

Urban Waters Delaware River Location Workgroup  
February 10, 2021 Call Notes - 1:00 – 2:00pm

**Call Participants:** Frank McLaughlin, NJDEP; Simeon Hahn, NOAA; Chris Anderson, PWD; Irene Purdy, EPAR2; Emily Baumbach, PDE; Kathy Klein, PDE; Krista Heinlen, USDA Forest Service/Davey Institute; Megan Mackey, EPAR3; Catherine Magliochetti, EPAR3

At the beginning of the call, the group discussed looking at holding an in-person meeting somewhere outside sometime in the Spring or early Summer to have some in-person dialogue and get a break from the Zoom meetings. Kathy offered her house in Stockton, NJ as a possible meeting place.

## 1. PDE updates

- Emily Baumbach provided PDE updates:
- Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit
  - Event took place last week on March 1 -3
  - Was a fantastic virtual event and a first for PDE to hold a virtual conference
  - We had more than 400 total attendees total
  - We also had a special session, titled 'Urban Waters: Restoring and Revitalizing our Communities' with speakers presenting on racial equity and environmental justice in stormwater restoration, funding and finance challenges faced by communities for water infrastructure projects, and community planning and collaboration for resiliency projects
  - Speakers for this session included Dean Bradley with FEMA Risk Management, Ellen Kohler with University of Maryland Enviro Finance Center, and Nathan Boone w/ William Penn Foundation
  - We had a little over 90 attendees on that session at the Summit
  - Summit sessions will be posted on PDE's website and on PDE's Youtube channel soon
- Urban Waters Workplan Feedback Form
  - PDE collected feedback on draft Urban Waters workplan during the Summit (online feedback form here: <https://forms.gle/NsrW6WaRaMUjv57R7>)
  - We had an email go out to all Summit registrants about the draft workplan and getting input on that draft document
  - Also shared that feedback form in an email last week with the full UW listerv and the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed will be sharing that form in their next monthly email update as well
  - We can start to review the feedback on the workplan either on the April or May call (set the deadline for feedback on April 9<sup>th</sup> , but might want to extend this a little longer)
  - We will continue to share the online form throughout the upcoming webinar series as well
  - Have 15 responses to the feedback form so far.

## 2. Upcoming Urban Waters Webinars

- Emily Baumbach provided updates on the Upcoming Brownfields & EJ Community of Practice webinar series:

- We have 90% of speakers finalized at this point so in pretty good shape
- Holding practice calls in the coming weeks prior to each webinar
- Have a really great lineup of speakers thanks to Simeon and Frank's outreach
- PDE will be getting out some more email blasts promoting those webinars later this week
- I had attached the draft agenda for the webinars in the email prior to this call
- Registration is live on Zoom and PDE's website
- Kathy Klein: We have a blurb about the webinars in our recent issue of the *Estuary News* newsletter as well
  - Was meeting with Delaware representatives and followed up with Senator Coons office and Lisa Blunt Rochester to share information about this upcoming series
  - Important to let elected officials know what we are doing so that they can maybe help us to find some funding
- Simeon Hahn: Participated in the recent Delaware Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) summit
  - John Kane spoke in a session from Carpers office and addressed questions about EJ
  - I reached out to see if he wanted to speak at all so see if he wanted to participate in this series
  - Agree with inviting political representatives to these types of events
  - Easier to do this probably in DE, but should work on getting delegation in PA and NJ
- K. Klein: I have a list of all the elected officials in the Estuary that I can send out
- Frank McLaughlin: I will follow up with the NJDEP speakers for the webinars
- E. Baumbach: We are also planning to have a fourth webinar following this community of practice series sometime on early May to focus on affordable housing & infrastructure/transportation
  - Simeon pulled some great speakers together, including folks from HUD, City of Wilmington folks to talk about affordable housing, Orlando Tucker and his work in City of Chester with affordable housing, and a few others
- S. Hahn: We had a quick planning call recently, and this is going to be a good addition to the series
  - We also talked about at some point to plan out ideas for some future seminars to have these webinars on a monthly schedule
  - Working to get some more HUD contacts and maybe some DOT folks
  - Daughter Adriana will also be speaking a little bit about communications, including use of YouTube and social media, etc.
  - Might be a good idea to use Facebook Live for these types of events to increase visibility
- E. Baumbach: We can talk to our communications coordinator and look at using Facebook live and other platforms for future webinars and virtual events to increase participation
- E. Baumbach: On a previous planning call, we talked about having at least a monthly type of meeting or webinar on some of the different areas this group is interested in and are covered in our workplan
  - We had the youth and waterways series, we have our Brownfields and EJ webinar series coming up, have this session on affordable housing in May
  - Maybe we could circle back to some of the other previously topics of green infrastructure projects for local community benefits for a session in June since there was interest in a webinar on this topic or revisit the discussions on the Urban Bird Treaty Program

- S. Hahn: Will be great to hear from both Bob Benson and Chris Orvin at EPA HQ with the Urban Waters program to give some remarks at the national level on the webinar

### 3. Feedback on a potential Urban Waters session at Delaware River Watershed Forum

- E. Baumbach: This agenda item came up in response to the Urban Waters Delaware River email blast I sent out last week
  - Grant La Rouche said he is working with Kip LeWarn with the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed to start planning the agenda for the Delaware River Watershed Forum this year that's taking place on October 7 & 8
  - They wanted to know if our Urban Waters wanted to integrate a working session or presentation into the forum
- S. Hahn: I think it's a great idea to have something as part of the forum since they have a very powerful network of partners
  - The more we can do to integrate or partner with them, the better
- K. Klein: PDE's Experience the Estuary Celebration event is on October 7<sup>th</sup>, so should try to participate in something on October 8<sup>th</sup>
- Krista Heinlen: Any opportunity to work with the Coalition is a fantastic idea
- K. Klein: I think we want to talk about having some other representatives from the different Urban Waters cities on these calls
- S. Hahn: Thought this workgroup was more of the federal agencies touching base, but would make sense to have a steering group of other partners working with communities like Marian Young with Brightfield who is interest in getting more involved with Urban Waters
  - Good idea to have people from the cities on a committee
  - We were trying to expand our group for these meetings, so maybe that's on the same call or a different call
- K. Heinlen: The more the merrier for these calls - I agree that we can think about this more to structure it in a way that doesn't need to be rigid (e.g., I remember Andy Kricun was always a kind of unofficial member)
  - Having those kinds of folks in the loop will help building out that "backbone" that Frank mentioned, too, even if they can only check in once per quarter or something.
- S. Hahn: EPA has had a few meetings in the past where ambassadors had the opportunity to attend and mingle together
  - Could think about doing something like this in the future again
- M. Mackey: We promoted the upcoming webinar series to the Urban Waters Learning Network yesterday