



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

Meeting Minutes

Center for the Inland Bays
Indian River Inlet Facility

March 27, 2015

Approved May 29, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

<i>Board Members Present</i>	<i>Board Alternates Present</i>
Joanne Cabry (<i>Chair, House</i>)	Hal Godwin (<i>Sussex County</i>)
David Baird (<i>Treasurer, SCD</i>)	Robin Tyler (<i>STAC</i>)
Diane Hanson (<i>SCAT</i>)	Frank Piorko (<i>Vice Chair</i>)
Susie Ball (<i>Secretary, CAC</i>)	
Rob Robinson (<i>Senate</i>)	<i>EPA Representatives</i>
Secretary Ed Kee (<i>DDA</i>)	Ed Ambrogio (<i>EPA Reg. III</i>)
	Mike Hoffmann (<i>EPA Reg. III</i>)
<i>Board Members Absent</i>	
Todd Lawson (<i>Sussex County</i>)	<i>Center for the Inland Bays Staff</i>
Dr. Scott Andres (<i>STAC</i>)	Chris Bason
David Small (<i>DNREC</i>)	Loretta Smith
	Sally Boswell
	Jenn Jones
	Marianne Walch

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS:

David Baird motioned to approve the minutes of the DEC 12, 2014 Board of Directors meeting; seconded by D. Hanson. Passed unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Joanne Cabry called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:

J. Cabry called for any changes to the agenda and heard none.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Susie Ball directed attention to the minutes of the DEC 12, 2014 Board of Directors meeting and requested any additions or corrections. Hearing none, she requested a motion to approve the minutes. David Baird made the motion and was seconded by Diane Hanson. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

David Baird directed attention to the Board Budget Summary and noted that the Finance Committee reviewed the report. D. Hanson asked about the CIB’s application of indirect rates to project grants. C. Bason replied that when CIB applies for project grants it includes a 31% indirect rate on salary to cover the shared, non-direct costs of the organization. The Chair accepted the report as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

S. Ball reported that the CAC met on February 19, 2015. Three standing committees were formed: outreach, residential fertilization, and bacterial contamination. Two ad-hoc committees, operating rules revision and diversity, are also working. Work will be done mostly in the sub-committees.

Water Use Plan Implementation Committee

C. Bason reported WUPIC met twice since the last Board Meeting. Three groups including trash cleanup, waterway management & financing, and aquaculture education have formed and met. The trash cleanup group is managing the Inland Bays cleanup and will explore methods for keeping trash out of the water. The waterway management and financing group is awaiting word from DNREC on how it can support sustainable financing efforts. The aquaculture education group met with Center staff and decided that the best education to address many of the concerns that had been expressed by the public would be for a farm to get going. F. Piorko and Ed Ambrogio mentioned that the EPA trash free waters program might have some useful materials for preventing trash from entering waters.

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

STAC Vice Chair Dr. Robin Tyler reported that the STAC meeting was postponed due to weather until April 24th.

Executive Committee

J. Cabry directed the Board to the notes of the Executive Committee meeting from March 15. There were no comments or questions.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Sussex County

Hal Godwin reported that Sussex County continues to expand central sewer in the watershed.

Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

Frank Piorko reported that DNREC is exploring how increases in boat registration fees might occur per the recommendations of the Waterways Management and Financing Committee. They have found that by federal law boat registration fees must be the same for in-state and out-of-state boaters. Work continues on designing the middle island restoration site and projected costs continue to increase. DNREC is working with developers and poultry farmers to provide flexibility in implementing storm water regulations.

Delaware Department of Agriculture

Sec. Ed Kee thanked F. Piorko and D. Baird for their work implementing the storm water regulations. He remarked that State budgets are tight and state employees have not had a raise since 2006. Ag-lands preservation is currently in the proposed budget at \$3 million.

Sussex Conservation District

D. Baird reported that \$1.5 million is in the proposed bond bill for conservation cost share programs, which equates to \$650,000 for Sussex County. Over \$2 million in conservation requests came from Sussex County last year. The cost share program is basically a cover crop program. The District continues its soil health workshops. R. Tyler remarked that he sees less cover crop this year than in previous years. D. Baird responded that when primary crops are harvested late, cover crop implementation is less. Ed Kee added that when wheat prices are low, as they are now, incentives to grow this cover crop are less. He remarked that there is work ongoing to quantify cover crops not installed with cost share funds. The planting of radishes for improved soil health was discussed.

