

Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) Call Agenda

Monday, June 15th at 11:00 a.m.

1. Welcome

- **Emily Baumbach** thanked everyone for joining another Urban Waters call and looking forward to speaking with everyone again to get more input for this Urban Waters location
- **E. Baumbach:** As a reminder, Catherine King, who is the EPA Region 3 UWFP Program Coordinator, is still out on a detail from April to August
 - We will reach out to Catherine and provide her with updates when she returns
- **E. Baumbach:** Wanted to recognize that an email was sent out by EPA to the UWFP listserv
 - It's clear that the EPA UW Team is promoting and supporting ongoing conversations locally related to diversity and inclusion and working with marginalized communities
 - This was reinforced on the UW monthly Ambassador call that took place last week on Thursday
 - EPA folks facilitating the call provided a few minutes at beginning of call to have some open dialogue for folks to share thoughts, and how EPA can be a resource to the locations when dealing with issues related to race and equity
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice is important to PDE
 - PDE is going to be working with an Environmental Justice contractor for an internal organizational training starting in September
- **Simeon Hahn:** Talked with the NOAA Office of Response and the Office Restoration Director about this work
 - NOAA has lots of updating to do with certain policies
 - The Environmental Justice Damage Assessment Program can use some more work
 - Always trying to bring UW and environmental justice up to management more
 - Since its LGBTQ+ month, NOAA put out some emails and social media posts
 - We can be getting more involved with work in Camden, NJ and Wilmington, DE
 - NOAA signed off on the EPA recommitment to the UW partnership and how to accept new sites in the future
 - NOAA is also putting together a similar commitment for policies related to environmental justice
- **Megan Mackey:** The Urban Waters Futures recommitment is still in draft and has been worked on over the past year
 - There's been a change in realignment at EPA and current agency contacts
- **S. Hahn:** It would be great if we could get a workgroup going for the whole location to have a type of mini recommitment with as many of the federal partners and other partners involved as we can
 - Might be an opportunity for a future meeting to have some type of recommitment like this
- **K. Klein:** Now might be a good opportunity to have something like this

2. Projects Discussed on 5/6 UWFP Call:

- a) Outreach and education on brownfields community of practice work
 - Convening another brownfields community of practice event

- Creating outreach materials/content
- **S. Hahn:** We could work on some outreach before the next brownfields meeting
 - It would be great if PDE could put out something in the Estuary News newsletter
- **S. Hahn:** There is a NOAA blog that goes out periodically with the NOAA Office of Education
 - One project included coming to South Wilmington Wetlands Park and held a training for teachers at Stroud Water Research Center
 - Wanted to focus on environmental justice in particular for this project as well as resilience and habitat restoration
 - We have a blog in the works on this project and it would be nice to tie that back to UWFP
 - There lots of catching up to do on the outreach side of many of these projects and getting educational materials out
- **K. Klein:** PDE can add UWFP stories into our newsletters
- **K. Heinlen:** Since the UWFP EPA website doesn't get updated very frequently, an email used to go out to the Delaware River location with regional projects and program updates
 - We could work on keeping the local Delaware River Watershed group more informed since the national emails are very information but don't hit the local projects as much
 - Could have some type of feature of the month that could be something that a lot of people don't know about (e.g., Harrison Avenue Landfill in Camden, NJ)
 - Could also provide the opportunity to give people updates on the national side
- **K. Klein:** The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed sends out emails, but they are more advocacy-based rather than on the ground and support many organizations across the region
- **S. Hahn:** We could use their contacts or newsletters to highlight Urban Waters efforts
- **K. Klein:** We could create a new listserv with more localized organizations including cities and other local groups involved to see opportunities for them to partner
- **S. Hahn:** In PDE's newsletter, we could have some guest writers if folks want to get more involved on Urban Waters initiatives
- b) Helping to coordinate among the Urban Waters locations and highlight the work being done related to youth engagement
 - Coordinating a youth summit with presenters from each of the cities
 - Reconnecting youth to nature and getting kids safely on the water (boating, fishing, kayaking, hiking, etc.)
 - Engaging community leaders/finding funding to reimburse people for their time
- **S. Hahn:** Going out with Sea Grant to conduct some fieldwork for shad sampling
 - Hoping to have an outdoor pop up event in August or late July, with sampling taking place in July through October
 - Sample twice a month for young-of-the-year shad working with monitoring groups
 - Have brought kids out to help with this before and are going to try again this year on the Brandywine
 - There's been a lot of press about this project and it went to the NY Times, so it seems like a good opportunity to kick start

