

Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Delaware River Location Monthly Workgroup Call
Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 from 1:00-2:00pm on Zoom

1. Introductions (1:00-1:10) – Frank McLaughlin (NJDEP), Joe Duris (USGS), Kathy Klein, Haley Burns, and Erica Rossetti (PDE), Simeon Hahn (NOAA), Irene Purdy (EPA2), Krista Heinlen, Chris Anderson (PWD), Flavia Rutkosky (USFWF)
2. Housing Webinar Update (1:10-1:15) – Erica reported that PDE has had 2 meetings with EPA and HUD to plan a webinar series for January. She has a list of topics and speakers planned, so please reach out if you would like to be involved, and stay tuned for the exact dates TBD.
3. Chester River Fest Recap (1:15-1:20)
 - Erica reported that the Chester River Fest was successfully held on October 2, 2021 with over 30 tables, a DJ/MC, dance team, food trucks, and around 500 attendees.
 - Kathy noted that our goal is to involve the community. We need to think about how to differently engage with them.
 - PDE noted that we got a lot of new contacts and heard that community members didn't know about the event but would want to be involved.
 - Krista thanked Kathy for recognizing that we need to work differently, meet the community needs, and align resources for them, as each of our urban areas have their own dynamics and challenges.
4. Workplan Discussion (1:20-1:55)
 - Erica shared the current draft workplan and solicited feedback and discussion from the group.
 - Frank offered to share the summary of the CCMUA living shorelines, a great example of urban waters resiliency and something we could do in the future
 - Kathy mentioned that PDE has about \$8000 for a 2022 project. A mini grant program was a popular idea to help with community projects that need supplemental funding.
 - Simeon would like the group to continue sharing success stories and make connections.
 - Chris suggested overlap with the Schuylkill Action Network
 - Irene mentioned that the Bezos Earth Fund could be an opportunity if we need more funding for projects.
 - Krista offered to help with an EJ workgroup if that's of interest
5. Other / Wrap-up (1:55-2:00)
 - Group discussed potentially holding an in person meeting in the future, although it has traditionally just been a phone meeting. PWD shared that they are returning to the office next week and have updated spaces we could use. EPA shared that it is still difficult for them to travel to non-essential meetings.
 - Frank shared that Kramer Hill Waterfront Park is opening on October 26th at 2pm and that there is a virtual Camden Environmental Summit on November 23rd

Our next meeting will take place on November 10th from 1-2pm.