



Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Citizen's Cafe

Notes

DATE & TIME

February 13, 2025 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

LOCATION

Option 1: In-person

Delaware Center for the Inland Bays office
39375 Inlet Road
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Option 2: Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83174379002>

Meeting ID: 831 7437 9002

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,83174379002# US

+19292056099,,83174379002# US (New York)

Dial by your location

Meeting ID: 831 7437 9002

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcEQnCJBLu>

- Meeting called to order by: Claire Simmers

ATTENDEES (40)

- CAC members: (9)
 - Attending: 9 (5 online and 4 in person) Dr. Dennis Bartow; Lee Bunting; Gail Dubowe; Dr. Irene Legiec; Tianyin (Tia) Ouyang; Ken Silverstein; Dr. Claire Simmers; Richard Watson
 - Not attending: Stephen Gonski; Jay Headman; Mary Kunst; Frank Piorko; Dr. Ken Sigvardson
- Public (26): 19 online; 7 in person
- Center staff (5): 2 online and 3 in person

AGENDA

Topic: Improving Water Health & Ecosystems

6:00-6:10 pm — Welcome

Claire Simmers, CAC Chair

6:10-6:40 pm — Guest Storytelling

Tia Ouyang, Research & Teaching Assistant, School of Marine Science & Policy, University of Delaware

Presentation Title: Assessing sources and factors that impact carbon and nutrient cycles in the Indian River Bay, Delaware

Study Sites: The Indian River Bay

Goals: 1) investigate sources of nutrients and organic carbons; 2) Relationship between oxygen and organic carbons; 3) Study kinds of nutrients and organic carbons exported via groundwater; and 4) Model biogeochemistry processes.

Conclusion: The protection of wetland and saltmarshes is important and necessary in context of Inland bay water quality.

6:40-7:10 pm — Center Storytelling

Taylor Hoffman, Science Coordinator, CIB

Presentation Title: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Monitoring and Restoration Efforts in Delaware's Inland Bays

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) are rooted, vascular, flowering plants that complete their entire life cycle underwater. Project to harvest and replant Widgeon Grass in several sites in the Inland Bays.

Next Steps:

- Pasture Point Cove planting in April 2025
- Observe interaction of baygrass & oysters
- Viability retested for cold & dry stored seed before spring 2025 plantings
- Monitor 2024 plantings in upcoming spring
- Monitoring South Bethany donor beds for widgeon growth with DNREC & DE Sea Grant
- Assisting in early summer seed harvest from South Bethany

7:10-7:25 pm — Citizen's Input

Comment about the use of the Indian River power plant land (NRG) after shutdown and impacts

- Prospect for restoration and use by US Wind; Center will be vigilant in watching for impacts and use.

Question about the complexity of wetlands and natural control and restoration. Development continuing

- Senator Hanson Fresh Water Wetland protection proposed legislation
- Sussex County Council prospects for change; appropriate land use and protection

Technical question about SAVs – have they been used for freshwater?

- Freshwater SAVs in north of state; brackish SAVs more in Sussex County.

Protection at State level will it protect from Federal takebacks.

- No freshwater protections at federal level, DE is the only state that doesn't have freshwater protections

7:25-8:00 pm — CAC Discussion & CIB Updates

- Approval of CAC meeting minutes - October 24, 2024- approved as circulated.
 - CAC “Rare Earth” working group updates – meeting monthly to work on issues – Backyards to Bays; water quality; over-development in Sussex County - following Sussex County Council and Planning & Zoning; support for tabling events.
 - Sussex County Updates: none this meeting
 - 2025 Executive Order Updates, Christophe Tulou
 - Discussed the future of the Center given federal government is 60% of the Center’s budget
 - We all need to be vocal in our support for the Center at the local, county, state and federal levels.
-

2025 CAC Meeting Schedule

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Thursday, October 23, 2025