



**Joint Meeting of the  
Estuary Implementation Committee and the  
Science & Technical Advisory Committee**

October 21, 2019

EPA Region 3 Office, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA  
Allegheny Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Objectives:**

- To get Science & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and Estuary Implementation Committee (EIC) guidance/feedback on Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) strategy progress and additional partners to involve in CCMP tracking in 2020.
- To provide information and get STAC and EIC input for upcoming November Steering Committee meeting and 2021 Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit plans.
- To share information and updates from partners across the EIC and STAC, including results of National Estuary Program Online Reporting Tool (NEPORT) and CCMP reporting for the current Fiscal Year.

**Meeting Attendees:**

**On phone:**

Jay Springer (NJDEP)  
Kelly Anderson (PWD)  
Kari St. Laurent (DNREC)  
Kimberly Cole (DNREC)  
Irene Purdy (EPAR2)  
Kevin Hess (PADEP)

Dorina Frizzera (Getting to Resilience, LLC)  
Elizabeth Butler (EPAR2)  
Elaine Panuccio (DRBC)  
Metthea Yepsen (NJDEP)  
Beth Watson (Drexel U)  
Dave Wolanski (DNREC)

**In person:**

Emily Baumbach (PDE)  
Angela Padeletti (PDE)  
Kristin Regan (EPAR3)  
Kelly Somers (EPAR3)  
Kathy Klein (PDE)  
Megan Mackey (EPAR3)

Lance Butler (PWD)  
Danielle Kreeger (PDE)  
Chad Pindar (DRBC)  
Greg Breese (USFWS)  
Erin Penzelik (EPAR3)  
Ronda Manning (PADEP)  
Namsoo Suk (DRBC)

## Joint EIC and STAC Meeting October 21, 2019

### Welcome & Introductions

- **Kathy Klein** welcomed meeting attendees and circulated a hard copy of the May EIC meeting minutes.
- **Greg Breese** made a motion to accept the May EIC minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting attendees accepted the motion to pass the previous EIC meeting minutes.
- **Danielle Kreeger** circulated a hard copy of the June STAC-MACC minutes.
  - John Kushwara was listed in meeting attendees but was not at the meeting. This was probably a cut and paste error, so PDE will remove the attendee name.
- There was a motion to accept the STAC-MACC meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) and NEPORT Updates

- **K. Klein** provided updates on the following items:
  - 2019 Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP) Program Evaluation
    - Every 5 years, each National Estuary Program (NEP) goes through a Program Evaluation by EPA.
    - The DELEP Program Evaluation took place from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - PDE received a 'pass' in the final letter from EPA.
    - Two items were identified as challenges for the NEP by EPA:
      - CCMP implementation tracking
      - Public participation in DELEP activities (e.g., using a citizen advisory committee for NEP feedback)
  - The Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) Tech Transfer meeting occurred this fall in Dewey Beach, DE.
    - There were many great presentations and conversations at this meeting.
    - There was a discussion about the importance of reaching full participation in required dues contributions to ANEP from the NEPs.
    - There was a separate meeting with Bob Benson from EPA Headquarters (HQ) with some NEP leadership. At this meeting, an infographic was presented to the group to highlight the benefits of the NEPs.

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- Megan Mackey and Danielle Kreeger have discussed creating an infographic on Living Shorelines in Region 3 based on the HQ design.
- The connection between Trash-Free Waters and Urban Waters continues to be highlighted by EPA HQ. The Delaware Basin Urban Waters location and the connection to PDE- which has received supplemental funding for the UW and TFW is a great one.
- There are a few organizations looking to be recognized as NEPs. EPA HQ is not looking to provide these organizations with funding, but informing them about the NEP structure under the heading of NEP Futures to help them strengthen their programs and provide resources/support to estuarian organizations where possible.
- HQ is also looking for NEPs to highlight work on nutrient reduction and report as quantitatively as possible on goals and milestones.
  - DRBC is working on updating the designated use. There were many discussions about the impact of nutrients on the Delaware Estuary beyond dissolved oxygen, which is the focus of current DRBC research.
  - The Delaware Estuary system includes multiple state agencies and a regulatory entity (e.g., DRBC) making it more complex than some of the other NEPs that are located in a smaller geographic area in only one state (e.g., Center for Inland Bays)
  - Can STAC members help DBRC to write proposals or have small group meetings on topics related to CCMP strategy progress?
- 2019 Experience the Estuary Celebration
  - There were roughly 400 people in attendance at the dinner in Philadelphia this year.
  - Overall response was that it was a great dinner.
  - We debuted a video to inspire attendees. The video is now up on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCWcUvFWj5g>, for anyone to see.
  - The venue cost this year was 40% more, so our profit was not as much as in previous years.
- Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed's (CDRW) Forum updates and next steps for Delaware River Watershed initiatives

