

Joint EIC and STAC Meeting September 10, 2015



Joint Meeting of the Estuary Implementation Committee (EIC) and the Science & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

September 10, 2015

EPA Region 3 Office, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA

Chesapeake Room 103

Adobe Connect: <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/eicstac09022015/>

Call in number: 866-299-3188 Code: 215-814-5422

Minutes

Attendees:

Megan Mackey – EPA R3

Kelly Somers– EPA R3

Danielle Kreeger – PDE

Sarah Bouboulis – PDE

Priscilla Cole – PDE

Jen Adkins – PDE

Irene Purdy – EPA R2

Tom Fikslin – DRBC

Heather Jensen – USACE

Kelly Anderson - PWD

Bob Scarbrough - DNREC

Cynthia Stahl – EPA R3

Sue Kilam – Drexel

David Bushek – Rutgers

Anne Witt – NJDEP

John Kennel – DNREC

Doug Janeic- Sovereign Consulting

Julia Rockwell – PWD

Ed Ambrosio – EPA R3

Ken Strait – PSEG

Jay Springer – NJ DEP

Moses Katkowski – TNC

Jerry Kauffman – University of Delaware

Beth Watson – Academy of Natural Sciences

Lori Mohr – PA DEP (phone)

Hoss Liaghat – PA DEP (phone)

Dorina Frizzera – NJ DEP (phone)

Welcome & Introductions

Jen Adkins gave a brief welcome and overview of the day's agenda, and a quick overview of PDE. Danielle Kreeger followed up with updates from the science projects and the results of STAC elections. 6 seats were open with 5 incumbents. The only new STAC member is Beth Watson from Drexel University. When the new MOA was signed, there was a change to add some PDE Board members to the EIC meetings. Introductions were made and minutes were approved.

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PDE Board Report

Jen gave a brief on Board activity for feedback including updates on PDE marketing/communications, operations, and staffing. There was a Board and Staff retreat a few weeks prior, focused on marketing and communications. One of the top needs identified for PDE is a website overhaul with a contractor. The first meeting with the new contractor is scheduled in the coming weeks. There is a marketing and communications committee, which STAC/EIC people are invited to join. The new website is due to launch June 2016. Partner feedback will be solicited with regards to the PDE website.

The NEP work plan for 2016 was submitted to EPA, and is waiting to be approved. It had few comments by EPA, and is expected to be approved soon.

Announcement – PDE is hiring for 4 new positions, including a grants coordinator, 2 outreach positions, and a new Deputy Executive Director.

2015 Projects and Results

Danielle Kreeger reported on recent/upcoming PDE projects and programs since the spring.

- Four living shorelines were installed last year, so this summer has been focused on phase 2 of plantings. Upcoming are installations of hybrid living shorelines that are being developed in Camden and Gandy's Beach. There have also been a few contractor trainings to transfer the living shoreline technology to firms that more typically install traditional infrastructure (e.g. bulkheads, rip rap).
- Freshwater mussel surveys took place in Sussex County, Delaware, Camden County, New Jersey, and in tributaries to the upper Schuylkill River. PDE is also working with PWD and the Fairmount Waterworks to plan a demonstration hatchery to show the public how mussels can be propagated to produce seed for restoration. PDE continues to look for support to develop a production hatchery that would supply ample seed for water quality improvement projects.
- Routine annual wetland monitoring assessments took place this year at about a dozen fixed stations. New rapid assessments of wetland health were completed in the Appoquinimink River, DE.
- Updated Marsh Futures methodology is in development with Rutgers, which will strengthen our ability to match restoration tactics with local wetland vulnerabilities. PDE is also working with TNC to build a coastal resiliency tool that is desktop-based. It will be launching to the public later this month, with subsequent workshops in communities.

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- Post-Sandy monitoring is taking place using PDE's MACWA and Living Shoreline assessment protocols, focusing on NJDEP resilience projects funded by NFWF.
- PDE research on ecosystems services of marine shellfish is yielding some exciting new results, such as for Nitrogen removal. This work is part of Josh Moody's PhD dissertation work.
- Several rain garden installations were conducted this summer, and another is planned for fall.
- PDE released a water conservation guide that has been popular.
- There was also an art contest to have school kids design street art around storm drains.
- Philly SpokesDog contest has been going strong for several years; the final "pageant" date has not yet been scheduled.
- Upcoming festivals include: PA Coast Day and DE Coast Day, and of course PDE has led or participated in many others this spring and summer, such as Earth Day, Philly Science Fest, etc. etc.
- Green jobs training took place in Wilmington and Camden to expose urban kids to environmental jobs.
- Several river cleanups occurred again this season.
- There was a new Delaware Estuary Photo Contest, which was very successful.
- The teacher's workshop had a high turnout, bringing in 27 teachers for training.
- There's been a lot of work to partner with breweries to donate proceeds of sales to clean water projects.
- Livable lawns, climate change outreach, SAN tours of green infrastructure, and social media forums – all going strong.

Sarah Bouboulis (PDE) reported on GPRA/NEPORT data collection results. The results were preliminary, as EPA has not yet approved the projects. However, forested wetland was the biggest habitat type reported, and mostly protecting was reported. 1868 acres were submitted, which hit the 1500 acre goal. Most of these come in from the states, so they are heavily dependent on state budgets. Most of the money leveraged came in from private sources, and the majority of projects were where PDE played a supportive role, but there were significant primary role projects as well.

Measurable Goals

Annually, appointed leaders are asked to report out on the progress of the measurable goals. The leads are responsible for collecting information among relevant parties and reporting this to the group. *See Measurable Goal reporting data collection forms for more details on the outcomes of this goal reporting at this meeting.*

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TREB Update Needs

A TREB needs survey was distributed prior to the meeting, which asked TREB authors (as well as other members of the STAC and affiliated workgroups) about how much time and effort would be required to update the indicators in the 2012 TREB. Danielle presented the results of the survey, and asked for discussion about how to incorporate TREB updates in the CCMP revision process. Ten people completed the survey.

- Most of the indicators in Water Chapters were deemed to need only minimal updates.
- Sediment Chapter updates would be difficult because there is a need to revisit the dredging piece and considerable resources would be needed for other indicators.
- Wetlands should be updated to get more recent changes in acreage, and unlikely to be onerous.
- Riparian update needs were judged to be minimal, and would take a lot of resources.
- Living resources needs to be updated because a lot of new data exists, and not much money would be needed to update.
- Climate Change, only sea level rise should probably be updated. More attention is now warranted on storminess, post-Sandy.
- Restoration would need a complete overhaul, and resources not really there.

Other comments: TREB only focused on traditional indicators. Post-Sandy, there is a pressing need to update coastal infrastructure changes to help assess future vulnerabilities.

Discussion focused on how to efficiently update TREB while developing the new CCMP. Maybe only update those indicators which align with CCMP and Goals. UDel would be willing to do an in-kind update to Chapter 1. There was talk of either doing just the chapters that need updating as a supplement to the CCMP or at least “extending the trend lines” for all chapters/indicators for which new data exists. Then release as a new document with new cover date, but following the same formatting as 2012.

CCMP Revision Process

Jen reviewed new EPA CCMP Revision Guidelines for a discussion of any changes needed to the CCMP Revision Process and Table of Contents.

The CCMP workgroup has been meeting throughout the year, and has developed a process for revising the CCMP, and has put together materials guiding this process. EPA released new guidance for CCMP revision in July 2015, which may require some tweaks to the introduction,

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monitoring, financing, or appendix sections. EPA also requires a formal public review process that includes summarizing comments.

Priscilla went through some recent changes made to the DRAFT table of contents that were made from comments submitted by STAC and EIC. Jen will be further amending the TOC to reflect the new guidance from EPA.

Jen talked about the expert list for the CCMP that we've started developing. We need everyone to help refine this list. There are more than 700 people on this list, and many of the contacts are outdated. It was suggested that anyone who has not taken a look at the list needs to do within a week of this meeting. There was also some discussion of how the list will be used moving forward. It was suggested that PDE would reach out to these people asking if they would like to participate in the CCMP process. Some organizations suggested it would be more efficient for Steering Committee or higher level managers to reach out in order to get the best response from those experts who will need to be involved in the process. In many cases, the agencies have new people that would be more appropriate than those on the existing list, and the agencies themselves are best positioned to judge who should be involved.

Jen mentioned that there are some special requirements regarding NEP funding and surveys. She will work with Megan and Irene to get clarification and insure that we proceed in accordance with those requirements.

PDE plans to email the experts on the list and ask if they want to be involved, and to specify their expertise. PDE will also request that the Steering Committee do a top down approach as well, when necessary. This may work well for organizations with Steering Committee members, but may not be necessary for others.

