

Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Erica Rossetti (PDE), Kathy Klein (PDE), Haley Burns (PDE), Irene Purdy (EPA2), Megan Mackey (EPA3), Catherine Magliocchetti (EPA3), Krista Heinlen (USFS), Frank McLaughlin (NJDEP), Flavia Rutkosky (USFWS), Joe Duris (USGS)

Welcome and Introductions

- Erica Rossetti opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and sharing that she is now serving as the ambassador for the Delaware River location of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP).
- Everyone on the call gave a brief introduction of themselves and their involvement with UWFP.

CDRW Panel

- Erica shared with the group that we have a session at the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) Forum on September 30th, from 10-11:30am.
 - Presenters must attend a briefing meeting either September 9th or 14th.
 - We need to let CDRW know about any poll questions or breakout rooms by September 17th, if we wish to utilize those.
- In order to have everything ready on time, Erica said she wanted to be sure the group is set with our speakers.
 - We have reached out to Chris Orvin from EPA Headquarters, asking him to speak on the national perspective, and are waiting to hear back.
 - To cover the local perspective, Erica said the plan is for Simeon Hahn to introduce Bobbi Britton, who is with Collaborate Northeast and based out of Wilmington.
 - We would also like to have someone from Camden to speak from the local level. Since Frank McLaughlin would introduce them, Erica asked if he had a specific speaker in mind.
 - Frank said that they have a lot of partners and mentioned a few groups and individuals that he thought could work, but said that the group they work most closely with is Camden Community Partnership, and that they speak well about environmental justice and social implications.
- Kathy Klein said that one of the reasons we wanted to do this forum session is because a lot of people don't know that the Delaware River is part of the UWFP.
 - She said that she would be happy to introduce Chris, and suggested that we spend some time talking about what it is we want to accomplish for this location.
 - Kathy mentioned that Bobbi Britton has been involved for a long time in work under the UWFP umbrella and questioned whether the suggested Camden folks have that background.
 - Kathy suggested that Frank be the person to give the overview for our location and where we want to take it in the future, rather than bring in someone that may be doing great work but hasn't been involved in the program.
- Frank said he is happy to help out however the group would like – he is here to support the partnership and the work we are doing.

- Kathy suggested we have another planning meeting to further discuss the forum, determine exact roles, and develop the presentation. She also said she would find and forward to Frank the email about the briefing meetings for speakers.
- Krista Heinlen said that she would love to introduce Frank, that having the NJDEP there is not small in its relevance, and that she believes Frank comes to the table with a lot of collaborators to talk about.
 - Krista also said that a lot of people within this Coalition understand that we don't bring money to the table, but have valuable stories to tell about collaboration and how we can help people navigate the partnership.
 - We will invite Krista to the next planning meeting as well.
- Kathy pointed out that while one of the things Krista mentioned is that we haven't had money, our goal is to find money to be able to do more. She shared in the chat information about the bill introduced to support UWFP and said that she has reached out to Sandra Meola(CDRW) about ways to build support for that legislation.

Housing Webinar

- Erica said that the group wanted to do another webinar series in 2021, and through discussion with Kathy, Frank, and Simeon, concluded that we would like to highlight retrofitting housing projects that focus on flooding, resilience, adaptation, community revitalization, etc. These matters all fall under the umbrella of Urban Waters, and the Department of Housing is an Urban Waters Partner.
- It looks like this will be able to move forward in November or December.
- Erica asked whether this should be another three part series, or just a one-shot webinar?
 - Frank said that it depends on how much we want to do and cover.
 - Irene Purdy agreed that it depends how much we want to look at, how long we want the sessions to be, and suggested defining who and what we want included before deciding whether it fits in two or three sessions.
 - Irene also asked if we are looking at gentrification for this project?
 - Erica thinks we could look at this, as we are still in the planning stage, and that there is a huge social and environmental justice aspect to housing.
- Kathy asked if we need to form a subcommittee to plan this, since we only meet for one hour a month and it is difficult to get a lot accomplished in that time. Erica asked who would be interested in being a part of this?
 - Kathy and Frank said that they would be happy to help but do not have contacts or expertise in the housing sphere.
 - Flavia volunteered via the chat box.
 - Erica will reach out to Haley and Flavia sometime after this meeting to move forward.

UWFP Monthly Updates

- Erica said that UWFP asks ambassadors to provide monthly updates for each location, which are sent out via e-newsletter.
- There was a blurb for the Delaware River Location in the latest newsletter and we are not sure where it came from since PDE did not submit it.
- Erica asked that if there is anything folks want to highlight for that to please let her know.
 - Kathy added that we are trying to coordinate what is being submitted to keep track of everything and so we can include it on the Urban Waters page on our website.
 - Irene said that for Region 2 they just send suggestions to their ambassador and she decides what to forward on to Headquarters.

- Krista told Erica to not be afraid to try to reign in control and ask that those updates go through her as the ambassador. She said she will pass along to Erica anything that comes across her email that seems to make sense to share.
 - Megan Mackey agreed that this a good approach for us to funnel suggestions through Erica.
- Erica said that for this month's update we can highlight that our location has a new ambassador and promote our session at the CDRW Forum.

Chester River Fest Event Update

- Chester will be doing an event on October 2nd as part of River Fest.
- Erica said that we want to solicit ideas for anything we want to share there as the Urban Waters Location, or any particular messaging to include.
- For background, Kathy reminded everyone that we had realized early that Chester was not engaged with the partnership so made some contacts and asked what their goal was, and they said they wanted to get people to the river. We suggested bringing them in to the Delaware River Festival.
 - PDE is also giving them \$300 to help pay for some supplies
 - We are looking into getting a tablecloth that would have our UWFP location on it.
 - We have a freshwater mussel costume and a freshwater shad sculpture that we may be able to bring to the event.
 - Kathy said we would love to have any and all of this group come to the event, and if you want your agency represented that would likely be welcomed.
- Joe Duris said that USGS has two stream gauges, one on Chester Creek and another on the Delaware at Chester, and they often do things like gauge walk-throughs with school groups.
 - They have also done samples of macroinvertebrates to show people what lives in the streams.
 - Joe said he can't commit to anything yet until he talks to others in the office, but said this is something that fits within their outreach mission.
- Kathy said she remembers Krista doing a great interactive activity at a previous River Fest event and asked if she would be interested in coming out to this event in Chester.
 - Krista said to keep her posted. She said they have frequently done this as the Forest Service, and she has no issue going forward with these agencies representing the Partnership.
 - Kathy added that she thinks it would be fine for Krista to be there as USFS or Joe as USGS, and to just be in the same area and talk about the UWFP and how we all work together.

The meeting concluded at 2pm.

Links provided in chat:

From Joe Duris USGS PAWSC: Here is our public facing page on our UWFP CMF work:

https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/urban-waters-federal-partnership-cooperative-matching-funds?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

From Kathy Klein: Link to register for CDRW:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/f5189e57-7279-4d1f-ae02-4e446540fa01/summary>