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- Several PDE staff attended to the Forum last week in Allentown, PA with some staff facilitating sessions and making presentations.
- STAC and EIC meeting attendees suggested that there needs to be a more robust effort to track the work going on across the region and to identify gaps.
- We need to find a way to build on momentum of the Governor's Summit earlier this year.
- There will be \$6 Million given out for NFWF's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund.
  - The fund has a 1:1 match, which is challenging.
- Delaware Estuary Monitoring Inventory
  - **D. Kreeger:** A baseline monitoring inventory for the Delaware Estuary was created as part of the CCMP revision process.
    - There is no current plan to conduct further analysis on the inventory right now.
  - **M. Mackey:** A monitoring approach/plan is required as part of the CCMP revision and the creation of the monitoring inventory was one step in this process (monitoring workshop in October 2018 followed by a report-out of the monitoring inventory at the Summit).
  - **K. Somers:** The STAC was planning to review the TREB-CCMP crosswalk and review gaps.
    - Once this review is completed, a complete monitoring approach including a gap analysis could be created
    - This final report will need to be submitted to EPA for review and approval
  - **M. Mackey** will follow up with PDE on status and next steps final monitoring report that needs to go to EPA for review
  - **A. Padeletti:** The TREB-CCMP comparisons evaluation has not been complete and still needs more work.
  - PDE noted that there is no additional funding to support additional monitoring efforts right now.
    - You need a bio-statistician to really see if you see changes.
    - DRBC currently facilitated the MACC.
    - DRBC is interested in having the MACC cover some new focus areas in the future.

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- **Emily Baumbach** provided a brief report out on the 2019 NEPORT data collection results for habitat and leveraging projects submitted to PDE.
  - Leveraging projects have been approved by EPA HQ, but HQ is still reviewing final habitat projects.
  - Thank you to all of the state and partner organizations who provided data this year.
  - Thank you to Megan Mackey and Irene Purdy for assisting in the project review process and answering any questions that came up.
  - Total Acres submitted - 8,671; 17 projects per each state
  - Total leveraging dollars submitted - \$3.8 million; 51 projects total, \$3.03 million in cash; \$793 thousand in-kind

### CCMP Strategies and Tracking Update

- **E. Baumbach** provided a brief report out on the results of the 2019 CCMP strategy tracking process
  - In May, a tracking tool Excel workbook was sent out to partners.
  - An August deadline was given to partners to provide PDE with CCMP strategy tracking activities.
  - NEPORT and CCMP reporting process was combined this year to help streamline the reporting process for partners.
  - The final project data is available in an Excel workbook and online Google Sheets document.
    - These documents are posted on the PDE website and available for viewing and download.
  - There is also an interactive map online that shows where projects are located (for entries where spatial data was provided in the CCMP submissions).
  - **E. Baumbach** thanked the EIC members, as well as the contributing partners, for providing project data this year.
    - 23 organizations total provided data to PDE with more than 250 individual activities submitted.
  - PDE is looking for feedback on the CCMP tracking tool and the data collection process and timeline.
  - There was discussion around whether projects can be collected on a rolling basis or if there will be a three-month window for project submission again from June to August.
    - This window may be a difficult time for partners to submit project data since it's during the peak field season months.

