

**UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

**11am-12pm ET**

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

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

- Erica Rossetti, Haley Burns, and Kathy Klein (PDE), Flavia Rutkosky (FWS), Roberto Frugone (HUD), Frank McLaughlin (NJ DEP), Irene Purdy (EPA Region 3), Kim Hachadoorian (DE/PA Nature Conservancy), Avery Lentini (DRBC), Drew Reif (USGS), Emily Maung-Douglass (DE Sea Grant), Julie Bell (NPS), Mari Radford (FEMA Region 3)

**II. Partner Updates (11:10-11:30)**

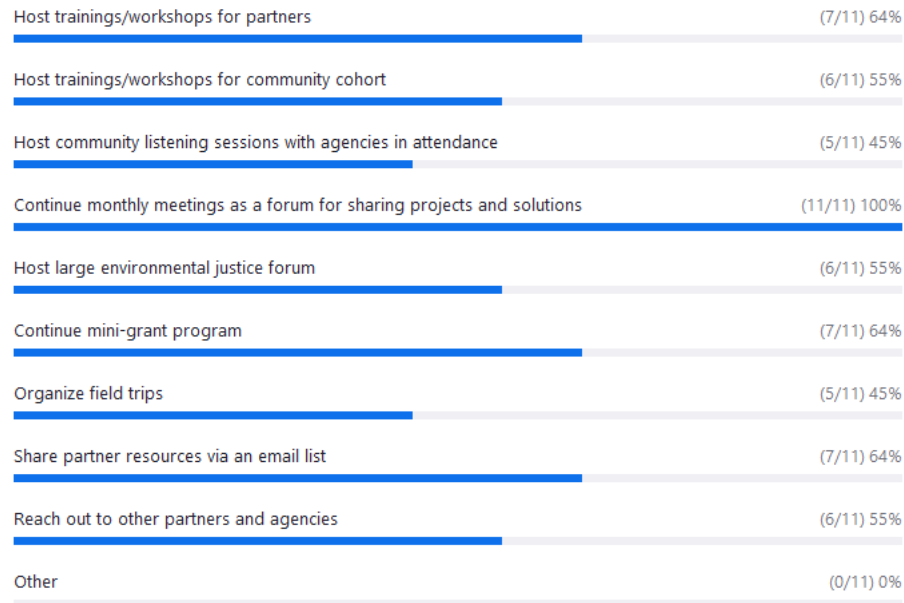
1. PDE: Received \$5,000 PSEG grant for Urban Waters environmental justice forum which will take place in Camden next year, more details to come.
2. FEMA R3: Pre-disaster grants just dropped: BRIC and FMA will have a slightly extended window through February.
3. NJ DEP: About to announce the reopening of the Brownfield Development Area Program, unique in the nation where NJ designates areas of Brownfields for focus redevelopment efforts. There is a lot of waterfront open space creation through this program. Commissioner LaTourette will announce this soon. There was also another 7.5 acre waterfront open space acquisition in North Camden by the County. Waiting on a \$1.5 million planning grant from NFWF. Also doing interesting carbon sequestration work in urban communities.
4. DRBC: Public Hearing coming up on November 8<sup>th</sup> followed by a formal business meeting and public comment session on December 6<sup>th</sup>. They will be posting dockets soon. All info can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/>.
5. DE Sea Grant: hosting community resource fairs in Wilmington DE to help community members learn about home/community resilience resources. If interested in tabling please reach out to Emily Rodden [erodden@udel.edu](mailto:erodden@udel.edu). Delaware Sea Grant also had a workshop in Southbridge Wilmington focusing on the wetlands park to provide information to the community on the history and function of the site and wetlands in general. There will be another workshop on November 4.
6. Frank mentioned that New Jersey is recently the first state to require climate education in its public schools. PDE just developed three freshwater mussel education plans that will be posted publically at the end of the year and can be used as part of this for anyone that is working with students. They are activity-based and material kits are available for teachers to borrow.

**III. Workplan Formation Feedback (11:30-11:50) – Please email Erica at [ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org) if you have a specific project you would like added to the workplan.**

1. Erica to present synthesized feedback and word cloud visuals from partners throughout the year
2. Discussed other partners we would like to bring into the location: ACE, USFS, Delaware State Forest Service, Cities (Camden, PWD, Chester, Wilmington)
3. Next steps: PDE will draft workplan for review in November and final approval in December
4. Polled partners on their interest in the suggested workplan activities:

1. Which of the following activities are you interested in for the Urban Waters Delaware River Location to do moving forward? Please select all that apply! (Multiple Choice) \*

11/11 (100%) answered



#### IV. Mini-Grant Program Awardees (11:50-12:00)

1. Erica to present on the 8 awardees. PDE will send out a press release in the coming weeks once contracts are in place.
2. Seeking resources on selecting native plants or reduced rate native plants as technical assistance for the grantees. Flavia mentioned Fairmount Park Conservancy as a resource for projects in Philadelphia.
3. PDE also identified 10 additional “runner up” projects selected from the 47 applicants that we would like to implement but need funding. Erica will send out the project list. If you have discretionary funding or would like to help fund any of these projects, please let Erica or Kathy know!

#### V. Other Resource Sharing

1. Funding:
  - 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. Urban and Community Forestry Grants: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding>
- 2. Webinars:
  - i. Urban Waters Learning Series through January '24: Building Water Equity and Climate Resilient Communities for ALL  
<https://urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org/learning-series-building-water-equity-and-climate-resilient-communities-for-all/>
  - ii. The American Climate Corps by "Living on Earth" podcast:  
<https://www.loe.org/shows/segments.html?programID=23-P13-00039&segmentID=1>

Next meeting: Nov. 21, 2023, 11-12

Interest in an in-person meeting in December, TBA