

September 12th EIC Call 10:00am – 12:00pm

Participants: Emily Baumbach, PDE; Liz Butler, EPAR2; Kim Cole, DNREC; Kathy Klein, PDE; Danielle Kreeger, PDE; Megan Mackey, EPAR3; Rhonda Manning, PADEP; Chad Pindar, DRBC; Irene Purdy, EPAR2; Jay Springer, NJDEP

Citizens Advisory Session (CAC) Working Session Update

- Earlier this week, Kathy and Emily met with the two PDE staff, Kaitlin Tucker and Kate Hutelmyer, who will be assisting in facilitating the CAC Working Session at PDE on Monday, October 7th.
- This working session will include some interactive activities with the goal of the meeting to determine some preliminary goals for a CAC for the Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP).
- K. Cole: We just want to make sure we are all on the same page about the CAC and have a clear outcome coming out of this working session

NEPORT and CCMP Tracking Update

- E. Baumbach: All habitat and leveraging projects have been submitted to EPA's National Estuary Program Online Reporting Tool (NEPORT).
- A total of 8,714.6 habitat acres (52 projects total) were submitted for habitat projects.
- A total of \$3,908,446 (\$3,115,920 Cash, \$792,526 In-Kind) was submitted for leveraging projects.
- Over 230 projects have been submitted to PDE for tracking CCMP strategy progress from over 20 different organizations.
- NEPORT and CCMP tracking results will be reviewed at the joint STAC-EIC meeting on Monday, October 21st.
- C. Pindar: Did DRBC submitted the types of CCMP projects you were looking for? We realized our format was probably different than some of the other partners since we don't work on many on-the-ground projects.
- E. Baumbach: DRBC as well as many other partners did a great job filling in the tracking tool and provided the information needed even though there was a wide range of project and activity types submitted.
- K. Cole: It would be helpful if partners can see a full list of all the CCMP activities that have been submitted in addition so we can show Steering Committee representatives the agency activities that were reported.
- E. Baumbach: For the EIC-STAC meeting, CCMP results will be rolled up to provide a quick report out, but PDE will make all project results available via excel sheets and post results on PDE's website.
- Emily thanked members of the EIC and other partners for taking the time to thoughtfully fill in the CCMP tracking tool and also submit habitat and leveraging projects for NEPORT this year.

Delaware River Festival Debrief

- K. Klein: The Independence Seaport Museum provided free admission to Delaware River Festival participants.
- We handed out over 1200 ferry and boat passes.
- There was a quest map participants had to fill out by receiving stamps at the vendor tables this year
- Other activities besides the main ferry included duck boats, swan boats, and kayaks

- There was a press conference with representatives from the Adventure Aquarium and Independence Seaport Museum as well as Randy Hayman of PWD
- There was coverage on the event in the Philadelphia Inquirer and WXPB radio
- There were nearly 3,000 participants at Delaware River Festival this year
- This event may turn into a two day event with live music on both the Camden and Philadelphia sides of the Delaware River next year

NYCDEP Meeting Debrief

- K. Klein: Several PDE staff hosted a few folks from NYCDEP at the Wilmington, DE office and provided a few presentations of current projects as well as a tour of the shell recycling facility and a nearby wetland monitoring site.
- From NYCDEP's perspective, there's a disconnect between the upper and lower part of the Delaware River Basin.
- PDE wants to be more involved in informing them about what goes on in our region and how their actions impact the environmental health of the estuary.
- D. Kreeger: In the past, we've worked with NYC on technical and advisory support level.
- They learned about the work we do and issues related to flow and salinity management.
- We learned more about their work over last 100 years to invest in the upper watershed working with farmers in headwaters to protect source water.
- NYC is broadening their sphere of interest, with a whole-watershed approach and more coordination in upper and lower portions of the Basin.
- They want to establish better relationships with the lower Basin since there are critical resources in tidal freshwater portion of the Delaware Bay where small changes in salinity have huge impacts on the resources.

Steering Committee Meeting Agenda 11/20

- K. Klein: Current agenda items for the Steering Committee meeting include DELEP Partner Updates/Priorities, CCMP Tracking Update, CAC and EJ Activity Updates, PENNVEST Update, and concept of a restoration trust for the Delaware Estuary
- Pennsylvania is the lead for the Steering Committee meetings for 2019 through 2020.
- This a two-year responsibility that rotates between the three states in the Estuary Program.
- The meeting is currently scheduled to take place at the PDE office, but we are looking into the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as a possible meeting location instead.
 - This would include a docent to walk participants through the exhibits and would also include a reception following the meeting with some other partners and PDE staff.
- D. Kreeger: Another item we'd like to include on the Steering Committee agenda is the concept of the restoration trust for the Delaware Estuary.
- The idea of a trust for this region has been discussed through the DRBOSAC, Regional Sediment Management, as well as the 2006 Delaware Estuary White Paper.
- Wetlands and shellfish were not really included in conservation act priorities and focused more on the headwaters than the urban corridor.
- Estimates from the TREB and CCMP demonstrate a grand total of more than \$100 million needed to implement these strategies across this region.

