



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

DRAFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Center for the Inland Bays
Hybrid: CIB office and via Zoom
March 17th, 2023

ATTENDANCE

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Board Alternates Present</u>
Susie Ball (Chair, Board-Elected)	Terry Deputy (DNREC)
Jerry Esposito (Board-Elected)	Hans Medlarz (Sussex County)
David Baird (SCD, Treasurer)	Chris Brosch (DDA)
Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)	
Claire Simmers (CAC)	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Nicole Bailey Ashton (Board-Elected)	Marlene Saunders
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)	Cathy Magliocchetti (US EPA)
Debbie Botchie (Sussex County)	
Amie Howell (EPA ex officio)	<u>Board Members Absent</u>
Todd Lawson (Sussex County)	Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)
Rony Baltazar-Lopez (Pro-Temp, Ex-Officio)	Patti Drago (Board-Elected)
<u>Center for the Inland Bays Staff Present</u>	
Christophe Tulou	Zachary Garmoe

Anna Fagan	Marina Feeser
Bryanna Lisiewski	Jackie Knoll
Bob Collins	Meghan Noe Fellows
Nivette Perez-Perez	

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Susie Ball called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. S. Ball led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

S. Ball reported that an Executive Session will be held after the Executive Director's Report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aimee Isaac confirmed that the Board members received the minutes from the previous meeting and made a motion to approve. P. Coluzzi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Baird reviewed the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on 2/23/23, including the financial report and budget summary. The Finance Committee continues discussion of endowment fund holdings and investment policy updates, and will revisit actionable steps in the Fall. D. Baird made a motion to approve the Board Budget Summary. P. Coluzzi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers reviewed the last CAC meeting that focused on land conservation. This meeting welcomed Christophe Tulou as the new Executive Director. Presenters were Jimmy Kroon, Administrator/Program Manager Delaware Dept. of Agriculture, who spoke about farmland preservation. Elena Stewart from the National Resources Conservation Service discussed the Federal Agriculture Conservation Easement Program. Michelle Schmidt from the Center talked about land conservation efforts within the Center. Applications for 4 new CAC members were reviewed. The CAC members will be surveyed to see what areas from the CCMP and PEEP they are interested in spending their time on.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jenn Volk reviewed the previous STAC meeting from last February. This meeting welcomed Christophe Tulou to the Center. Meghan Noe Fellows from the Center discussed the need for updating the environmental monitoring plans. This update will determine which monitoring plans are still active and what will be the recommendations for the future. A presentation of lessons from San Francisco Bay restoration by Dr. John Callaway from San Francisco University. Next meeting will be on April 28th and will introduce new STAC member Lesley Baggett. Michelle Schmidt from the Center will discuss the Center's Habitat Plan.

Development Committee

Jerry Esposito reviewed the last Development Committee meeting from March. The DoMore24 event raised \$10,275 which was over the goal of \$10,000. Several events are scheduled as Spring approaches.

April 19th is the Green Screen Film Festival at Bear Trap Dunes. May 6th is the Native Plant Sale and Water Family Fest. June 3rd is Stand Up for the Bays Paddle Race and Festival. September 21st is the Decked Out event at Hyatt Place in Dewey.

Delaware Department of Agriculture

Michael Scuse informed the Board on the current updates for agricultural land preservation. Outreach communications have been pushed out to farm owners in the State regarding the program. This is the largest funding opportunity to date for the program. M. Scuse also gave an update for the Cover Crop Program. The Dept. of Agriculture hosted a Carbon Conference on March 1st with the University of Delaware. Speakers from the USDA, Penn State and Iowa State spoke about carbon credits and sequestration.

Sussex County

Hans Medlarz gave an update on the James Farm project. A meeting was held with the design team, architect, and engineers. The design team is in the second round of reviews. When they are finished, the project can be prepared for bidding. H. Medlarz gave an update on several reforestation projects the County and the Center are working on together. The Route 54 project was recently completed. The South Coastal Water Treatment Plant will begin in March. The Eli Walls ditch project (submerged gravel wetland) in Georgetown is coming soon. A question was raised about the water hookup project at James Farm and H. Medlarz responded that he believed that the project should be completed by Fall 2024, along with the other components of the Master Plan.

EPA

Amie Howell mentioned that EPA Region 3 held an NEP Directors meeting on March 1st. 4 NEPs were brought together in a hybrid meeting. The agenda focused on the NEP equity strategy. Next week in Washington, DC is the National Estuary Program meeting. A. Howell also announced that the Center has received its Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for FY22 and FY23, that was approximately \$1.8 million. The Center is coming up on its 5-year NEP program evaluation, which will include a review and a site-visit. This evaluation will help the Center find strengths and opportunities to help it reach the CCMP goals.

House & Senate

Pat Coluzzi announced that there are no new updates for the House. Aimee Isaac announced that there are no new updates for the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

CAC Member Applications

C. Simmers reviewed the applications for 4 new CAC members.

Stephen Gonski's application was reviewed. P. Coluzzi made a motion for his approval. D. Baird seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Tia Ouyang's application was reviewed. J. Esposito made a motion for her approval. M. Scuse seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Ken Silverstein's application was reviewed. M. Scuse made a motion for his approval. J. Esposito seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Ken Sigvardson's application was reviewed. J. Esposito made a motion for his approval. P. Coluzzi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Hiring Updates

Anna Fagan reported that an offer has been made for the open Controller position. The Center is also currently hiring for an Environmental Education Intern. The Center currently has 16 full time staff and 21 total staff.

James Farm Master Plan Implementation Update

A. Fagan reported that the Center submitted a request to the Congressional Delegation for an earmarks for the James Farm. The Center anticipates a gap between funds raised for the project and the actual cost. The Center is also planning a request to the Community Redevelopment and Investment Fund as a part of the Bond Bill process for the State. This should be submitted in mid-May and the hope is these efforts will close the gap in cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination of Dr. Marlene Saunders to Board-Elected Director Seat

S. Ball

nominated Dr. Marlene Saunders to the Board. Dr. Saunders is active in social justice, holds a doctorate in social work and is a licensed social worker. She is a Commissioner for the Town of Bridgeville and was recently elected for a second term. D. Baird made a motion to approve the nomination. M. Scuse seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Bylaws Proposed Amendments

The proposed

amendments will create a DEIJA Committee that Dr. Saunders will lead. The committee will report to the Board on external and internal policies and procedures. M. Scuse made a motion to approve the amendments. M. Saunders seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Executive Director's Report

C. Tulou presented the Executive Director's Report and reviewed the 2021 State of the Bays report. The press event for the publication will be held March 27th at the Hyatt Place in Dewey Beach. Senator Tom Carper will give the introduction. Adam Oritz, the EPA Region 3 Administrator, will also address the audience. C. Tulou will serve as master of ceremonies and Marianne Walch will discuss the findings in the report. The message of the report is that there is some good news, some bad news and a lot more work to do.

Executive Session

Board moved to Executive Session at 10:15am. Board exited Executive Session at 10:34am.

Open Forum

No discussion.

Adjournment

J. Esposito made a motion to adjourn. D. Baird seconded. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.