3. Potential Partners for Youth Programming (connecting to nature/waterways)

Additional partners identified by call participants:

Camden, NJ (and surrounding):

- **Krista Heinlen:** New Jersey Audubon
- **S. Hahn:** Camden Collaborative Initiative, Coopers Ferry Alliance, Coopers Ferry Partnership, City of Camden
- **K. Heinlen:** Camden Shipyard and Maritime Museum

Wilmington, DE:

- **S. Hahn:** Brandywine Shad 2020 Northeast group, City of Wilmington
- **S. Hahn:** It seems like Camden is more advanced in terms of youth education
 - Maybe Wilmington needs increased efforts and resources
 - We could see if some other groups could be more focused on these efforts to help Wilmington
- **K. Heinlen:** The Kalmar Nickel Foundation
 - They are a great organization even though they focus more on the history
 - They have a good network of partners
- **S. Hahn:** The Kalmar Nickel might even be the place that is willing to lead some activities on a boat for programming

Philadelphia, PA:

- **K. Heinlen:** Philadelphia centers are primarily where youth education programming and outreach already have a good foundation
- **K. Heinlen:** Philly Parks and Rec
 - After school programming has been involved with us in the past
 - Those after school programs in particular might be a great start
- **S. Hahn:** Jim Fries is a strong urban waters partner with Riverfront North
 - Trails and Lardners Point Park and boat building activities
 - Conducted some plantings in the past
 - Jim had students build geese exclusion cages that were put out and worked really well
 - Students designed the cages and took some great photos and videos of the project
- **K. Heinlen:** The Wooden Boat Factory would be a great organization to partner with, and we were never able to work with them in the same way communicated with the Independence Seaport Museum
 - They have a robust and established operation with river ecology programs
- **K. Klein:** Philadelphia Canoe Club
- **S. Hahn:** The Delaware River City Corporation and work at Penns Landing
 - They do lots of public programming and youth programming
- **M. Mackey:** Urban BoatWorks through Urban Promise is another good resource since they are connected to schools
 - This is where we hosted the Climate Change Roundtable previously
 - They also have a boat building program with youth

Chester, PA:

- **S. Hahn:** At the last meeting in Delaware County working on the Chester Waterfront the group talked about working with a rapper who has a studio and is doing some artwork in the city
- **S. Hahn:** Lisa Gaffney came to the last Brownfields Community of Practice meeting and presented on work in Chester on waterfront redevelopment
- **K. Heinlen:** We've had contacts from Chester engaged in the past, but it's challenging to find locations to meet
 - We've been in touch with the planning commission in the past and connecting with some local schools
- **S. Hahn:** Riverfront Alliance of Delaware County may have some youth programming

4. 2020 Urban Waters activities

- **S. Hahn:** For brownfields community of practice, we could target in a different audience and invite some high level politicians and do a better job of documenting the activities that take place at these meetings
- **K. Heinlen:** Could host a bus tour or field trip element to tour the different cities across the Urban Waters location
 - We could get everyone on a ferry or a boat out in Camden and take them down to Wilmington on the river
 - Even if it's not looking at specific projects, could talk about the watershed while traveling down the river
 - Could look into the capacity to even do this remotely and orchestrate a virtual boat tour if we have a few people on the boat and filming capacity
- **S. Hahn:** We could go out along the shoreline to get water-based film of some of these locations for strong visuals
 - Could show a mix of restoration projects, demonstrate where the needs for the region are, and maybe some type of combination of people taking the film and also splicing videos together
- **M. Mackey:** There's an employee within the region here at EPA that takes videos like this
- **E. Baumbach:** An alternative could be to create a Delaware River story map with interactive pictures, diagrams, and videos
- **K. Heinlen:** For the next call, let's definitely discuss bringing in the other partners that have traditionally been part of these conversations in the past and make sure we get proper introductions for folks
- **K. Klein:** For the webinar, we need to still figure out what we want the agenda to look like
 - Could have Big Wins, Big Challenges, and Creative Fundraising as the three main topics
 - We want people to present information that will be helpful for their organizations
 - Maybe we can ask people what they would want to learn about on a webinar like this
 - We could get Barbara from the Center for Aquatic Science involved if we want to get some more insight to see what types of tech-transfer sessions would add value
- **K. Klein:** Information on the PDE website could turn into a hub that promotes on the water opportunities for kids in the watershed