

## UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call MINUTES

Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 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)

- EPA: Megan Mackey (Region 3), Irene Purdy (Region 2)
- HUD: Roberto Frugone
- NJ DEP: Frank McLaughlin
- NOAA: Nicole Bartlett
- PA Sea Grant: Zach Nemec
- PDE: Haley Burns, Erica Rossetti
- US FWS: Flavia Rutkosky

### 2. Review of 2022 Community Fund Projects (11:10-11:20)

- Erica presented [slides](#) showing the distribution of our 2022 mini-grants. We awarded \$12,000 to 8 local non-profit organizations in all 4 Location cities.
- Flavia: FWS is interested in the Urban Waters projects so there might be some money to further support habitat restoration and pollinator projects, particularly smaller projects in Wilmington and Chester. Flavia has about \$4000 worth of native pollinator plants ordered for the spring.
- Frank: suggests planning for a few larger projects since restoration projects can be very expensive
- Both small and large restoration projects valuable for Location

### 3. Urban Waters Cohort & [PDE Summit Update](#) (11:20-11:35)

- January 30-February 1 at Harrah's in Atlantic City NJ
- On **Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>** of the Summit we will have the cohort session AS WELL AS a 1 hour Urban Waters partners session in the afternoon. There are still 2-3 slots for 15 minute presentations regarding Urban Waters related project presentations. This is a way for you to attend the summit and meet the cohort if you are unable to register otherwise.
- Themes: lack of health and safety and quality of life in overburdened communities through Urban Waters. The value of revitalizing urban land in carbon sequestration, stormwater management, etc. Broadening our definitions of environmental justice. The importance of community planning.
- Erica to type up a description of the session and send to Roberto and Frank – if any others are interested in presenting please reach out ASAP [ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org)

### 4. Defining and Mapping Disadvantaged Communities (11:35-11:50)

- Recap from last month: Because of BIL funding adhering to Justice40, we must use some screening tools to determine the percentage of our funding that is going to

“disadvantaged communities,” aiming for a 40% target amongst all NEPs, potentially more in DELEP because we have many disadvantaged communities.

- Erica to share summary of definitions in the region and show EJSCREEN.
- Discussion: As a Delaware River Location, how do we want to define disadvantaged communities? Are there additional factors outside of the EPA’s definition (indicators: low income, less than high school education, limited English speaking, low life expectancy, and that we want to focus on?)
  - Poverty and health stick out the most as indicators determining quality of life
  - Climate vulnerability and flooding indicators could also be used as a way to prioritize projects especially as they relate to Urban Waters

## 5. Annual Location Workplan Review (11:50-11:55)

- Erica introduced first draft of 2023 Delaware River Location Work Plan. Note: this is based off the EPA template for UWFP Location work plans and inserted our previous goals, objectives, and initiatives into the template with a few additions.
- Please review prior to December meeting where we will discuss and approve.
  - i. Make sure you are represented on partner list
  - ii. Read through background for accuracy
  - iii. Read through initiatives and expected outcomes
- Any comments, edits, questions, concerns can go to [ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org)

## 6. Other/Resource Sharing (11:55-12:00)

- Flavia gave shoutout to PDE. FWS has a book club with discussions. One topic that came up recently was freshwater mussels and PDE came up, and there was interest in mussels and UWFP. PDE newsletter will be sent out nationally to the book club. Flavia will share link. <https://www.fws.gov/education-programs/americas-wild-read>

## Action Items

Email [ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org) with comments on:

- *Additional project ideas for the Community Fund*
- *Interest in participating in the Urban Waters session at the PDE Science & Environmental Summit with a 15 minute presentation (Monday, January 30)*
- *Ideas of indicators that we as a Location should use to map disadvantaged communities for project prioritization (Local Definitions Guide Attached)*
- *2023 Work Plan Draft! (Attached)*
- *If interested, join the US FWS Book Club*

Next Meeting: December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 11-12ET on Zoom.