

Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Delaware River Location Monthly Workgroup Call
Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 from 1:00-2:00pm on Zoom

1. Introductions (1:00-1:10) – Erica Rossetti (PDE), Flavia Rutkosky (USFWS), Sarah Beganskas (DRBC), Frank McLaughlin (NJDEP), Haley Burns (PDE), Kelly Knutson (CDRW), Armando Alfonso (NJDEP), Simeon Hahn (NOAA), Zach Nemec (PA Sea Grant)
2. Ambassador Update – PDE has hired a Schuylkill Action Network Manager (Meghan Rogalus, mrogalus@delawareestuary.org) and an Engagement Specialist (Kaitie Evers, kevers@delawareestuary.org), so Erica will be the full-time ambassador doing this work moving forward (ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org).
3. Housing Webinar Update
 - Save the dates! January 11, 18, and 25, all Tuesdays from 12-1pm.
 - Erica noted that PDE has done two webinars for Urban Waters in the past, and this is a continuation of that. Working with HUD to get speakers, and will ask partners to share with their communities. A goal is to reach all four cities.
 - Frank noted that a goal of this workgroup is to focus on environmental justice and sharing success stories. Armando and Frank added that there are housing projects in the Cramer Hill area led by HUD happening in Camden combining green and grey infrastructure improvements, transportation and walking access improvements, green energy, community gardening, etc. so that urban communities can have the same amenities and connections to nature that suburban areas have. Logistically complicated with a long multi-year timeline.
 - Armando shared an article discussing the Cramer Hill Park project giving access to the waterfront: <https://www.inquirer.com/science/camden-cramer-hill-landfill-park-new-jersey-dep-20211105.html>
 - Frank described that the Cramer Hill Park project was made possible because of an endangered mussel species discovered by PDE and funding from the EPA.
4. Workplan Recap
 - 2022 goals that were identified at our last meeting: mini-grant program, event participation/education (e.g. River Fest, Shad Fest), extension of the pollinator project?, sharing stories, improving waterfront access and education to reconnect people to the waterfront, writing letters of support.
 - Erica to share draft list again for final comments – hoping to reveal workplan at next meeting
5. Other: news, upcoming events, opportunities, stories
 - Erica shared a Camden area hike on Sunday November 14th 12-2:30pm and Saturday November 20th 9-11:30am: Petty's Island tour led by the Center for Aquatic Sciences and the NJ Natural Lands Trust. Pre-register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/196049317787>
 - Erica shared the December 1st 10-2pm Urban Waters workshops on Climate Equity and Youth Engagement & Job Creation: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urban-waters-10-year-anniversary-two-day-event-nov-9-dec-1-2021-tickets-194726842227?keep_tld=1

- Simeon shared an opportunity to comment on direction of potential funding from NOAA and relationship to the UWFP
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/10/29/2021-23590/request-for-information-on-noaa-actions-to-advance-the-goals-and-recommendations-in-the-report-on>
- Simeon shared that there is a plan to create a river front park in Claymont DE. There is a meeting tomorrow, November 11, at 6:30pm at the Claymont Fire House. Erica to share with PDE's staff in Wilmington to alert them of this project.
- EPA just updated their funding – would be useful for Urban Waters ambassador to interact with this funding. EPA Fact Sheet: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/fact-sheet-epa-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal>
 - i. Brownfields 1.5 billion
 - ii. Superfunds 3.5 billion
 - iii. 55 billion for water infrastructure
 - iv. 26 million for the Delaware River Watershed over 5 years
- Irene shared that the NFWF 5-Star and UW RFP 2022 is out! - <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program>

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 8th from 1-2pm on Zoom.