

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call MINUTES

Tuesday October 18th, 2022, 11am-12:00 ET

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88177809370?pwd=UnZiWEpqcE5EWlNlV3cwTUN0Wi9iUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 7780 9370

Passcode: 066218

1. **Introductions** (11-11:10) – All

- DCBAC: Simeon Hahn, Jeffrey Richardson
- DRBC: Beth Brown
- EPA Region 2: Irene Purdy
- HUD: Roberto Frugone
- NOAA: Nicole Bartlett
- NJ DEP: Frank McLaughlin
- PA Sea Grant: Zach Nemec
- PDE: Erica Rossetti, Haley Burns, Kathy Klein
- US FWS: Flavia Rutkosky

2. **Project Updates** (11:10-11:25) - Erica

- **Chester River Festival** (<https://www.delawareriverfest.org/chester>) – postponed until the spring due to Hurricane Ian
- **PDE Science & Environmental Summit** (<https://delawareestuary.org/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>)
 - i. January 30-February 1 at Harrah's in Atlantic City NJ
 - ii. Urban Waters cohort applications to be sent out by the end of the month for the 2022 grantee organizations and associated community leaders. There will also be an Urban Waters session, and potentially a dinner, to get everyone in the same room.
 - iii. Roberto and Frank noted that for many government partners they will only be able to attend if they are a speaker or presenter, but everyone is interested in being there to meet the community partners
 - iv. NOAA will be in attendance, Nicole loves idea of other UWFP locations being there as well to make it a place where federal and community partners are able to come together
 - v. Erica and Haley to meet with other PDE staff to see if there are additional options for another session so that we can invite federal partners as speakers so they can attend. Beth to check with DRBC if there might be room in their presentation/session to add partners, at least HUD and NJDEP.

3. Other Open Discussions (11:30-11:55) – All

New federal partnerships: Simeon discussed need to bring all federal partners, especially Army Corps of Engineers, to the group so that we have contacts to help connect communities doing projects. In the past it has been difficult to get and retain some federal partners because UWFP is beneficial to each group in often different ways, and many federal partners have more restrictions than others. Erica offered to create some sort of document outlining each of the 15 federal partners in the reauthorization and how they fit in to the Urban Waters location, detailing specific projects that we want to accomplish. Group consensus that the more partners we have the more even the playing field becomes for our communities. Erica also offered to continue research to reach out to missing partners. If you have contacts from other federal agencies that are able to join the email list, please let Erica know ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org

Screening Tools: Kathy mentioned that EJSCREEN 2.1 is now out, with new definitions for disadvantaged communities. Because of BIL funding adhering to Justice40, we must use some screening tools to ensure that 40% of our funding is going to communities that are identified as being 80%+ disadvantaged. There was discussion about how screening tools don't take history into account and can't correct for factors such as gentrification that skew community results. In addition to screenings, results and sentiments should be vetted by community members. Simeon has done many screenings for Wilmington area. Erica to conduct screenings for the region or continue with water equity mapping discussions to share in the next few months, and we will have to determine alongside the community and as a group what is missing or if we feel we need some exemptions for communities that don't fit within the data but are still in need. This will also be a critical part of writing an equity plan which is required for the BIL and some other federal funding.

4. Brief Annual Workplan Review - *Tabled*

- Review current 2022 workplan:
<https://delawareestuary.s3.amazonaws.com/UW+Delaware+River+Location+2022+Workplan.pdf>
 - i. Next steps: Erica to type up draft of 2023 workplan. More discussion to follow prior to the end of the year. What have we accomplished? What have we not yet accomplished? Anything additional we'd like to accomplish (either continuing or new) in 2023?

5. Other/Resource Sharing (11:55-12:10)

- DRBC just completed 5 years of research on **dissolved oxygen** in the urban Delaware River that will help with legislation to classify this stretch of the river as fishable/swimmable. Draft reports are now available
<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/quality/designated-use.html>
- Nicole and NOAA staff have successfully worked with the **NASA DEVELOP** program using satellite imagery to study living shoreline projects. Interest in

expanding to other Urban Waters locations. PDE has a lot of living shoreline projects coming up in this location so it may fit in nicely. More info on NASA DEVELOP: <https://develop.larc.nasa.gov/projects.php>

- **BIL gave \$1.5 billion to Brownfields** over the next 5 years for site assessments, remediation projects, etc. Potential overlap
- **Cramer Hill** project in Camden won the Phoenix Award for best Brownfield project! There will be a tour on November 4 as part of the CDRW forum, and we are also hoping to do a tour (and potentially include sites across the river in Philly such as Riverfront North's Lardner Point) for this Urban Waters group as well.
- **Upcoming events:**
 - i. This **Saturday 10/22 at 11am** at the Route 9 Library in New Castle DE, the Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition is hosting a community information meeting about the Port of Wilmington expansion. They will also share some information about EJSCREEN and the CEQ tool.
 - ii. **CDRW Forum November 3-4**
 - iii. One of our funded projects: tree planting @ Mae Shultz park in Camden on Thursday **November 3rd at 3:30pm** (rain date November 14th)