

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call Minutes

Tuesday, April 18th, 2023

11am-12pm ET

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83425487982> Meeting ID: 834 2548 7982

1. Introductions (11-11:10am)

- CDRW: Kelly Knutson
- DCBAC: Simeon Hahn
- DRBC: Sarah Beganskas
- EPA Region 2: Irene Purdy
- HUD: Roberto Frugone
- Sea Grant DE: Emily Maung Douglas and Emily Rodden
- Sea Grant PA: Zach Nemec
- PDE: John Harrod, Kathy Klein, Erica Rossetti
- US FWS: Flavia Rutkosky

2. Partner Updates (11:10-11:20)

- EPA Region 2: Last year there was an EJ boat tour in the Harlem River. UWFP location participated in the planning process. Another one is coming up on June 9th.
- DCBAC: On April 17th the Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition hosted EPA Region 3 for a site tour of the Port of Wilmington and port expansion area. Mentioned UWFP and the need to coordinate with federal and state agencies related to environmental justice. Also, 6 million tires were dumped at the port expansion site; supposed to be cleanup up but this is visible proof that many entities still treat the urban waterfront as a dumping ground.
- <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-notices/amended-restoration-plan-released-for-army-creek-habitat-project/>
- CDRW accepting presentation proposal for upcoming conference in Wilmington, DE this September. The deadline to submit is May 5th and they welcome session ideas from UWFP partners: <https://www.delriverwatershed.org/2023-forum>
- PDE met with Delaware Estuary committee last week to go over the BIL Funding for year 3 FY 2024. There were several things for Urban Waters. \$60,000 for UWFP projects. \$40,000 to help build capacity in underserved communities by looking applying for funding for community projects. There is also additional money for specific projects in Wilmington, Chester, and working with the Delaware Lenape.

3. **Show & Tell: Chester Potential Project Site Tour (11:20-11:30)**

- Slides can be viewed here:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FwAU8KWG5yOdL8VwAj1mDP90r_McEEn43pOOyqO6I_4/edit?usp=sharing
- Please let Erica and Flavia know if you have questions or are interested in funding/participating in these sites as pollinator garden projects as part of the larger urban pollinator corridor.

4. **Urban Waters Cohort Update (11:30-11:40)**

- PDE in process of setting up an Urban Waters list-serv and setting up a field trip for the Cohort Members after receiving feedback last month
- RFP guidelines that we approved last meeting are sent out to cohort members for the opportunity to apply for up to \$10,000
- Feedback from cohort:
 - i. Want to get information on grants and projects that are going on in communities that could impact these communities e.g. state public notices, events
 - ii. Would like to meet periodically, at conferences or site visits
 - iii. Storytelling and sharing lessons learned
 - iv. Helping communities get bigger representation and voices heard
 - v. Cross meetings between cohort and the federal agencies

5. **Discussion: need for a meeting or conference to discuss EJ efforts (11:40-11:50)**

- Context: there are a lot of EJ efforts happening in the Delaware Estuary and a lot of new money sources and initiatives. Therefore there is a need to connect for this work to be more cohesive. As almost all of these efforts are occurring in disadvantaged communities under the Urban Waters mission's umbrella, is there any interest in this group planning a regional event and facilitating these discussions?
- Thumbs up from the group, interested in further developing the idea
- Could do a webinar with breakout rooms first to tee up an in person event to know what to discuss at a great in person meeting.
- Could do a conference-like meeting in the winter and include everyone in the cohort and all of the partners. Need to form a planning committee to make this event happen.

6. **Resource Sharing / Other**

- April 19th Camden Environmental Summit (UWFP is sponsoring):
<http://www.camdencollaborative.com/environmental-summit.html>
- May 6th Chester River Fest (UWFP is running, **please let Erica know if you would like a table asap** <https://www.delawareriverfest.org/chester>)
- May 20th Brandywine Shad Fest

- DNREC appointed new environmental justice coordinator:
<https://news.delaware.gov/2023/02/01/dnrec-appoints-dr-katera-moore-as-states-first-environmental-justice-coordinator/>