



Science and Technical Advisory Committee

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary:

A National Estuary Program

www.DelawareEstuary.org

Estuary Implementation Committee and 29th STAC Meeting

Wednesday, September 5th, 2013

9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

U.S. EPA Region III, Philadelphia, PAE

Sue Kilham (STAC Chair) – Drexel University

Ed Ambrosio – EPA R3

Jen Adkins - PDE

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Greg Breese - USFWS

Dave Bushek – Rutgers HSRL

Lance Butler - PWD

Sarah Cooksey - DNREC

Tom Fisklin - DRBC

Priscilla Adam Hendricks - PWD

Moses Katkowski - TNC

Gerry Kauffman – UDel

John Kennel - DNREC

Danielle Kreeger – PDE

Chris Krigner

Adrian Leary - ACOE

Megan Mackey – EPA R3

Doug Miller - UDel

Angela Padeletti - PDE

Irene Purdy – EPA R2

Brandon Raymond- Anchor QEA

Leslie Sarvus - PADEP

Bob Scarborough - DNREC

Renee Searfoss – EPA Region 3

Jay Springer - NJDEP

Ken Strait - PSEG

Bob Tudor - DRBC

Andy Zemba - PADEP

Willy Eldridge - Stroud

1. Introduction- Jen Adkins

- a. STAC minutes and EIC minutes are being sent around for comments

2. Strategic Plan – Jen Adkins

- a. See presentation at : http://www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/2013_strategic_plan.pdf
- b. Plan already approved in spring by EIC and board
- c. Copy has been distributed and is posted on website
 - i. See www.delawareestuary.org
- d. Strategic plan is for PDE for the next 5 years
- e. New mission statement, vision is the same
- f. 4 main goal areas

¹ Meeting minutes were circulated for preview and hardcopy will be passed around for edits at the meeting

² 2008 DEWOOS Report can be found here: <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/network/pilots/dlr bay/index.html>

³ Current draft of STAC DO Brief was sent with the agenda by email (includes recent edits by JM and GB)

⁴ The draft FMRP Strategy was sent by email for preview

- i. Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities, Healthy Habitats
- g. PDE is looking for contractors in 2014 for communication plan development
- h. PDE is currently looking to increase investment (specifically unrestricted); current steps include hiring a new Development Director. The new position is geared to individual donors.
- i. Guiding document for next 5 years

3. Strategic Plan QCC

- a. John Kennel: when is the next strategic plan?
 - i. This one runs till 2018, took 1 year to put together so will look in ~2017 to start next plan.
 - ii. Bob Tudor- Through Post Sandy work with FEMA could reach some of the goals in the strategic plan. Could work together in future.
- b. Sara Cooksey: Is the measurable goals nested within the strategic plan?
 - i. Jen: the Strategic plan is nested within the larger measurable goals.
 - ii. Danielle: working on informational brochure in 2014 on how DELEP and PDE are nested and work within the larger hierarchy.
- c. Ken Strait: Is there a budget connected with the Strategic plan?
 - i. Jen: yes we have a budget, and we are looking at a 5 year plan on how to accomplish this plan. PDE is working on it. To meet goals in strategic plan we need grow our unrestricted funding.
- d. Bob Tudor: Strategic alliance with other NGO's could help look for match.

4. RSM- Renee Searfoss

- a. 2004- Water Resources Plan was adopted by multiple groups, this lead to the ACOE getting funding to create a RSM. Meetings were once per month for ~2.5 years
 - i. Plan is posted on PDE website at www.delawareestuary.org/Meetings
 - ii. State and regional priorities were identified
- b. Only report in Delaware Estuary where sediment management is located in one site
- c. This is only a plan, hope is that the finance and business model in the report could be used and developed further
- d. Is there hope that this could work to change ACOE practices? There was a May meeting for implementation that went well. So there is hope that with the guidance the region can have better sediment management.
- e. Next steps is to bring to the Steering Committee- not only a FYI but also to let them know to look for funding opportunities as well as opportunities to multi task priorities