Sussex County Association of Towns

Diane Hanson reported that she has been unable to attend SCAT meetings due to weather and family illness.

Environmental Protection Agency

Ed Ambrogio described the concept of Blue Carbon. He mentioned there could be some pilot study money from EPA for Blue Carbon available. An EPA staffer is writing a white paper on

pervious pavements. There is a rescission underway on EPA's passed budget that might affect the Non-point Source Program.

General Assembly Updates

House

R. Robinson reported that the General Assembly has not been in session in order that the Joint Finance Committee could meet. Legislators are focused on budgetary issues.

Senate

J. Cabry echoed R. Robinson's report.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of CIB Science & Restoration Coordinator

J. Cabry welcomed Marianne Walch who provided a brief bio and expressed her appreciation to the Board.

Approval of 2014 Financial Statements

J. Cabry asked Chris Bason to present the statements which were not covered during the Treasurer's report. C. Bason directed the Board's attention to the audited financial statements and reported that the Center's A-133 audit had no findings reportable to the EPA. He thanked Loretta and staff for their work on implementing financial controls. D. Baird recommended the statements and audit be accepted. The Chair approved the statements and audit.

Executive Director Update

C. Bason recognized Dr. Dennis Bartow for his receipt this week of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. C. Bason reviewed a list of Center events. Jenn Jones asked Board Members to attend the Native Plant Sale Pre-party and bring colleagues and friends that might like to support the Center. He reported that a Marine Contractor Training was held at the end of February and trained 17 consultants and contractors. All participants said the training was a good use of their time and requested additional training.

The Chair called a five minute recess.

CIB Strategic Plan Discussion and Approval

C. Bason reviewed the strategic planning process and presented the draft plan for approval. He reviewed the revised goals and mission statement and requested any questions, none were heard. Discussions were held as follows under the individual Priority Areas:

Increase and diversify funding to implement the Inland Bays CCMP and to grow the CIB's endowment. E. Ambrogio asked what would be involved in supporting legislation for a clean water fee. C. Bason replied helping to convene stakeholders affected by the legislation and seeking input on a draft bill. E. Kee remarked that unexpected outcomes may come from amending CIB's enabling legislation and C. Bason suggested that the Board must objectively assess those risks prior to acting. D. Baird inquired about the purposes for the private donations and C. Bason replied that some donations would be restricted to projects while some would be unrestricted for the endowment or general operations.

F. Piorko suggested that continuing to advocate for a property tax may not be the best solution to generating income for clean water. J. Cabry suggested that item 6 be altered to read support legislation but that it does not specifically mention the Governor's Plan. E. Kee suggested that the language 'support strategies' would be more appropriate. H. Godwin recommended that C. Bason consult with the Speaker of the House on such legislation. E. Kee suggested that this goal may be a three year goal. H. Godwin asked if the revenue generated from this approach could be tied to actual water improvement needs and C. Bason replied that the Pollution Control Strategy identifies those needs.

F. Piorko remarked that if the message was to expand the Board to bring additional points of view that was acceptable; he did not want the message to be to expand the Board to generate revenue.

Increase Board participation and interaction to implement CCMP as advised by Committee outputs. E. Kee suggested that expanding the participation of university researchers to include all researchers.

Partnerships. E. Kee suggested that the agricultural community be added as a key partnership.

Overall Discussion. D. Hanson complemented the target dates for completion. E. Kee suggested that cropland reforestation would not occur to a large extent in the Inland Bays watershed. It was decided to expand the language concerning cropland reforestation to refer to cost-effective nutrient management across all sectors. R. Robinson remarked that the plan has no quantifiable improvements in the plan and asked if these should be included. D. Hanson replied that those goals should be part of an operational plan. F. Piorko added that the CCMP has such goals. C. Bason remarked that the Watershed Planner can help to set annual measurable goals.

J. Cabry noted the strategic plan was a collaborative effort of the Board and staff. She thanked Chris Bason for his work and leadership throughout the process. The plan was agreed upon with the edits discussed and any minor edits necessary for design and clarity.

OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Cabry adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Ball, Secretary –
SB/cwb