

CCMP Implementation Committee

Meeting Agenda & Notes



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS
Research. Educate. Restore.

DATE & TIME: 25 April, 2022 9:30-11:30AM

LOCATION: Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87378550926>

ATTENDEES: Stephanie Johnson (DelDOT), Jim Pappas (DelDOT), Ashley Barnett (DNREC), Bryan Jones (SCD), Aaron Givens (DE Department of Agriculture), Stephen Williams (DNREC), Ferry Akbar Buchanan (EPA), Cathy Magliocchetti (EPA), Hans Medlarz (Sussex County), Kasey Taylor (USDA), Jaime Argo (USDA), Marianne Walch (CIB), Michelle Schmidt (CIB), Aviah Stillman (CIB)

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to order, welcome

II. CIB Updates

III. CCMP Implementation Tracker update

IV. Overview of results from Rapid Assessment Project Plan project

V. Open

VI. Adjourn

NOTES

Updates from CIB

- Chris leaving - Anna Fagan acting Director. Working through the hiring process for a new Director.
- Aviah leaving - full-time position available. Once job is posted, please direct anyone who you think would be a good fit to apply.
- Reforestation
 - Piney Point-20 acres reforested
 - 6 acres reforested Sussex County project
- Strategic Plan being updated for the CIB and will include CCMP efforts

CCMP Tracking

- Discussed at last meeting
- Goal is to have a simple spreadsheet for tracking
- No simple solution for multiple tracking requirements and streamlining tracking
- Meeting with the Center for Watershed Protection to talk about developing a tool like this. Will calculate the nutrient reductions as projects are tracked
 - Please share any tracking tools you come across

RAPP

- Grant due May 20th
- Project Overview
 - Started 2019
 - Project Goal
 - Identify and prioritize potential sites for reforestation to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution and improve habitat in the Inland Bays watershed
 - Review the RC&D list to determine if any can have a water quality component added to it
 - Funding: Surface Water Matching Planning Grant, USACE Planning Assistance to the State
 - Partners: US ACE, Center for Watershed Protection
 - Types of Projects: Reforestation, grass/tree buffers, wetland restoration, stream restoration, stormwater retrofits, living shorelines - Includes more than just reforestation
- USACE conducted the GIS activities and model development for this project
 - Built a tool to help identify priority properties based on selection criteria
 - CCMP IC identified the need to prioritize projects along stream networks to reduce nutrient pollution
 - Initially discussed 28 different criteria
 - Challenging though because having a very broad scope makes it difficult to decide which criteria we should evaluate
 - Final Decision: only buffer areas along waterways for parcels over one acre
 - Lack of forest/marsh
 - Impervious surface
 - Regional modeled nutrient loads for sediment, N and P
 - Slope- areas greater than 5% grade
 - Model My Watershed Results
 - Regionally modeled N, P, and Sediments
 - Southern part of watershed was higher in P, N and sediment
 - Because model data was older, wanted to compare to more recent data
 - Looked at 5 years of annual monitoring data for P and N performed by CIB
 - The results corresponded well with Model My Watershed results
 - Initial Results of USACE Tool
 - Higher priority parcels were primarily in the southern part of the watershed near the Little Assawoman Bay
 - In developed landscape came out in the tool as higher priority because there was no buffer
 - Desktop Analysis performed after analyzing Tool results
 - Narrowed down to 38 sites to contact for possible projects
- Outreach was difficult
 - Difficult to determine how to engage with private agricultural landowners