- f. Delaware Estuary will be the first region to have deliverables around the country. A first year plan is being generated as well as a report on what has already been accomplished.
- g. Not asking Steering Committee to sign the RSM.
- h. Has the ACOE asked for funding for this for next year?
 - i. It is unknown. The ACOE has been getting the same dredging budget for the last 25yrs. Focus is on 2015 for funding, and looking into discussing with other regions how/where they received supplemented funding
- i. Acknowledging that not one agency has the resources to implement the plan
- j. Jen: this presents a nice opportunity for PDE because it's not just "dredging" but is a holistic plan as well as an opportunity to use this as an update for the CCMP
- k. Suggested: Update CCMP W7- with the CCMP
- l. Suggested: Could ask Steering Committee to ask the ACOE to adopt the plan
- m. Fact: the CCMP must be updated, so proposal is to update parts with updated plans, and make it a "living" document so that new "plans" are linked into it and continuously updated
- n. Inform Steering Committee that their people have been already working on the RSM, and by supporting it is just a continuation of that work.
- o. PADEP: If we ask ACOE to adopt does it change regulatory or statutory anything?
 - i. Bob Tudor: has a paper that talks about rational about doing plans like RSM. He will send around so people could send to their Steering Committee meeting.
- p. Implementation work group, Regional Dredging Team, and STAC all work together on different specifics.

5. CCMP Updates

- a. See <http://delawareestuary.org/Meetings>
- b. CCMP is out of date (1996)- plan is roll out winter 2013-4
- c. STAC/EIC worked on during workshop in 2012
- d. PDE sees the CCMP update is not going to be a new 500 page document, but will have programs linked and populated through other programs. I.e. the tables will point to plans that can be updated more frequently than the CCMP was previously.
- e. This is an EIC activity not Steering Committee, does not need Steering Committee blessing
- f. EPA is in a process of creating a CCMP process
- g. We may be doing a "progress report"

6. Measureable Goals

- a. 3 umbrella areas
 - i. healthy waters, communities and habitats
- b. STAC and EIC conducted workshops and reviews for the last 2 years
- c. Some of the goals were accepted by the Steering Committee last year

7. LUNCH

8. PCB

- a. Instead of first long term goal
- b. Add short term bullet: total load reduction of PCBs by ~25% by 2025

9. Steering Committee meeting

- a. October 3rd at independent seaport museum, starting earlier this year 1-3:30
- b. Want them to approve RSM (~30 minutes); Renee will present the RSM
- c. Renee will follow up with Tony Depasquall with FYI on where RSM is in process
- d. Want approval of measurable goals (~1hr)
- e. Freshwater Mussels- present progress on program since last year
- f. Present strategic plan
- g. Give each member 5 minutes on what they think is important- Janic
- h. Update on NWI: PA is close to getting it done, which was a direct impact from Steering Committee
- i. Update on Wetlands funding: R3 help direct funding through DNREC to PDE to work
- j. Tie mussels to climate change for Steering Committee, also talk about nutrients
- k. EPA has new management goals/themes; climate change is one of them.
- l. Present updates to Committee and also new stumbling blocks
- m. Pennsylvania is the lead of the meeting
- n. Tour of museum is available after, please let Jen know if your committee member plans on coming to that
- o. Re-commitment to Program
 - i. 2007 was last MOU, is difficult to get administratively
 - ii. But the end of the goals could be a good time to re-commit OR do after whole process? Jen will bring up to committee
- p. Let Jen know if you are hearing about anything specific to bring up to the Steering Committee
- q. When is preamble going to be done and when is the new goal? ONE WEEK is goal to send out to EIC/STAC.
 - i. The goal is not to revisit all goals but to look just changes done today.

10. Steering Committee QCC

- a. EPA: Who has a list of what agency is responsible for each of the goals?
 - i. PDE: There is not a list, there is just a general list of who is involved.
 - ii. Could be a good exercise for each of the groups to go through and see what they are responsible for. Jen-Yes that is a good exercise for each of the groups to do, to some extent it has been done along the way

11. STAC Business

- a. Some grammatical edits; Minutes accepted
- b. STAC website has been updated since last meeting
 - i. Check it out at <http://delawareestuary.org/STAC>
- c. DO brief- Des has sent to STAC so will not be able to present to EIC now. Maybe present brief to WQAC?
 - i. STAC should nail down in next week so can present then. Danielle can see if she can go. Maybe if not Angela? Or Des?
- d. Sturgeon- Not sure what the process is, Greg Breese will check on status and get back to PDE
- e. DNREC: Red knot will be listed soon
- f. To EIC: is there anything you would like to hear about from the STAC?
 - i. There is no SOE and no Estuary Conference this year?.

