



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

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Citizen's Cafe Notes

DATE & TIME:

April 27, 2023 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

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

Meeting ID: 831 7437 9002

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83174379002>

ATTENDEES:

- Meeting called to order by Frank Piorko, CAC member
- CAC members: (7) Frank Piorko, Dennis Bartow, Stephen Gonski, Rick Chamberlin, Lee Bunting, Gail Dubowe, Tia Ouyang.
- CAC not present: (8) Claire Simmers, Ken Silverstein, Gary Cannon, Richard Watson, Amanda Pappas, Jaylyn Powell, Cheryl Rehrig, Ken Sigvardson, Pete Keenen.
- CIB (6)(Christophe Tulou, Lisa Swanger, Caitlin Chaney, Anna Fagan, Bob Collins, Jackie Knoll.
- Public (12) 1 in person, 11 via Zoom.

AGENDA:

6:00-6:15 pm — Welcome

Frank Piorko, Acting CAC Chair

After noting the attendance and thanking participants for attending, Frank and Lisa welcomed the guests and members of the CAC as well as those joining via Zoom.

6:15-6:45 pm — Guest Storytelling

Jodi McLaughlin - Center and Tri-State Bird Rescue Volunteer

Jodi presented a very comprehensive overview of her experience and journey with the all-volunteer Osprey Program. She described her experience with being introduced to birding and her early mentoring that inspired her volunteerism.

Her volunteer experience includes the Citizen Osprey Monitoring Program with DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays' James Farm Ecological Preserve docent program, Tri State Bird Rescue and Research, and Team Osprey.

This citizen science program integrates a lot of common elements to monitoring the success and population dynamics of Ospreys in the Inland Bays. These include working to build osprey platforms, working with partners at the state and local level including agency folks, utility companies, and other non-profits to ensure the nesting habitats are safe and accessible.

Osprey nests are counted and data regarding the nests and reports of bird populations are reported to the partnership that includes Tri-State, Delaware Fish and Wildlife and Center for Inland Bays.

It was pointed out that Canada Geese will nest in the osprey platforms and Horned Owls are predators. April and May are the time of year when the nests are active during the pairing period. Nests are generally within a mile of water.

The 2021 State of the Bays Report cited data that showed a significant increase in Osprey nests with 279 active nests being counted. There is a heavy concentration in Herring Creek and Whites Creek due in part to the number of platforms.

Bird concerns related to injured birds in general should be reported to Tri-State Bird by calling (302) 737-9543.

6:45-7:15 pm — Center Storytelling

Bob Collins - Manager, Programs and Facilities, Center for the Inland Bays

Bob Collins was introduced and began his presentation on the history and variety of living shoreline projects that the Center has been involved in over the past 10 years or so. Living shorelines is a term used to describe shorelines constructed using nature-based materials, and in this context, restoration techniques that focus on providing a living habitat to combat erosion, reduce sedimentation, protect marsh areas and water quality, and allow natural migration of sand and beneficial soil uplift into these shoreline areas.

Living shorelines are designed to be an alternative to bulkheads and rock rip rap to stabilize these sensitive areas. The shorelines are protected with materials that include natural log cribbing, vegetation, and coir fiber logs. Designs must include areas for the ebb and flow of tidal waters and the need for flushing for vegetation to survive.

Bob described all the different projects that the Center staff and partners have worked on over the years, with details of success and challenges with different designs and construction. The Loop Canal, Sassafras Landing, and Read Ave. projects were discussed. The highlighted project of note was the Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek shoreline that was protected with all materials collected on-site, including logs, root wads and native vegetation.

Bob discussed the next few projects that are on the horizon for the Center, including Thompson Island and Sunset Park, and there were questions from the group and public related to how more of these projects could be integrated into the shoreline permitting process.

Lots of conversation regarding living shorelines and larger resiliency issues in the IB's watershed ensued. Christophe mentioned the study with EPA on resiliency in the watershed, along with the 3 year, 2 million dollar storm vulnerability study with the ACOE that may inform the science of places where marsh migration might be considered. Christophe also discussed the issue of private ownership of lands with shorelines that needed to be considered and how that was a challenge.

Jackie mentioned CIB's waterfront property owner guidebook as a good resource, and Lisa began to introduce upcoming education and outreach work on the topic targeting HOA throughout the watershed (e.g., living shorelines bus tour).

Dennis made comments regarding environmental concerns with rip rap impacting horseshoe crabs.

7:15-7:25 pm — Citizen's Input

Other than a few questions regarding the Living Shorelines (Tia commented that the talk was great and asked how expensive the shorelines were related to the cost) and how shell bags were used and how long they last, there was not a lot of general discussion from the public. Questions were asked of each of the guest speakers.

7:25-8:00 pm — CAC Discussion

- Approval of CAC meeting minutes - February 16, 2023.
 - The meeting notes from the February 16, 2023, meeting were approved.
- Discussion-Resolutions - Christophe Tulou, Center Executive Director
 - Christophe began by thanking the members of CAC and stating that he thought the CAC process was a good one.
 - Aquaculture Resolution
 - Christophe deferred more conversation on the aquaculture development facility. It's moving along well.
 - Tree Canopy Resolution
 - High priority. SOB's reference the decline (18% lost over 24 years). Housing demand in the watershed post-pandemic is high. Increase in imperviousness is a big concern as well. Sussex County has completed the aerial photography and is processing the data.

- Todd Lawson is leading an effort to review ordinance language (short term) around open space and cluster ordinance.
- Tree Ordinance – long term regarding catching up to surrounding areas. Most political. Stormwater is being raised as a concern to protecting trees.
- Environmental planner position – not a lot of active conversation around this.
- Christophe also discussed the land-use issues related to Farmland Preservation in eastern Sussex. Frank mentioned the opportunity that exists with a County trusted land-use expertise and how it might be an advantage over DNREC comments. It was suggested by Christophe that this is a continual effort.
- Climate Resolution
 - Christophe explained the state process, proposed legislation—we need to work hard to ensure this is successful.
 - Living shorelines, miles of effort—marshes need to be measured in hundreds of acres. Hundreds of millions of dollars.
 - Referenced the ACOE study and a scale we need to work from—SOB’s loss of marsh is a huge concern.
 - Frank asked about the timing of the study and the funding for CIB that they are getting through the Infrastructure funding.
- Updates - Lisa Swanger - Director of Outreach & Education, Center for the Inland Bays
 - Lisa gave her report and included:
 - Delaware’s Climate Change Solutions Act (Rally)
 - Water Family Fest and Plant Sale
 - Stand Up for the Bays – Holts Landing
 - Lisa provided an update on the drafted FY24 Workplan that focused on a number of efforts listed under the CCMP Education and Outreach Project:
 - CAC Survey – Still need survey responses from some CAC members.
 - HOA Pilot Program – Love Creek Pilot Program
 - Inland Bays Litter Reduction and Removal
 - Shellfish Enhancement Phase 2

Frank thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.