

DRAFT



DRAFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Center for the Inland Bays
Hybrid: CIB office and via Zoom
September 16th, 2022

ATTENDANCE

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Board Alternates Present</u>
Susie Ball (Chair, Board-Elected)	Terry Deputy (DNREC)
David Baird (SCD, Treasurer)	Hans Medlarz (Sussex County)
Claire Simmers (CAC)	
Nicole Bailey Ashton (Board-Elected)	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Pat Coluzzi (Speaker of the House Appt, Vice Chair)	Ferry Akbar Buchanan (EPA)
Jenn Volk (STAC)	Sharon Webb (DNREC)
Aimee Isaac (Senate Pro Tem Appt, Secretary)	Mark Casey (Observer)
Patti Drago (Board-Elected)	
Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)	<u>Board Members Absent</u>
Amie Howell (EPA ex officio)	Todd Lawson (Sussex County)
	Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)
<u>Center for the Inland Bays Staff Present</u>	Debbie Botchie (Sussex County)
Anna Fagan	Jerry Esposito (Board-Elected)
Laurie Snyder	
Mary Hartnett	
Andrew McGowan	
Meghan Noe Fellows	

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Chair Susie Ball called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

Susie Ball called for any questions or changes to the agenda. Hearing none, S. Ball requested to change CAC membership applications from old business to new business.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aimee Isaac confirmed that board members received the minutes from the previous meeting and called for their approval. A. Isaac made the motion and P. Drago seconded. The vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Baird referred the Board to the FY22 Board Budget Summary and the Financial Policies and Procedures manual that will be presented for approval. D. Baird recognized Laurie Snyder as the new Financial Director and welcomed Laurie to the Center. Anna Fagan reviewed the FY22 Board Budget Summary. A. Fagan noted that the operating reserves account balance is just over \$360,000 and the Endowment Account balance is just over \$303,000. D. Baird asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, D. Baird made a motion to approve the board budget summary. P. Coluzzi seconded. The vote was unanimous. A. Fagan presented the updates to the Center's Financial Policies and Procedures. She noted that during a yearly review with the EPA that they identified an update to drawing federal funds through their online system. The update was made per the EPA's recommendations. A. Fagan also stated that an update was made to the language around responsibilities and that the Controller position title will now be referred to as the Director of Finance. A. Fagan asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, D. Baird recommended that the board approve the Financial Policies and Procedures. P. Coluzzi made a motion to approve. H. Medlarz seconded. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Executive Search Committee

Pat Coluzzi reported that the committee has narrowed the executive search to 2 final candidates and those interviews will be complete in early October.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers stated at the last CAC meeting they discussed shorezone fish and blue crabs of the Inland Bays. Zach Garmoe spoke about near shore fish surveys and blue crabs. The CIB has recorded 10 years of data and will work with the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council. Rick Chamberlin gave an update on the rehabilitation of the Lewes oyster hatchery facility. Caitlin Chaney spoke at the meeting about the upcoming CIB Decked Out event, CIB hiring update and State of the Bays report.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jennifer Volk presented the STAC Report. The last STAC meeting was held August 3rd and Anna Fagan presented the Center's strategic plan followed by a discussion of STAC objectives. The discussion was how to complete 50% of the hydrodynamic and water quality model and the

wastewater subcommittee developing a nutrient loading budget. Justin Guider (MS student of Dr. Shaw-Walter) spoke at the last STAC meeting about the abundance of microorganisms at the Broadkill River outlet. Alison Rogerson spoke on DNREC's inland bays restoration strategy. The next meeting will be Oct. 12 and will include topics of sustainable oyster aquaculture, water quality improvement, and ecosystem service value potential. A summary from CIB of the 2021-2022 water quality monitoring season will be reviewed. The meeting will also discuss hydrodynamic and water quality modeling interests.

Development Committee

Because of Jerry Esposito's absence, Mark Carter provided the Development Committee report in his place. M. Carter reviewed the Decked Out event and announced the event raised approximately \$45,000. The next Decked Out will be held September 21, 2023 at Hyatt Place Dewey Beach. M. Carter discussed the upcoming Dogfish Dash event on September 25th, for which CIB is the beneficiary this year.

Sussex County

Hans Medlarz presented on behalf of Sussex County. H. Medlarz stated that Sussex County is working on efforts with permitting for the planned improvements at James Farm. H. Medlarz spoke about upcoming leases for county owned farmland and ongoing reforestation plans.

EPA

Amie Howell reviewed bipartisan infrastructure law funding and the national estuary programs will receive \$1.28mil over the next 5 years. The EPA will be working closely with the Center to develop an equity strategy around their work plan.

House & Senate

Pat Coluzzi stated no updates for the House. Aimee Isaac stated no updates for the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

Recent Hire Report

Anna Fagan presented the updated CIB organizational chart including new hires. The last open vacancy to fill is the Executive Director position.

CAC Resolution Update

Anna Fagan presented three CAC resolutions that have passed: updating data and mitigating strategies in the loss of mature tree canopy in the watershed due to changes in land use since 2016, the Lewes shellfish hatchery that will support research efforts and the aquaculture industry, and the proposal of a partnership between Sussex County and the Center to address climate change and sea level rise in the Inland Bays watershed. She stated that greater progress will be made on the action identified in these resolutions once the new Executive Director is on board.

Buffer Ordinance Update

Anna Fagan stated there are no new updates. Susie Ball stated that the topic will stay on the agenda for future board meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director's Report

Anna Fagan presented the Executive Director's Report and reviewed the Bipartisan Infrastructure

Law implementation. The two primary goals of the bill are to tackle the climate crisis and advancing environmental justice and civil rights. A board-approved work plan must be submitted by 10/24/22. A. Fagan reviewed the BIL funding implementation plan and deadlines. The James Farm master plan implementation progress is slow but next steps will be bidding on the project, and possible breaking ground in the Spring of 2023. The Center engaged Mike Smith of GreenSmith PR and the Coastal Point to promote the Economic Valuation report. Marianne Walch is currently editing the 2022 State of the Bays report and next step is the design of the report. The Center staff is participating in an Organizational Culture project. A. Fagan will keep the board updated after workshops with staff are completed. Senator Carper's annual staff retreat was hosted at James Farm. The CIB staff and volunteers hosted approximately 60 guests from Senator Carper's staff and led activities centered around climate change and real-world impacts. The Center Award Recognition: 2022 ASBPA Best Restored Shores Award for the Delaware Botanic Gardens Living Shoreline and 2021 Maryland Coastal Bays Program Report Card Gold Star Award for Journey Up the Coast. Upcoming events for the Center are the Inland Bays Cleanup at Massey's Landing, the Race to Benefit the Bays at Henlopen Acres, Dogfish Dash at Milton Brewery, Arts in the Garden at Inland Bays Garden Center and Friends for the Bays volunteer appreciation event at Crooked Hammock.

CAC Membership Applications

Claire Simmers discussed 2 membership applications for Gail DuBowe and Lee Bunting. The applications were unanimously approved by CAC. P. Couzzi made a motion to approve and P. Drago seconded. The vote was unanimous.

2023 Board Meeting Schedule

Susie Ball discussed the meeting schedule and will work around any conflicts.

Board Elections - Board Elected Directors

Susie Ball proposed to renew Jerry Esposito to the board for another 3-year term. D. Baird made a motion to approve. P. Dragon seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Annual Recognition of the Board of Directors

Susie Ball thanked the board for their contributions.

Open Forum

No discussion.

Adjournment

Susie Ball called for a motion to adjourn. A. Isaac seconded. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09am.