coast salmon and pollution from car tires posted in chat: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/03/coho-salmon-pollution-car-tires-die-off?CMP=share_btn_tw

Scheduling of 2021 EIC Meetings

- K. Klein: We've continued to have monthly meetings since the CCMP revision, but I'm not sure if we need to continue to have monthly meetings
 - We hold the quarterly EIC and Board meetings together so that people could stay for both meetings
 - An all-day zoom meeting can be exhausting though, so we're looking at holding PDE Board and EIC meetings on different days
 - Estuary Program partners will continue to be invited to PDE Board meetings
 - Wanted to put out there to see if we should still have monthly meetings and move the EIC and Board meetings to different days as we continue to work remotely
- EIC will continue to have calendar holds for monthly calls and decide whether or not the meeting is needed
- Monthly meetings will shift to the first Thursday each month from 10:00am to 12:00pm