



## **Draft Notes**

### **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

### **Citizen's Cafe**

#### **DATE & TIME**

October 26, 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/82729306327>

Meeting ID: 827 2930 6327

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One tap mobile

+19292056099,,82729306327# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82729306327# US (Washington DC)

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

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Meeting called to order by: Claire Simmers

CAC members: CAC members: 7 (5 zoom (z) + 2 in person (p)): Gail Dubowe (z), Amanda Pappas (z), Tia Ouyang (z), Cheryl Rehrig (p), Ken Sigvardson (p), Claire Simmers (p), Richard Watson (z)

CAC not present: Dennis Bartow, Lee Bunting, Gary Cannon, Frank Piorko, Ken Silverstein

Public: 2 (none on zoom - 2 in person) Lisa Locke, Therese Mulligan

Center staff: 5 (1 zoom - 4 in person) Mark Carter, Anna Fagan, Nivette Perez-Perez; Lisa Swager, Christophe Tulou (z)

Total Attendance: 14: 6 Zoom 8 in person

## AGENDA

*Topic: Climate Change*

6:00-6:10 pm — Welcome

- Welcome - Claire Simmers, CAC Chair

6:10-6:40 pm — Center Storytelling

Christophe Tulou, CIB Executive Director

*Outmuscling Climate Change: Watershed at Risk*

Major Factors: Temperature, Sea Level Rise, Precipitation, Coastal Storms, Acidification

Pocked marked marshes - marshes are drowning. Lack of marshes is a loss of protection for the land and habitats - replacing them is so costly. Goal of CIB is to protect these marshes. Acidification of oceans inhibits shell development, not as noticeable, but trying to grow oyster agriculture in the Bays, so need to be vigilant.

Fighting Back:

1. Back Bay Study - COE/DNREC coastal storm vulnerability assessment of the inland Bays. \$2mil project over 3 yrs. Assess risks and evaluate solutions.
2. Comprehensive Watershed Resilience Study working with US Senate Environment and Public Works committee to mandate a study to build off the relatively limited Back Bay Study to consider a full suite of impacts and appropriate nature-based responses to them.
3. Living Shorelines - Thompson Island is the next project - more nature based. Better than bulkheads
4. Reforestation/Pollinator Meadow Deployment - planting trees/meadows 150,00 trees/239 acres since 2015. Working with HOAs
5. Climate/Energy Planning & Execution - SB99 De Climate Change Solutions Act; Governor's Energy Advisory Council/Energy Plan. Outreach in the counties is coming with the Governor's Energy Advisory Council.
6. CIB will do a lot in the local area; but do need help like SB99 and other legislation.

Questions: Timing of the Back Bay Study and how can citizens get involved?

1. This is the second year and they have held a public meeting. The Coastal Storm Risk Management Study of the Delaware Inland Bays and Delaware Bay Coast (known as the Back Bay Study) will explore potential storm risk management problems and flood risk reduction solutions. It will recommend risk reduction solutions that increase community resilience to coastal storms.

**NOTE: The Delaware Inland Bays and Delaware Bay Coast Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study has been put on hold pending the need for significant additional funding to achieve its identified scope.**

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/beaches/back-bay-study/>

2. Sussex County efforts - Planning & Zoning discussion, trees/tree canopy, County is aware. The public can continue to ask questions and ask for ordinances protecting habitats and development.  
<https://why.org/articles/delaware-sussex-county-woodlands-vanishing-development-consevation/>

6:40-7:10 pm — Guest Storytelling

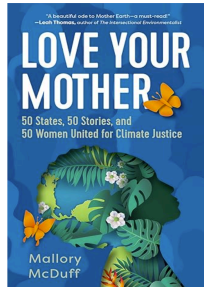
Lisa Locke, Retired Director of Programs at Delaware Interfaith Power & Light  
*Community Engagement*

Religious efforts to climate change; strong relationships with the natural world.

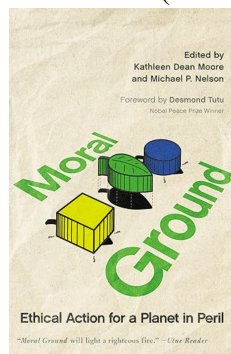
Discussed three efforts.

1. Renew Essay Contest - high school students; 2024 is the third year. 28 submissions in 2022 and 44 in 2023.
  - a. Write on one of three topics
    - i. Youth Climate Action
    - ii. Environmental Justice
    - iii. Personal feelings of connection to the natural world
  - b. Cash prizes; possibility of publishing; rigorous judging;
2. Supporting civic education in Cape Henlopen School District
  - a. Examples of areas: the role of local government; associated career pathways; black history; climate change.
  - b. Go through Cape Gazette and find related articles; write up teaching guides
  - c. 4 other school districts are within the Cape Gazette readership, so room to grow
3. *Love Your Mother* - Climate Justice
  - a. Tells stories of remarkable women stories of climate justice  
From elder voices opposing the Dakota Pipeline to young people running for office to advocate for change, every day we see real-life stories about how women are making a collective difference on climate justice. Women are also disproportionately impacted by climate change and thus are critical to transforming society away from dependence on fossil fuels and toward renewable energy and environmental equity.