Sarah gave an update about SharePoint. SharePoint will be used to share documents and track changes among CCMP workgroups. People will receive an invitation to join, hopefully the next couple of weeks.

Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

Jen Adkins led a discussion on the agenda for the Steering Committee meeting, to be held on October 22nd from 1-4pm in Philadelphia.

- Welcome & Introductions (45 min): What is on the horizon for your agency in 2016?
- CCMP Revision Progress (1 hour)
 - More detail on the table of contents and process.

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- Details about how to work with their people. Ask them to engage their staff to participate in the CCMP process
- Goals Update – Some goals may need to be revised, now that folks have been working on them and see other opportunities/challenges. Ask SC for their blessing to revise some goals. Also let them know that some goals are contingent on funding.
- Other PDE/NEP updates

Jen will draft steering committee agenda and circulate soon.

STAC meeting proposed for December 14.

3:00 Adjourn

PDE Meetings/Events to Add to Your Calendar!

- **Sep 10** – A.J. Meerwald Sail, Burlington NJ
- **Sep 11** – Schuylkill Action Network Stormwater Tour, starting in Manayunk PA
- **Sep 12** – Pennsylvania Coast Day, Penns Landing, Philadelphia PA
- **Sep 23** – Pre-Celebration Fundraising Training with Cam Yorkston, PDE, Wilmington DE
- **Oct 4** – Delaware Coast Day, University of Delaware, Lewes DE
- **Oct 5-6** – Delaware River Watershed Forum, University of Delaware, Newark DE
- **Oct 15** – Experience the Estuary Celebration, Auletto's, Almonesson, NJ
- **Nov 2** – Oyster Happy Hour Event, The Oyster House, Philadelphia PA
- **Nov 19** – Every Stream Matters Reception, Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, DE
- **Dec 2-4** – Fall National Estuary Program Meeting/Conference, San Juan, PR
- **Friday, Dec 18** – Annual Board/EIC Meeting, PDE, Wilmington DE

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ACES	Alliance for Comprehensive Ecosystem Solutions
ACOE RSM	Army Corp of Engineers Regional Sediment Management
AERS	Atlantic Estuarine Research Society
ANEP	Association of National Estuary Programs
ANJEC	Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
ANS/ANSP	Academy of Natural Sciences
AWRA	American Water Resource Association
BMP	Best Management Practices
CBCWP	Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership
CBTF	Christina Basin Task Force
CCMP	Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
CDRW	Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed
CERF	Coastal and Estuarine Research Foundation
CESP	Corporate and Community Environmental Stewardship Program
CIB	Center for the Inland Bays
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWAC	Clean Water Advisory Council
DAEE	Delaware Association for Environmental Education
DelDOT	Delaware Department of Transportation
DELEP	Delaware Estuary Program
DELSI	Delaware Estuary Living Shoreline Initiative
DNREC	Delaware Department of Natural Resources
DPA	Delaware Press Association
DRBC	Delaware River and Basin Commission
DRPA	Delaware River Port Authority
DVRPC	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
EIC	Estuary Implementation Committee
ELS	Environmental Laboratory Section
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMCS	Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
FMRP	Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program
FT	Full-time
FWWIC	Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center
GRPA	Government Performance and Results Act
HSC	Horseshoe Crab
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JCNERR	Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
MAC	Monitoring Advisory Committee
MACWA	Mid-Atlantic Coastal Wetlands Assessment
MARACOOS	Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEP	National Estuary Program
NEPORT	National Estuary Program On-Line Reporting Tool
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NGO	Non-government organization
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NSA	National Shellfisheries Association
NVSC	National Vegetation Classification System
PACZM	Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program

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PADEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PADEP DWSRF	PADEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
PDE	Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
PEC	Pennsylvania Environmental Council
PT	Part-time
PWD	Philadelphia Water Department
RAE	Restore Americas Estuaries
RSMP	Regional Sediment Management Plan
SAN	Schuylkill Action Network
SAN ESC	Schuylkill Action Network Executive Steering Committee
SC	Steering Committee
SJBC	South Jersey Bayshore Coalition
SP	Strategic Plan
SRRF	Schuylkill River Restoration Fund
SSIM	Site Specific Intensive Monitoring
STAC	Science Technical Advisory Committee
SWS	Society of Wetland Scientists
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TREB	Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin
USACE	U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFS	U. S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WAS	World Aquaculture Society
WQAC	Water Quality Advisory Committee
WREN	Water Resource Education Network