12. Workgroup updates

- a. TAC update: Documents are on website, a public hearing is next Tuesday, comment period closes on 20th
- b. Others: since summer is busy no meetings since last STAC meeting

13. STAC next meeting/focus

- a. Gaps in monitoring needs.
 - i. Such as DEWOOS which was many years ago.
 - ii. STAC needs to start thinking of needs.
 - 1. Bob Tudor- there is a national group that is looking at a higher level, and are holding a multi day workshop in October, will come out with strawman. See Ourglobalestuary.org and they will look for large funding. We should link up with this group. Also NEON (<http://www.neoninc.org/>) and GLEON (<http://www.gleon.org/>) for national systems.

- b. MARCOOS-5 states, around since 2009. Obama supports regional planning bodies to protect the ocean.
 - i. EPA, DA, NOAA, BEM, NAVY, CG, DI; No new money, had a two day webinar in August. Looking to make charter and engage stake holders. First regional planning Sept 24,25th where present draft goals and charter will be presented. MARCOOS has the governors signed on as well as the president, and this could feed into where the data gaps are and could help to steer in the right direction for funding.
- c. PDE: how do you extend into the estuaries? Yes geographic boundaries are up for discussion.
- d. The more the voices, the more priorities we can steer to the estuaries. But PDE has only so much time and energy and so need to prioritize.
- e. No new regulations, hopeful that it would expedite permits, may or may not come up with ocean plan, goal is to get groups talking together earlier
- f. There is a website that you can comment on if cannot get to Sept meeting
 - i. <http://www.midatlanticocean.org/>
 - ii. [http://www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Council-on-the-Ocean-\(MARCO\).aspx](http://www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Council-on-the-Ocean-(MARCO).aspx)
- g. Thought- white paper on coastal resilience- will talk about next time
 - i. December 5th- possible date

14. Next Steps

- a. Jen: We are working with other partners that have been working with William Penn foundation working on clustering the Delaware Estuary and PDE has been involved in multiple?.
 - i. As part of this ANS is working with Stroud to look at water quality monitoring for the specific clusters (which are not the entire watershed) but also to link areas together to get holistic picture.
 - ii. PDE wants to make sure that we are linked up with ANS and William Penn and PDE's projects. Now is a critical time to look at monitoring around the estuary.
- b. DRBC is going to meet with ANS as well about cross over.
- c. PDE could look at possible monitoring meeting over this winter.

15. EIC business

- a. EIC minutes- no changes; minutes approved

- b. Update on NEAPORT- Priscilla has worked on, and thanks for all partners who have helped. We have almost doubled our acreage since last year
- c. Thank PWD- for working with us to work on storm water projects, we will find a way to use that information
- d. Update on NEP grant funding: workplan for next year has been submitted.
 - i. Getting a cut from 570 to \$512,000 for next year. Some last minute cuts were made. The work plan has gone out and has been approved.
 - ii. We cut travel; cut travel by ~25%, reduced printing of Estuary News, will only have one printing next year, reduced almost all educational material printing, some reduction of staff time unfortunately.
 - iii. No support for RRI or Alliance at all for next year. Had 80k in 2011 but since then really had about 20k. Next year we have no support for projects, need to think about if it is worth selecting projects if have no way to support.
 - iv. Dupont has recently put money into projects, could be on the cusp of having others interested but also need to decide if we can support it next year.
- e. Could William Penn cluster help fund the Alliance projects? William Penn has their own process so has not been involved in the Alliance historically and probably not in the future
- f. Have 2 years of NEP grants are currently open; last year is open and this years. Climate change work was from last year, and the green infrastructure projects with Philadelphia. Some Alliance is left over from last year but could look to use that to supplement the estuary news or education printing shortfall for next year.
- g. Post Sandy is possible future planning- Building coastal resilience. Please keep your eyes and ears open for those possibilities.
- h. Jen: our NEP money is not growing. We can get project funding but that means we have to work on projects and not NEP focused work.
 - i. This is why we are trying to grow unrestricted funding.
- i. 2014- PDE gets evaluated next year through EPA. Paper work due end of February 2014. Site visit will happen in spring.
 - i. Could pair with board and or EIC or STAC meeting

16. Dates to remember:

- a. September 28th- Hayride and beer tasking event for National Estuary Day for National Toast to the Coast. At Figure 8 barn in Delaware.
- b. September 28th- Horseshoe crab release in Cape May, so far released 250,000 into the bay.

Adjorned!