

**UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Call MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 19, 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. Erica Rossetti
2. and Haley Burns (PDE)
3. Karen Igou (Green Building United)
4. Drew Reif (USGS)
5. Sarah Beganskas
6. and Avery Lentini (DRBC)
7. Kim Hachadoorian (TNC)
8. Irene Purdy (EPA Region 2)
9. Tomas Deza (NPS-RTCA)
10. Zach Nemec (PA Sea Grant)
11. Kefeni Kejela (USDA-NRCS)

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

1. PDE and NPS have secured a complementary joint table for Urban Waters partners at the CDRW Forum next week. Please let Erica know ASAP if you have any resources you would like to share at this watershed-wide conference! She can schedule a time to pick things up. [ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org)
2. The National Sea Grant Office has another round of marine debris funding
  - i. <https://seagrants.noaa.gov/funding/>
3. EPA Environmental Education Grants (\$50k or \$100k) are now open through November 8
4. Green Building United: Received some NFWF funding to do community engagement around flooding in NE Wilmington and Brownfields remediation. Karen shared her email if you want to reach out: [KIgou@GreenBuildingUnited.org](mailto:KIgou@GreenBuildingUnited.org)
5. USGS: Partnering with PWD, DRBC, DEP, Chester County, and more to collect long term data through stream gauges and water quality networks. There is also an Urban Waters USGS grant. Goal is to bring scientific technical experts in to communities to solve problems that they identify.
6. DRBC just wrapped up their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter business meeting. Later in the year they will have a public meeting to review application dockets. Looking to expand public input. Avery will share the date or you can sign up for their list-serv.
7. NPS: Tomas is working on the RTCA (a technical assistance program) in Philadelphia to provide services to community members such as landscape designs. Right now working on a vacant lot in Mt. Airy to convert it into public space alongside the West Mt. Airy Neighbors (WMAN). NPS is coming up with a concept plan for the pocket park, which, if successful, could be replicated. Vacant lot is owned by SEPTA next to Carpenter

Station. Would be interested in other vacant lots, as long as the lots would be publically accessible.

8. USDA NRCS is working with urban farmers in PA and usually comes across soil levels with very high lead contents higher than the EPA levels. Seeking grant or technical assistance opportunities that would help clean up contaminated soil.
9. Erica asked about how federal agencies can work on vacant lots if they do not own the land – some sort of formal agreement should be created
10. The Nature Conservancy is working with agency partners to hold technical assistance workshops – Kim will share the dates
  - i. Dam Removal Partnership Fish Passage Training on Tuesday October 17 from 8:30am-5pm in Easton, PA. [Please take this survey to apply for this training opportunity.](#)
  - ii. More coming in March 2024, email [Christine.Arnott@TNC.org](mailto:Christine.Arnott@TNC.org) to be added to the list for more information

### III. Workplan Formation Discussion Questions (11:30-12:00)

1. What environmental justice programs and/or projects does your organization have right now that align with Urban Waters?
  - i. Region 2 EPA has a community engagement team that works on the Camden Collaborative Initiative
  - ii. NPS RTCA's project mentioned before: Ecolab at Carpenter Lane Station
  - iii. USGS: Investigating increasing chlorides and sulfates in water quality in urban areas.
  - iv. Sea Grant: <https://pacrane.org/>
  - v. Green Building United: Community engagement around flooding and climate resilience
  - vi. TNC: RCSI (Resilient Communities Stormwater Initiative) Already working with churches and Esperanza in Northeast Philly. Want to aggregate small scale projects in a way that has large scale impacts.
2. Is there a specific project type that your organization is interested in? And in what way can your organization be involved?
  - i. EPA: impacts of climate change on communities. Job training and paid internships e.g. climate corps
  - ii. USGS: main focus is water quality. Many projects are not environmental justice projects per se but they do like to look at that when determining projects.
  - iii. NPS: Anything related to outdoor recreation and conservation for the public good
  - iv. Sea Grant: climate resiliency and collaborations
  - v. Green Building United: community engagement, climate/flooding resilience, trying to recruit BIPOC into our engagement and collaboratives
3. Who/what would you like to hear more about at our monthly partner meetings?
  - i. Trainings/workshops such as community engagement with racially diverse communities
  - ii. Forums to share problems and make connections to help solve them
4. What resources does your organization have to offer other partners? Community members?
5. What specific technical expertise can you provide to community groups?

- i. EPA: Urban Waters Learning Network
  - ii. TNC: Dedicated GIS team that can do spatial analysis work for project planning
  - iii. NPS RTCA: Landscape architecture planning, historians
  - iv. DRBC: Can share information and updates from the water quality team and the project planning group that looks at docket applications.
6. What strategies could we use to get your organization more involved in the Location?  
How do you think Urban Waters can help you?
- i. Since this is an interdisciplinary group, having a group-defined agenda and space to share resources and
  - ii. Using this group to solve problems across multiple approaches and disciplines

#### **IV. Other Resource Sharing**

- 1. In the News:
  - i. <https://whyy.org/articles/midtown-monarch-monitors-butterflies-wilmington-delaware/>
  - ii. NFWF's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grantees announced: <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/nfwf-dwcf-20230831-gs.pdf>
- 2. 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>
- 3. 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/>

Next meeting: October 18, 2023, 11-12