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- DELEP partners will need to make a final decision moving forward about the timeframe for tracking; calendar year, fiscal year, etc.
  - Is there a way to track what's been counted here compared to what other agencies report out on (so we are not double counting)?
- There might be some overlap between joint PWD and PDE projects, need to check.
- Partners requested to send the CCMP project map out next year when asking for data since seeing the map could help convince other partners to provide their organization's CCMP tracking activities.
- We can use the current tool to engage other partners and it could be a good platform to expand the conversations around the region.
- There were several CCMP strategies where additional expertise and results are still needed:
  - W2.2 Revitalization of Contaminated Sites
  - W2.6 Spill Communications
    - PWD has an early warning system and database of spills in the system.
    - DRBC has a spill model.
    - There is also a community meeting ongoing of emergency responders.
    - EPA HQ wants NEPs to make contact with FEMA and State Emergency management entities to avail themselves of pre and post disaster planning funds and serve as a resources in these situations/programs.
- There may be multiple CCMP strategies where we do not receive submission for several years since this is a 10-year plan.
- EPA will reach out to other internal contacts for some of these CCMP strategies.
- PDE can share a list of the organizations and contacts that provided project data this year as well as a list of organizations where an individual contact is needed.
- Several other strategies where PDE received little to no project data included the following CCMP strategies:
  - C1.2 Improve economic and environmental resilience
  - C2.7 Assess impacts of outreach
  - H1.4 Protect, enhance, and improve non-tidal wetlands
  - H2.1 Inventory, map and increase connectivity and resilience of forests
  - H3.1 Habitat for critical fish and crabs
  - H3.4 Horseshoe crabs and their habitat

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- A few meeting participants recommended setting up a CCMP data input station at the Science and Environmental Summit next year
- **K. Somers** suggested seeking input from the EIC and STAC on upcoming priorities.
  - At the next EIC meeting, EIC members should discuss how the STAC can help to directly address any CCMP strategies, prepare briefs, etc.
- **D. Kreeger** noted that during the next STAC meeting, the STAC will focus on the CCMP-TREB comparison file to review TREB gaps in relation to the CCMP.
- The STAC would like to receive recommendations from EIC of any questions and priorities that they are interested in.
  - Don't need to limit to just the TREB because new indicators may not be captured in TREB.
  - The STAC could think about creating additional white papers.
  - PDE will send out an email to STAC to start a conversation on this topic before the next meeting.
  - DRBC has a grant for PFAS and will go back to monitoring emerging contaminants in the next few years after the dissolved oxygen monitoring concludes.
- **D. Kreeger** noted that Sue Kilham will be stepping down as the STAC chair.
  - A call for interest in the STAC chair position has gone out to the committee.
  - Nominations will be taken until the end of November.
  - There is currently one interested party.
  - **D. Kreeger** will follow up with an email noting that the STAC chair nomination will be open through the end of November.

### 2021 Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit

- Potential presentation topics for the 2021 Summit:
  - Top 10 focus on priority areas
  - Monitoring and tracking
  - How to fund science
- PDE might consider using a new venue in a different location for the 2021 Summit
  - PDE had a feedback form at the last summit and will review comments received for information about a new Summit location.
  - Summit is currently held outside of a comfortable commuting distance which requires an onsite stay to attend the conference. Participants with children, graduate students and teaching professors can have a hard time attending if the location is outside of the commute.

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- Having it within commuting distance and within public transportation options could increase the participation and engage new people
- Summit objectives and further details will be discussed at the next STAC meeting.
- **K. Somers:** You could use the 2021 Summit as an opportunity to gather CCMP tracking data
  - Potentially set up stations where individuals could submit progress/data towards CCMP actions using the CCMP tracking template.
  - This would be a very valuable way to glean the information you are seeking and capitalize on the practitioners that attend the Summit.

### November 20<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting

- **K. Klein** reviewed agenda items for the November 20<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting:
  - Seek guidance from Steering Committee on concept of Trust for the Delaware Estuary.
  - Share previous resources with reference to the Trust (e.g., 2006 White Paper, CCMP) before the Steering Committee would be helpful.
    - Provide background on other Trusts for NEPs and how those structures work.
    - We would like to receive a “blessing” from the Steering Committee for PDE moving forward with the idea of the Trust with a clear ask.
  - **M. Mackey:** At the Steering Committee meeting, there will be more of a broad discussion on the Trust concept.
    - This group doesn’t need to provide a blessing on PDE moving forward with this idea.
    - While Steering Committee members being aware of this idea is great, this is fiduciary and may be something that EPA and other partners cannot weigh in on the conversation.
  - **D. Kreeger:** The creation of a Trust is a complicated task; who runs it, where the funds are held, need to have a priority system.
  - PDE will get out a draft Delaware Estuary Trust document in next few days to EIC.
- PDE Updates:
  - Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) - PDE is close to signing an agreement with Bartram’s Garden. We have Urban Engineers under contract and are looking to take soil samples hopefully within a month to verify site viability.

