

DRAFT



## DRAFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Center for the Inland Bays  
Hybrid: CIB office and via Zoom  
June 16th, 2023

### ATTENDANCE

| <u>Board Members Present</u>                 | <u>Other Attendees</u>                              |
|--|---|
| Susie Ball (Chair, Board-Elected)            | Megan Mackey (EPA)                                  |
| Todd Lawson (Sussex County)                  | Ferry Akbar Buchanan (EPA)                          |
| David Baird (SCD, Treasurer)                 | Sharon Webb (DNREC)                                 |
| Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)                     | Steve Williams (DNREC)                              |
| Claire Simmers (CAC)                         |   |
| Nicole Bailey Ashton (Board-Elected)         | <u>Board Members Absent</u>                         |
| Aimee Isaac (Senate Pro Tem Appt, Secretary) | Pat Coluzzi (Speaker of the House Appt, Vice Chair) |
| Jenn Volk (STAC)                             | Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)                           |
| Marlene Saunders (Board-Elected)             | Rony Baltazar-Lopez (Pro-Temp, Ex-Officio)          |
| Patti Drago (Board-Elected)                  | Jerry Esposito (Board-Elected)                      |
|  | Debbie Botchie (Sussex County)                      |
| <u>Board Alternates Present</u>              | Amie Howell (EPA ex officio)                        |
| Terry Deputy (DNREC)                         |   |
| Hans Medlarz (Sussex County)                 | <u>Center for the Inland Bays Staff Present</u>     |
| Chris Brosch (DDA)                           | Christophe Tulou                                    |
|  | Anna Fagan  |
|  | Michelle Schmidt                                    |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
|  | Nivette Perez-Perez |
|  | Meghan Noe Fellows  |
|  | Jaime Argo          |

## CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

David Baird called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. D. Baird led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

## MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

No changes were made.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

David Baird reviewed the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on 5/24/23, including the Financial Report and Budget Summary. D. Baird noted that the reports are in order and the financial health of the Center has been improving over the last few years. P. Drago made a motion to approve the Board Budget Summary. C. Simmers seconded. The vote was unanimous.

## OTHER REPORTS

### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers reviewed the recent CAC meeting. The meeting included the guest speaker Jodi McLaughlin, a volunteer with the Center and Tri-State Bird Rescue, who discussed her experiences in birding. Bob Collins of CIB talked about James Farm and living shorelines. Christophe Tulou of CIB reviewed the 3 active CAC resolutions.

### Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jenn Volk reviewed the previous STAC meeting from April. The last meeting included an update from Meghan Noe Fellows from CIB on the Environmental Monitoring plan. There was also an announcement of a new wind subcommittee to investigate nearshore impacts to the Bay. Mark Nardi of STAC will chair the committee. Bryanna Lisiewski of CIB spoke about the Habitat Plan. The newest STAC member is Chris Hauser of UD Sea Grant.

### Development Committee

Anna Fagan reviewed the Development Committee meeting from last May. The DoMore24 campaign raised \$10,000 in 24 hours. The Center has been partnering with area businesses for Dine to Donate events that have raised \$3,200. The Green Screen Film Festival took place in April, an event at Bear Trap Dunes with an environmental focused film screening. The Center held the Native Plant Sale in May and netted over \$6,000. This event was in partnership with DNREC and had increased attendance this year. The Coastal Cleanup event gathered 201 volunteers that collected over 2,200 pounds of trash. Upcoming events include Decked Out in September and this event will launch the Center's 30th Anniversary celebration. The Center will also be the beneficiary for the second year at the Dogfish Dash in September.

### Delaware Department of Agriculture

Michael Scuse announced that a new round of Ag Land funding will be available in August. Sussex County will have \$1 million dollars set aside from that for land preservation. The budget for the coming year will be projected at \$10 million each for Ag land preservation and Open Space upon adoption of the budget from the Legislature. M. Scuse noted that conversations with the Oyster Hatchery in Lewes have taken place. The current issue is that supply is not enough to meet demand. They are discussing how to recruit and support new producers to meet that need. The poultry house demolition program has identified 53 properties to start work on. This program has had more applicants than funding to cover and another funding source has been identified to assist the applicants.

