

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call MINUTES

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

11am-12pm ET

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

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

1. Zach Nemec (PA Sea Grant),
2. Erica Rossetti, Haley Burns, John Harrod, Haley Burns, and Kathy Klein (PDE),
3. Avery Lentini (DRBC),
4. Jeffrey Richardson (DCBAC),
5. Nicole Lick (EPA Region 3),
6. Emily Maung-Douglass (DE Sea Grant),
7. Karen Igou (Green Building United/Northeast Rising), Marissa Rossi (USGS),
8. Tomas Deza (NPS RTCA),
9. Flavia Rutkosky (US FWS),
10. Susan Parry (USDA – NRCS),
11. Roberto Frugone (HUD)

II. Partner Updates & Resource Sharing (11:10-11:25)

1. DE Sea Grant is hosting a Community Resource Fair on December 9 in Claymont, reach out to Emily if interested
2. EPA and DRBC are working on putting together a Delaware River Basin Climate Conversation in late spring of 2024. Don't have a date or location yet but will be using NOAA's 5 steps practitioners guide. Goal is to get people across the watershed to think about climate change and discuss adaptation and mitigation. Hoping to pair everything with a practical application in addition to just sharing tools. EPA's "Engagement Communities" include 5 neighborhoods in Philadelphia.
3. DCBAC is having a meeting this month to discuss the future of the Port of Wilmington project. Currently has a case before the State of DE challenging some of the permits that were approved by DNREC. This project is a national case study and has a lot of community engagement momentum. Recently formed a partnership with Friends of the Earth.
4. USDA NRCS works with a lot of partners throughout PA. Most recently in the last year have worked with the Farm Service Agency on conservation. Opened an urban service center in Philadelphia in October. There are 7 active projects through EQIP and other NRCS programs that have recently opened up to urban settings. People's Garden funding also opened up money for urban farms and gardens. Xerxes Society is an active partner in NJ and PA to do work with pollinators.
5. TCTACs – Region 2 (WEACT – NJ <https://www.weact.org/tctac/>) and Region 3 (NFWF/UMD EFC – DE/PA <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Environmental-Justice/Region-3-TCTAC>) are forming and will be organizing technical assistance opportunities for community groups

III. 2024 Workplan Review (11:25-11:40)

1. Accepting comments through December 15th, 2023
<https://delawareestuary.s3.amazonaws.com/UWFP+Delaware+River+Location+2024+Workplan+DRAFT.pdf>
2. Please email Erica at ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org if you have a specific partner, goal, activity, or project you would like added to the workplan.
3. Ideas to be incorporated
 - i. Add Green building united / Northeast Rising as community partners
 - ii. Add City governments as proposed workgroup partners for each city
 - iii. Add an activity about an end of year “report” to capture all of the work that workgroup partners have done collectively under the Urban Waters mission

IV. EJ Forum Ideas (11:45-12:00)

1. **Form subcommittee to discuss further:** Erica, Nicole, Kathy, Flavia, Tomas, Roberto, Haley, Karen
2. **Ideas**
 - i. **Fill out Jam Board with any ideas (goals, dos, and don’ts):**
https://jamboard.google.com/d/1DBFOp8VsrSCLzzbyuC78MQV2c44Dmpj7PeosIX_AnUQ/edit?usp=sharing
 - ii. 2024 is an election year. Would be useful to have someone make connections to politics, race, and environmental justice. How to be an activist when raising your voice puts you at risk of being silenced? How to raise community issues to a higher level? Need to engage communities – perhaps a speaker on environmental justice, and also a listening session for community members to have a voice.
 - iii. Would like it to be recorded and to invite elected officials to listen to the community as well.

V. In-person December meeting

1. December 19th in PDE’s Conference Room: 110 S. Poplar St. Suite 202, Wilmington DE 19801. We are located inside the EDIS Building next to the bus station, train station, and also have a free parking lot. Erica will send out more information and RSVP.
2. Proposed agenda:
 - i. 10:30-10:45am Arrival & Introductions
 - ii. 10:45-11:15am Brief Meeting to share partner updates, resource sharing, and final workplan approval
 - iii. 11:15-11:45am EJ Forum and Community Cohort Brainstorming
 - iv. 11:45am-12:30pm Lunch
 - v. Optional walk along the riverfront afterwards