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- There will be an update at the Steering Committee meeting on Public Participation/Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Environmental Justice (EJ) Activities. This update will include PDE giving a brief report out on the CAC working session that took place at PDE in October and some PDE staff activities related to EJ.

### Roundtable Updates

- Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
  - Provided activity updates - See Attachment A below
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
  - Delaware Wetlands Conference is January 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> in Wilmington, DE. Abstracts are due October 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration opens November 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Margret A Davidson awards are open with a December 20<sup>th</sup> deadline application for graduate students.
  - Deadline for the Letters of Intent for the NERRS Science Collaborative are on December 11<sup>th</sup> are available here:  
[http://nerrsciencecollaborative.org/media/files/2020\\_Collaborative\\_Research\\_RFP.pdf](http://nerrsciencecollaborative.org/media/files/2020_Collaborative_Research_RFP.pdf)
  - The Delaware Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) Summit is taking place on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3
  - Erin, an ORISE intern, is working on SAV work.
  - Year 3 of SAV monitoring has just concluded.
  - EPA is looking at a communication plan for the SAV data.
  - Erin is interested in shoreline stabilization work and looking to create an inventory of manmade structures vs bulk headed vs others.
  - Trenton south is the focus of Erin's work.
  - PDE staff will coordinate with EPA on this effort to share data.
  - NJDEP has recent land use cover data that might be useful.
- AERS meeting is April 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>
- CERF meeting is November 3<sup>rd</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>

### Other Business

- Next EIC and STAC meeting dates
  - STAC usually sets all meeting dates for the following year at the beginning of the new year.
  - **D. Kreeger** will send polls later this week for 2020 STAC meeting dates.

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- EIC meetings will be set after the PDE Board Meetings are set for 2020 and will be reviewed at the next PDE Board and EIC meeting in December.

### Adjourn

- Greg Breese motion to adjourn at 12:45. The motion passed unanimously.

### Attachments:

- A- DRBC Update (also available on PDE's [STAC Meetings page](#))

2019 DRBC Update  
EIC\_STAC\_v3.1

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### Delaware River Basin Commission Activities

1. Designated Use and Dissolved Oxygen Criteria for the Delaware Estuary
  - Data Collection; Model Development; Model Expert Panel
  - Treatability and Cost Evaluation
  - <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/quality/conventional/DO.html>
  - [https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/WQAC\\_index.html](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/WQAC_index.html)
2. PCB TMDLs
  - Implementation of PMPs and management of dischargers database (on-going)
  - Stage 2 PCB TMDLs for the Estuary (2019?)
  - <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/quality/toxics/pcb.html>
3. Microplastics monitoring (2018 Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund)
  - <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/quality/reports/microplastics.html>
4. Caged mussel study in Lower Delaware River (2019)
5. Bacteria monitoring
  - Near shore survey in 2019
  - Near shore and transect survey in 2020
6. Characterization of algal composition in Delaware Estuary (2019 Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund)

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7. Modernization of Decision Support System (DSS) Tools for the Upper Delaware (2019 Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund)
8. Research on PAFS through multiple matrix monitoring in Delaware Estuary (submitted for PA CZM Grant)
  - <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/quality/reports/cecs.html>
9. 2020 Delaware River and Bay Water Quality Assessment Report
  - Every even year
  - <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/quality/reports/wq-assessment-rpts.html>
10. Advisory Committee Meetings (<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/advisory/index.html>)
  - Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC): October 22, 2019
  - Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) Meeting: Nov. 14 and Dec. 5
  - Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee (MACC) Meeting: Nov. 2019
11. FY2020-2022 Water Resources Program (3 year workplan) in development
12. Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E. hired as Deputy Executive Director (October 7, 2019)
  - <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/staff/bowman-kavanagh.html>
13. Water Resources Association for the Delaware River Basin's Annual Fall Conference – November 6, 2019 – DRBC presenting morning session on the State of the Basin 2019 Report