

## UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call Minutes

Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2022, 11am-12pm ET

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 881 7780 9370

Passcode: 066218

### 1. Introductions and Icebreakers (11-11:10)

- Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition: Jeffrey Richardson
- DRBC: Beth Brown
- EPA: Irene Purdy, Region 2
- HUD: Roberto Frugone
- [OLIN](#) (Landscape Architecture and Urban Design doing a lot of Urban Waters adjacent work and pro bono work in Philadelphia around the lower Schuylkill): Andrew Dobshinsky, Michael Miller
- PA Sea Grant: Zach Nemec
- PDE: Kathy Klein, Haley Burns, Kate Hutelmyer, Erica Rossetti
- US FWS: Flavia Rutkosky

### 2. Project Updates (11:10-11:40)

- Community Funds (11:10-11:15)
  - i. All 8 \$1500 mini-grants have been (or are in the works of being) awarded. Potential for more depending on increased funding. Organizations include Epseranza and Riverfront North in Philadelphia; 9<sup>th</sup> Street Youth Center and Making A Change Group in Chester; Delaware River Keeper, Camden Community Partnership artist collective, and potentially Center for Aquatic Sciences in Camden; and Brandywine Shad in Wilmington.
- Chester River Festival (<https://www.delawareriverfest.org/chester>) (11:15-11:20)
  - i. Save the Date – Sat. October 1<sup>st</sup>, 11-2, Subaru Park in Chester PA
  - ii. Urban Waters Exhibitors? - DRBC may be interested – Erica to follow up
- Expanding River Fest to Wilmington (11:30-11:40)
  - i. Kathy: Due to budget constraints the City of Wilmington is no longer funding the Earth Day celebration that PDE helps organize. PDE interested in expanding River Fest to Wilmington instead of doing Earth Day to include all 4 of the Urban Waters Delaware River Location cities as a synergetic series of events during National Estuaries month (September)
  - ii. Jeffrey: Interest in expanding the event to include other topics including pollution, community, environmental justice
  - iii. Flavia: There is a Delaware River Watershed Conservation Fund pollinator-focused project in Wilmington that would be a good tie-in.

[Sacred Grounds](#) Program at 20 sites in Wilmington. 10 are already identified and 10 more will be identified in 2023.

- iv. Flavia: Also would like to incorporate the ways that the Delaware River was used as part of the Underground Railroad, and include the Mitchell Center
- Science & Environmental Summit (<https://delawareestuary.org/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>) (11:20-11:30)
  - i. Save the Date – January 30-February 1 at Harrah’s in Atlantic City NJ
  - ii. Urban Waters Cohort – Erica is in process of doing interviews with community leaders and determining what sessions and types of resources would be valuable to them to attend the Summit, meet other urban leaders, and connect with relevant partners and technical assistance.
  - iii. PDE is in process of getting funding to sponsor community members to attend (registration, travel, lodging, etc.)
  - iv. Kathy also proposed having a mentor system. Consensus that that would be beneficial for all parties.

### 3. **BIL Guidance and Equity Strategy** (11:40-11:50)

- As part of BIL and Justice 40, 40% of funding must be used in disadvantaged communities and we need to have an equity plan. Government is in process of better identifying what is meant by “disadvantaged communities” and updating EJSCREEN. Currently the 5 criteria are: unemployment, income, high school education, infant mortality, language. Where are these communities in this estuary? In our four cities but in other areas as well.
- According to an EPA analysis, the Delaware River Location is #1 of all the UWFP locations for having disadvantaged communities, despite our small area.
- \$50,000 currently earmarked for Urban Waters
- We will probably start working on an equity strategy in December/January, can align it with our yearly workplan for our Urban Waters location

### 4. **Other/Resource Sharing** (11:50-12:00)

- Art/Education and Environmental Justice
  - i. Symposium: <https://www.muralarts.org/art-environmental-justice-symposium-2022/>
  - ii. Forest Service artist cohort: <https://ufsarts.com/artists/>
  - iii. Justice Outside group: <https://justiceoutside.org/about/>
- Job Opportunities
  - i. PDE: Delaware Community Project Coordinator & Schuylkill Action Network Intern <https://delawareestuary.org/home/careers-2/>
  - ii. DE Sea Grant: Urban Watershed Restoration Specialist <https://careers.udel.edu/cw/en-us/job/499112/urban-watershed-restoration-specialist-college-of-earth-ocean-environment>
- News
  - i. Spring Garden Connector Project in Philadelphia <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=56102&SubjectID=>

- Funding
  - i. Irene shared the EJ TCTAC opportunity: the EPA funding for establishment of EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC) listed below has been increased to \$50 Million. Applicants are invited to participate in webinars with EPA and DOE to address questions about the EJ TCTAC Program. A recording of each webinar will be posted for those who cannot attend the live webinars and for reference purposes when preparing applications. The webinar dates and times are as follows: August 25 @ 2-3:30pm. Links to access the Pre-application Assistance Webinars and a Frequently Asked Questions document can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers>
  - ii. Roberto shared that if we can be specific about what the needs are for funding it will be helpful for other locations and federal agencies

*Next meeting: Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 11-12 ET on Zoom.*