### Sussex County

Todd Lawson discussed the County budget for the upcoming year and it should be approved soon. Funds totaling \$134,000 are allocated for the Center and will include \$100,000 for the pending Capital improvements. The County budget will include \$6 million for open space preservation and \$1 million for farmland preservation. Hans Medlars reported on restarted efforts for a comprehensive stormwater ordinance that incorporates benefits, including tree preservation and open space acquisition. This will be presented to Council members in the very near future. The James Farm sealed construction drawings have been delivered, bid documents are being prepared, and architects are working on fire marshall permits. The project is slated to be advertised for bidding in the early Fall. The James Farm water extension design is almost complete. When it is accepted, the permits will be applied for and bidding for contracting will begin.

### EPA

Ferry Akbar-Buchanan presented the update for the EPA starting with the Center's program evaluation progress. The Center submitted the initial evaluation package to the EPA in May and the EPA will reply with follow up questions in July. The R2P2 project sharing sessions are on hold until the community of interest is finalized. The Center's FY24 BIL workplan will be submitted to the EPA this summer for release of funds in the early Fall. The Center's FY2024 320 workplan has been submitted to the EPA and is under review.

### House & Senate

Aimee Isaac presented the update for the Senate and provided information on new bills that have passed. SB51 prohibits food establishments from providing styrofoam containers, cups, coffee stirrers and straws. This bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting approval from the House. HB99, known as the Climate Change Solutions Act, will establish targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The bill has passed the House and is awaiting consideration in the Senate committee. SB170 was introduced and will direct DNREC to study the transmission impacts of offshore wind development and work with neighboring states to study the process of procuring offshore wind power. That is out of committee and on the ready list. Pat Coluzzi was unable to join this meeting and an update was unavailable for the House.

### DNREC

Terry Deputy reported that DNREC is actively working on increases to fee package proposals.

### OLD BUSINESS

### CAC Resolution Updates

Christophe Tulou stated that there are 3 active CAC resolutions. The first resolution is for the

Center to be fully engaged and supportive of efforts within the aquaculture industry. The Center will be hosting a symposium in the Fall to create an active discussion on the challenges and benefits of the aquaculture community. The Center is hoping to support the aquaculture industry and support a robust restoration of wild oysters in the Bays. The second resolution is regarding tree canopy and the Center will work closely with Sussex County to preserve tree cover. The third resolution is regarding climate change, specifically to focus efforts on climate-related issues. The Center is working toward watershed-wide resilience strategy for storm vulnerability and stressors. It is a critical focus for the Center and will be updated as the work is ongoing.

#### Discussion of US Wind Donation to James Farm Master Plan

Christophe Tulou explained that US Wind has proposed a wind farm offshore bringing the power ashore in the Watershed through the Indian River Bay. The challenge is the resources that these companies would like to invest with the Center. The Board has resolved to not accept funding from Wind companies. US Wind has pledged \$100,000 for the proposed construction of an educational facility at James Farm and the decision is whether the Center should decide to keep or return these funds. P. Drago made a motion to return the funds, C. Simmers seconded. The vote was unanimous.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### FY2024 Workplan and Budget Approval

Anna Fagan discussed the EPA workplan that was distributed to the Board and presented a summary of proposed projects, ongoing projects and completed projects. It is a requirement for the Board to approve the workplan every June at the Board meeting. D. Baird called for any questions. Claire Simmers motioned to approve. M. Saunders seconded. The vote was unanimous.

##### BIL Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy

Anna Fagan discussed the BIL Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy that was previously distributed to the Board for review. Both documents are currently being reviewed by the EPA. The equity strategy includes DEIJA initiatives, restoration projects and outreach and education efforts. The projects that were identified to receive FY24 BIL funding are an Agriculture program, the Habitat Plan and the Hydrodynamic Water Quality Model. Also included are the Submerged Gravel Wetland project near Georgetown and Sunset Park living shoreline in Dewey Beach. P. Drago made a motion to approve. S. Ball seconded. The vote was unanimous.

##### Executive Director's Report

Christophe Tulou presented the Executive Director's Report and reviewed the key issues that were included in the State of the Bays report. C. Tulou discussed opportunities and partnerships with the Center that are working on advances in storm vulnerability, growth and water quality and equity within the Watershed.

##### Open Forum

No discussion.

##### Adjournment

M. Scuse made a motion to adjourn. P. Drago seconded. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.