- Good news is that there are a lot of good programs already in place for landowners
 - Found that a lot of priority properties were encumbered by land easements or already set aside for future use
 - Difficult to figure out who to contact with publicly owned and, especially state-owned land
 - Cathy: Tell more about how easements impact the ability to do a project? Is it because of the easement holder?
 - Michelle: Because the easements were agricultural easements, we could not take the land out of agriculture. Made people wary because they did not want to take their land out of easement. Allowed for some BMPs, but not all BMPs. The Dep of Ag held the easement
 - Cathy: Potential future conversation with Dep of Ag
 - Kasey: You are correct, Cathy. Recommends Jimmy Kroon (jimmy.kroon@delaware.gov) would be an excellent conduit and Marcia Fox (DNREC). We are looking to build out a program to incentivize buffers.
 - Michelle: Thank you, that is a great idea. We were on a very tight timeline with getting projects conceptualized. Good news is that in the future we can still try to work with partners on these properties.
 - Sussex Correctional Institute and Roxana Fire Department are potential future projects, but were not in the timeframe for the RAPP
- Site Visits and project selections
 - 12 sites were evaluated
 - USACE, CWP, and CIB went to 7 different sites
 - CIB and STate Parks identified 5 potential living shoreline projects
 - Map of site visits and project selection
 - Many in Indian River watershed
 - Only a few in the Little Assawoman Bay Watershed - even though this was the priority area
 - This is because a lot of the land in this area was privately owned land. Also developing very quickly. The stormwater retrofit projects are very expensive, and working with HOAs can be difficult with high turnover of leadership
 - Similar outcome of the Reforestation Model outcomes
- Sites
 - White Farms
 - Reforestation east of the irrigation pivot
 - Forest along river is under easement
 - Going to work with Millsboro to develop a reforestation plan
 - Sediment erosion control where sediment collects and flows towards the stream
 - Will need to leave the right of way along the road and plan for access to the monitoring wells

- Millsboro Cemetery Stream Restoration
 - Stream drains to upper Indian River
 - No sediment erosion control in place
 - Will be working with Millsboro
 - Millsboro will apply for surface water matching grant
 - We will be developing a concept design
 - Many different land owners along the stream, but hopefully great outreach can be done
- Stockley Center
 - CIB did a project with them in the past.
 - Marianne: CIB did two projects at the Stockley Ctr. One was a stream restoration about 8 or 9 years ago. And then a stormwater pond retrofit in 2017 or so.
 - Land did not score very high on our tool, but there are two fields along the buffer that will be reforested
 - Recommendations given to sediment storage too
 - Parcel across from Stockley Center is a potential reforestation site. Not sure the contact for this parcel though since Stockley owns it but does not manage it
- Airport Site near Georgetown
 - Owned by Sussex County
 - Will work with CWP and Sussex County to develop a wetland restoration and reforestation project.
 - No large plantings/trees. No standing water for more than 24 hours. This is because of the airport
- South Coastal WWTP
 - Owned by Sussex County
 - Basic reforestation plan
 - Will give more buffer between homes and treatment plant
- Living Shorelines:
 - Thompson Island
 - Important cultural and heritage site
 - Developing Shoreline Master Plan for all 3 shorelines
 - Starting with southern shoreline
 - Multiple funding sources
 - \$400,000 as of now
 - Partnering with State Parks
 - Construction to begin late summer/fall 2022
 - Holts Landing
 - Partnering with State Parks and Friends of Holts Landing
 - High recreation usage area
 - Big factor when coming up with final design

- Want to work closely with Friends of Holts Landing when coming up with the design
- Will implement projects over the next 5 years
- Reviewing RC&D Projects
 - CIB worked with Sussex Conservation District and DNREC Div of Watershed Stewardship to identify projects that have a water quality component added.
 - Resulted in no applicable projects
- Next Steps
 - CWP finalizes concept designs
 - USACE finished the report
 - Implementation

- Aaron Givens: Is it almost better to have projects in the Indian River watershed based on results of the most recent State of the Bays Report?
- Michelle: Yes, because the Indian River is the most polluted. We really need a tool to more accurately identify projects. Perhaps DTAP will assist with this.
- Marianne: State of Bays Report will show that the water quality in Little Assawoman Bay is still on target for improving. However, P loads are significantly increasing.

Open Discussion

- No updates, questions, or discussion
- Next meeting: August. Plan to discuss CCMP Tracker and Strategic Plan