From Alabama to Alaska, from Wisconsin to Wyoming, these women are poets, physicians, climate scientists, students, farmers, writers, documentary filmmakers, and more. Their work lights the way for conversation and collective action in our homes and in the world. It's time we follow their lead.



- b. Climate Conversations program is one of Lisa's most important contribution
  - i. Funded by Energize Delaware, over 40 in-personal and virtual conversations were hosted, engaging 1,400 individuals. In post discussion surveys, 55-65% of participants have reported feeling more hopeful and more inspired to take action. They have overwhelmingly learned from, and enjoyed, these animated discussions.
  - ii. no current funding, but hopeful can return
- c. Lisa also recommends: *Moral Ground* (collection of essays)



Questions and discussion about eco/climate anxiety (feelings of being paralyzed and powerlessness) and starting conversations with politicians. Pay attention to the awe and wonder of the world to help talk and find common ground.

7:10-7:25 pm — Citizen's Input

Cheryl Rehrig mentioned attending the very informative Delaware Invasive Species Council annual meeting on October 24. The Delaware Invasive Species Council (DISC) is a non-regulatory organization of nearly 100 scientists, botanists, and ecologists with government, academia, and nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to protect Delaware's ecosystems by preventing the introduction and reducing the impact of non-native species.

Climate Conversations - Lisa Locke will still hold Climate Conversations. Contact her ([lisavlocke@gmail.com](mailto:lisavlocke@gmail.com)) for details

Therese asked what is the best way to "friend" HOA creeks?

Lisa Swager responded that the CIB does eBlasts and has Publications like the - Inland Bays Waterfront Property Guidebook (<https://www.inlandbays.org/get-involved/property-guidebook/>). The CIB will also do presentations to the HOA members and HOAs Boards.

Lisa Locke shared information about pollinator gardens in Wilmington. With funding through The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, Sacred Grounds Wilmington is putting those federal dollars to work building a closely-clustered pollinator corridor. Sacred Grounds Wilmington is a partnership between NWF, Delaware Nature Society (DNS), Delaware Interfaith Power & Light (DIPL), Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH), and Wilmington's over 15,000 member faith community. All participating Sacred Grounds Wilmington congregations received a Mini-grant of \$1,500 to install pollinator habitat on their grounds, purchase necessary garden supplies and tools, and host community engagement activities. In addition, the congregations committed to forming a green team, participating in workshops about the importance of native plants and pollinators, and engaging their larger community. There is interest in expanding to Sussex and Kent counties.

7:25-8:00 pm — CAC Discussion

- Approval of CAC meeting minutes - August 24, 2023 - approved as distributed
- CAC Working Groups update both groups met and are working on the Work Plans. Several members of Rare Earth attended the Invasive Species conference mentioned by Cheryl earlier
- CAC open discussion - nothing more to add to what was previously shared
- Tracking CAC hours via My Impact App  
Nivette Perez-Perez, Community Science Manager

1. Sign in to this url: <https://btrr.im/tfqv0>
2. Complete application
3. Download My Impact app to your phone/device
4. Read the welcome email and complete waiver.
5. Approval and further set-up of volunteer application by Nivette
6. Begin using
7. Contact is: Nivette M. Pérez-Pérez (she/ her/ hers); Manager of Community Science; Delaware Center for the Inland Bays; 39375 Inlet Road; Rehoboth Beach, DE 1997; ph: (302) 226-8105 ext: 709



**Volunteer with us!**

**Start by filling out a volunteer application**

Complete the Center's volunteer application on Better Impact by scanning the QR code below and become a volunteer for the Bays!



Access link: <https://btr.im/tfqv0>



[www.inlandbays.org](http://www.inlandbays.org)

**Then download the FREE My Impact App**

Use the My Impact app to access your profile, search and sign up for volunteer opportunities, log hours, and more with ease.

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

- Center Updates - Lisa Swanger, CIB Director of Outreach & Education Friends of the Bays

Nov 02, 2023 5:00-8:00pm Awards and Volunteer Appreciation Party Crooked Hammock Lewes

Nov 09 - Winter Lecture Series - Rooting in Nature: Supporting Healthy Soils & Habitats in the Inland Bays Georgetown and virtual

Nov 12 Horseshoe Crab Hustle 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk

Nov 28 Giving Tuesday \$5K challenge match, please continue your generosity

## 2024 CAC Meeting Schedule:

### 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Thursday, August 22, 2024

Thursday, October 24, 2024