- We want to hear if DELEP partners at the Steering Committee level are in agreement and would be willing to take on this idea of moving the trust forward and put the concept on paper.
- K. Cole: The secretary is interested in learning more about how DELEP is working and coordinating with some of the other larger efforts taking place across the Delaware River Basin (e.g., Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, other conservation partners coordinating with USFWS).
- K. Klein: I've developed a close relationship with Sandra Meola, the director of the CDRW, and will be speaking at their annual forum and facilitating a session and their summit.
- K. Klein: Jen Adkins was on a committee for developing priorities for River Restoration Act funds, and I've participated in the review of the next round of proposals.
- K. Klein: I met with Secretary Garvin last week and one item discussed was the need for bringing the different entities and leaders in the watershed together.
 - I offered to work on bringing a key group of partners together to have a dialogue in order to leverage more resources in the region.
- D. Kreeger: There's a big disconnect with many partners and their work and the implementation of the CCMP.
 - It would be helpful for other partners to be aware of the CCMP for their own project funding to link to a regional conservation plan.
- K. Cole: It would be helpful to get input from the Steering Committee members about their coordination with different groups across the Basin.
- K. Klein: This is something that PDE can give an update on during the roundtable report out to let Steering Committee members know that this is something that's being worked on in this region.
 - There's so many different activities going on across the watershed, but there's not one place to go to find all this information.
- M. Mackey: It looks like most of these agenda items for the meeting are updates and discussion. Is there anything we will be asking Steering Committee members to come prepared and have reviewed ahead of time?
- D. Kreeger: This meeting would be the opportunity to hear from the Steering Committee if DELEP should proceed with the concept of a trust and get their blessing and provide updates at a future meeting with a more detailed pitch and scoping of this concept and ask for recommendations on others to involve with expertise or experience.
- I. Purdy: It would be helpful for PDE to get this information out ahead of time so EIC can brief their Steering Committee members so they can be more prepared at the meeting.
- D. Kreeger: We will take a look at what we've already produced in the past and can create a bulleted list of key points for the concept of a trust.
- K. Klein: This would be a good reason to bring all these groups together across the watershed and a good rallying point. The revised CCMP articulates how acquiring this additional funding is something that needs to be done and this would also be a trackable item in the revised CCMP.

2019 Experience the Estuary Celebration

- K. Klein: Today is the early bird deadline for experience the estuary celebration.
- So far, PDE has received \$80,000 in sponsorship and ticket sales.
- This event will be more costly than previous years since the event is in Philadelphia so we're anticipating to break even on this event.
- In previous years, we have netted about \$30,000, so we might need to break tradition and not have it in Philadelphia again next year if we can't make any money off the event.

- There will be a wine pull again, a smaller silent action, and a chance auction with 7-10 baskets where you can buy raffle tickets to distribute.
- There will not be a seated dinner to provide guests with more time for networking at the event (there will still be a cocktail hour, a short presentation, and assigned seats).
- We're most likely going to have around 400 people in attendance this year.
- If anyone is interested in helping with setup and break down of the event, please let Kathy know.

Other Business

- The NEP Tech Transfer Meeting is taking place in Dewey Beach, DE on Tuesday, October 1st – Friday, October 4th.
 - PDE is sending about 5 staff to attend the meeting, with a few staff presenting.
 - Megan Mackey and Kelly Somers from EPA Region 3 are attending.
- Kathy is attending a luncheon in Washington D.C. on Tuesday, September 17th to celebrate National Estuaries Week and learn about the different estuary-related programs.
- K. Klein: I spoke with Sandra Meola of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed regarding funding from the William Penn Foundation to coordinate the installation of Delaware River Watershed signage across the four states in the watershed.
 - They are working with a partner in each state to identify the right locations for the signage and approached PDE as a potential partner.
 - They are working with the Upper Delaware Council in New York, the League of Conservation Voters in New Jersey, and Penn Future in Pennsylvania.
 - NYCDOT is donating the production and placement of signs that will be white and green and display the wording, 'You are in the Delaware River Watershed'.
 - If PDE decides to be the partner for Delaware, we may want to take a different approach.
 - D. Kreeger: Sometime signage displays a signature picture of an organism from the region (e.g., horseshoe crab, sturgeon)
 - It seems like a missed opportunity to only have a sign with only some language displaying that you are in the Delaware River Watershed
 - K. Cole: In Delaware, we have specific watershed signs that have already been placed, so we could put PDE in touch with the watershed assessment section for the Christina Watershed signs.
 - The team could also provide some insight on the approval process for getting the signs placed.
 - In New Jersey, we installed watershed signs about 20 years ago with most of them still up.
 - These were labelled by sub-watershed and had estuary-specific signs.
 - We could reach out to DOT for some feedback and insight.
- K. Klein: The 2018 Activity Report was recently completed and sent out. It's available on PDE's website.
- There will be a hatchery update during the STAC-EIC meeting and at the Steering Committee meeting.
- PDE received a national award for best restored shore from the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, specifically for its living shoreline project at the DuPont Nature Center in Milford, Delaware.
- K. Cole: The NERRS Research mini grant is now posted.
- I. Purdy: PDE has taken on funding for the Urban Waters Ambassador
 - K. Klein: I recently met with the previous ambassador, Krista Heinlen.

- The funding will not be able to cover a full-time position, so PDE is looking into other ways to fund someone and give that person some other responsibilities as well.
- PDE will not have this position filled until January or February 2020.