

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda

DATE & TIME: Monday., April 14, 2025 at 4 pm

LOCATION: *Center for the Inland Bays,
39375 Inlet Rd
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971*

Remote: [Use google calendar link](#)



**DELAWARE
CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS**

preserve • protect • restore

Meeting called by: Jerry Esposito, Chair

Attendees: Jerry E., Christophe T., Aimee I., Dave K., Ken S., Richard M., Caitlin C., Marina F., Patti D., Nicole A., Pat C.

AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm

Meeting [Agenda](#) Review

Reviewed agenda and no changes were made

Approval of Previous [Meeting's Minutes](#)

Minutes were approved with no changes. Motion to approve by Ken S., seconded by Dave K. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Development Reports

M. Feeser

[February](#)

[March](#)

Events Update

M. Feeser

(Dar Williams concert, Bay Banter, Green Screen)

Sold out Dar Williams show - raffle very successful there, brought in about \$750, expecting a couple thousand dollar donation from The Listening Booth soon.

Bay Banter had 26 attendees, very engaged audience, Chantal from IBGC was great and heavily promoted the native plant sale coming up. Donation should be around \$390. Next Bay Banter is July 9 at Thompson Island and the topic is Baygrass.

Green Screen also sold out at 100 guests. Raffle/merch sales were around \$400, extra donations from ticket sales were \$920, and proceeds including from sponsorship is about \$8,300.

Question: Patti asked if there are correlations between event attendees and donations coming in - is there a way to note that in the CRM? (Marina will look into this, but the new CRM has ways to designate event ticket holders so we will know if their donation was related to the event)

Statement of Purpose: The Development Committee of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is a network of Board members, loyal donors, business and community leaders working to achieve the philanthropic goals of the Center through a collaborative effort with the Board and the Center's staff.

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays mission is to preserve, protect and restore Delaware's Inland Bays and their watershed.

New Business

Continuing the Current Funding Challenges Discussion J. Esposito / C. Tulou / All

Christophe gave an update on current funding challenges. Our operating budget from EPA is \$850k. So far we have had access to our funds, but we are concerned if we will continue to be awarded that. BIL funds equal \$910k/year, and our application is in for next FY. It is being reviewed currently. Hopeful for approval on that one. CT has had several meetings with local offices to increase our asks there. County Council is supportive of us generally but facing their own budget challenges too. Council Budget Workshop/Workout conference will be in May and we will know more then. SPC is doing a fundraiser gala in April where they will donate a portion of their proceeds (30%) to the Center:

https://www.sussexpreservationcoalition.org/files/ugd/c994d2_3bbcee5814e34998b381c021b81436d6.pdf

Donor update: Trudi Thompson (Silver Lake resident) gave the Center donation for \$50,000 and promised another donation if we will match the \$50k with donations. Jerry reached out this weekend to Jack Riddle (Community Bank) who is connected to quite a few people and discussed how now is the time to put some money towards where your heart is. Jerry will follow up. CT is happy to talk to anyone the Development Committee can connect us with.

Jerry was at Sea Grant Advisory Council meeting - DE Sea Grant going through the same challenges with federal funding and they had similar strategies. Also did a sign-on letter.

Our estuary program sign-on letter had about 2,400 signatures in support.

Upcoming Events Help

M. Feeser / All

Ocean to Bay Bike Tour Volunteers

Friday May 2 - 12-5 pm at BCBC

Saturday May 3 - 6:30 - noon at Holts Landing SP; OR 12-5 pm at BCBC

Water Family Fest / Native Plant Sale

Saturday May 3 - various times and shifts. All are listed on Better Impact

Decked Out Planning

Marina will reach out to Nicole & Aimee to help with Decked Out planning. Will likely form a subcommittee for planning and handling tasks like advertising, auction items, etc. Food & music may need to be locked in sooner rather than later due to large volume of events occurring in Sept/Oct. Format is extremely important this year. Major chance to get major funding for JF and the Center going forward. Delaware Botanic Garden gala is the same date so we will need to move Decked Out. Patti will look at an event calendar to see conflicts. Will need a tent outside as well as using the facility. Wouldn't move further into the first weekend of October.

NEXT MEETING:

Proposed for Thursday, June 12 / 4:00 PM

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm