

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call MINUTES

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

11am-12pm ET

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

1. Introductions (11:00-11:10)

Erica Rossetti (PDE), Haley Burns (PDE), Zach Nemec (PA Sea Grant), Emily Maung-Douglass (DE Sea Grant), Avery Lentini (DRBC), Kathy Klein (PDE), Flavia Rutkosky (US FWS), Megan Mackey (EPA Region 3), Roberto Frugone (HUD), Jeffrey Richardson (DCBAC)

2. Delaware River Location Letters of Support Update (11:10-11:15)

- Erica reminded the group that the Delaware River Location can write letters of support to support community partner proposals in getting funding. (Info on our web page www.DelawareEstuary.org/save-the-estuary/urban-waters/.) 3 were written in the last month:
 - i. Riverfront North: \$5 million dollar proposal to NFWF's America the Beautiful program to restore habitat and access at Tacony Park and Pier 70 South in Philadelphia
 - ii. An associated project by NJDEP and other partners to NFWF's America the Beautiful program for planning and designing public access, habitat, and shoreline enhancements in Camden
 - iii. LandHealth Institute and Anthropocene Alliance: Proposal to NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund to identify nature-based resilience strategies in flood-prone disadvantaged communities in Camden and Philadelphia

3. Partner Updates (11:15-11:45)

- Kathy: Draft Legislation S702
 - i. A new proposed piece of legislation to authorize \$10 million for Urban Waters in 2024-2028, which has never been authorized before. Not sure as of now where the \$10 million would be housed or distributed.
 - ii. Department of Interior has set up 2 meetings to gain support for getting the bill passed.
 - iii. There is an event being planned on the Hill on September 11th (TBD) to promote the bill. There hasn't been a sign on letter yet but we will share if one arises (TBD). Also, many folks from Arizona alongside Senator Kelly are working on putting together information and a one-pager to share.

- iv. Great opportunity to share with partners, contacts, etc. especially those that work with Senators to support Urban Waters more permanently.
- Funding opportunities from NOAA and other federal agencies:
 - i. NOAA's Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal and Great Lakes States, Tribes, and Territories Initiative due November 30:
<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/crw>
 - ii. NOAA Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerators:
<https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/governance-and-management/inflation-reduction-act/accelerators/>
 - iii. NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge:
<https://coast.noaa.gov/funding/ira/resilience-challenge/>
 - iv. US ACE Water Resources Act Pilot Program for Small & Disadvantaged Communities due August 21:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/06/21/2023-13144/request-for-project-proposals-pursuant-to-section-165-of-the-water-resources-development-act-of-2020>
- Jeffrey: Wilmington Port Expansion Update
 - i. Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition has a case with the Superior Court of Delaware that should be arriving at a decision today, and they will have 10 days to respond.
 - ii. Facing a lot of resistance from the state despite the negative effects the community will face as a result of the emissions and air quality, dredging and water quality, and even displacement from development.
 - iii. Still doing outreach to communities. Seeking a drone to take video footage of the area and the dumped tires. Sources mentioned include LightHawk (aerial plane footage) or Temple University.
- PDE is in conversation with the William Penn Foundation as a result of the Summit presentations about Urban Waters Delaware River Location. Although their strategic plan is on hold, they can still fund "small" \$100k investments for the time being and they seem interested in priorities that align strongly with UWFP work including EJ and bottom-up community approaches in disadvantaged areas. Flavia expressed interest in being involved.
- PLEASE SHARE: Urban Waters Delaware River Location Webinar July 25 from 3-4pm, hosted by CDRW:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSded2wg6tzH1MZGeeAGFqaR8RfdyeihZe-puq8RH8NNWE6OEq/viewform>

4. Mini-grant program update (11:45-12:00)

- Erica to share map of project proposals PDE received and give overview. Of 47 total proposals, 5 were ineligible, 5 are eligible based on certain conditions, and 37 are eligible for review.

- Several partners offered the ability to provide technical assistance to chosen groups if needed. Important that this is available to ease the burden of federal funding on small community groups.
- Erica thanked those that volunteered to be on the review sub-committee and will follow up with those details either today or tomorrow.

Next meetings: **Tuesday August 15, 2023 on Zoom**
Tuesday, October 17, 2023 hoping to be in-person