



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

Meeting Minutes

Center for the Inland Bays
Indian River Inlet Facility
December 18th, 2015
Approved

ATTENDANCE:

<i>Board Members Present</i>	<i>Board Alternates Present</i>
Joanne Cabry (<i>Chair, House</i>)	Frank Piorko (<i>Vice Chair</i>)
Diane Hanson (<i>SCAT</i>)	
Rob Robinson (<i>Senate</i>)	<i>Center for the Inland Bays Staff</i>
Susie Ball (<i>Secretary, CAC</i>)	Chris Bason
Dr. Scott Andres (<i>STAC</i>)	Emily Seldomridge
David Baird (<i>Treasurer, SCD</i>)	Sally Boswell
Secretary Ed Kee (<i>DDA</i>)	Brittany Burslem
<i>Board Members Absent</i>	<i>Members of the Public</i>
Todd Lawson (<i>Sussex County</i>)	Bob Batky
David Small (<i>DNREC</i>)	
Ed Ambrogio (<i>EPA</i>)	

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Joanne Cabry called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:

J. Cabry verified everyone had time to look over the agenda and requested any changes, to which there were none.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

S. Ball requested any corrections to the minutes and heard none. S. Ball requested a motion to approve the Secretary's report. Ed Kee made the motion and was seconded by Rob Robinson. The report was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

David Baird provided the treasurer's report. D. Baird directed the Board's attention to the annual budget summary and budget to actual comparison. D. Baird noted the summary and detail were reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended for approval to the board. D. Baird motioned to accept the report and was seconded by Ed Kee. There were no questions and the report was accepted as presented. It was decided that, going forward, the board will vote to accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's report for consistency.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:*Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)*

S. Ball reported that the CAC is continuing to work on their diversity plan. S. Ball requested board members brainstorm candidates for CAC and reported there are couple of candidates that they were going to speak to in the next few of weeks. CAC requested STAC look into lawn fertilization which Scott Andres will report on during the STAC report. Outreach Committee meetings will be combined with Love Creek meetings going forward. There were no questions.

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

S. Andres reported STAC held their quarterly meeting December 11th, with about 30 in attendance. S. Andres reported on the introduction of new a coordinator for Nutrient Management program from the Department of Agriculture. Three presentations were made at the STAC meeting, the first by Dave Wolanski of DNREC on watershed assessment and management, the second by Sally Boswell on the Your Creek projects, and the third on STAC's findings in response to the CAC's request to investigate lawn fertilization. The lawn fertilization committee discovered that in regards to turf nitrogen is not an issue as it is for agriculture. The community perception is turf fertilizing is not done correctly and there is a risk for loss of nitrogen due to turf management activities. STAC's recommendations include better information on fertilization formulation and surveys of the lawn care community. In regards to phosphorus export rates, turf is in same ballpark as agriculture. There needs to be a focus on sediment and storm water control in order to control phosphorus loading. Ed Kee stated he is open to working on legislation in the next session to ban fertilizers containing phosphorus as in surrounding states. DDA, CAC and STAC will continue to work together towards legislation.

Executive Committee

Joanne Cabry reported that the Committee met on December 8th to prepare the board meeting agenda.

J. Cabry commented on possibility of changing the organization of board meetings to include presentations with more focus on topics already scheduled for discussion.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Sussex County

Sussex County was not in attendance so Chris Bason reported on conversations with Todd Lawson. C. Bason informed board he invited T. Lawson to be the representative to the board, T. Lawson will consider. The County recently hired a county engineer, Hanz Medlarz, who would also be a good person to attend Board meetings.

Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

Frank Piorko reported that DNREC is continuing to evolve storm water regulations. DNREC is very close to finalizing the plan review and approval template for poultry house construction that is an improvement to the prior process. DNREC is also working on waterway management and hoping for movement in the legislature this year towards financing for waterway management. DNREC plans to hire several new staff members in the first quarter of next year, with hopes to have dedicated science staff for the Inland Bays Watershed.

Delaware Department of Agriculture

Ed Kee reported on a new hire, Chris Brosch, DDA's nutrient management section manager. On the regulatory side, DDA held a public hearing on CAFO (concentrated animal feeding operations) regulations and should be issuing CAFO permits to farms in February unless there is an appeal. E. Kee reported 175 farmers (19,000 acres) have applied to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program.

Sussex County Association of Towns

Diane Hanson reported that a resolution on seismic testing has passed for Lewes, SCAT is working on a similar resolution for Rehoboth and other coastal towns.

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA did not attend the meeting; no report was heard.

General Assembly Updates

House & Senate

Rob Robinson and J. Cabry had nothing to report. D. Hanson inquired as to whether the budget would affect the CIB. It was advised that there would be some significant budget issues but the extent is unknown at this time and would have more info at the March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of CIB Watershed Coordinator

C. Bason introduced Emily Seldomridge to the Board and advised her job is to coordinate partners and their staff to understand and implement the Pollution Control Strategy and to assess progress on Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

Emily informed the board of her education and work experience.

C. Bason presented the board with a flowchart on the Center's staff organization.

Removal of CAC member Steve Callanen

J. Cabry informed the Board of three requests for meetings between Steve Callanen, Chris Bason, Joanne Cabry and Susie Ball; all of which S. Callanen refused. J. Cabry spoke of inappropriate behavior she had witnessed at CAC meetings which make it difficult for CAC Chair S. Ball to perform her duties, as well as complaints S. Ball has received from other CAC members. J. Cabry reported on S. Callanen's inappropriate use of email to contact staff members directly despite it being against CAC operating rules. J. Cabry recommended S. Callanen be removed from CAC as he is unwilling to discuss his behavior. Ed Kee questioned whether S. Callanen's behavior is generally disruptive or not part of the team. J. Cabry gave an example of a time when S. Ball requested info from S. Callanen and he threw a pile of paper across a table. E. Kee motioned to remove S. Callanen as CAC member. D. Baird seconded the motion. F. Piorko commented that this decision is not taken lightly and spoke of inappropriate correspondence he himself had received from S. Callanen. J. Cabry reiterated that the operating rules state communication with CIB staff go through CAC chair which S. Callanen is in violation of. The vote to remove was unanimous.

Nomination of Heidi Gilmore to Board of Directors

J. Cabry informed the Board of changes to the bylaws that allows for additional members. J. Cabry reported on her meeting with Heidi Gilmore (recommended by Jenn Jones and Chris Bason and S. Ball). J. Cabry recommended H. Gilmore as a board member for election and Rob Robinson agreed, having worked with H. Gilmore in the legal community. R. Robinson motioned to approve; Ed Kee seconded. The vote to elect H. Gilmore was unanimous.

J. Cabry requested board recommend additional possible members of the board to Chris Bason.

Presentation on Sussex Conservation District Soil Health and Cover Crop Efforts

Presentation provided by David Baird

The conservation cost share program provides farmers with a monetary incentive to plant cover crop. The benefits of planting cover crops include erosion control, improved water quality, retention of nutrients and higher yields. A few reasons farmers choose not to plant include the sale of land to developers, weather causing a late harvest and therefore not allowing enough time to plant cover crop, and ditches that make it hard to navigate. In order to overcome these challenges, Sussex Conservation District markets cover crop as a wise financial decision in addition to good land stewardship. In July of 2015 Sussex Conservation District purchased an air seeder, a piece of equipment that allows for cover crop to be planted before the main crop is harvested. This alleviated the time crunch previously encountered when trying to plant cover crop after the main crop is harvested. There has been a positive response to the new machinery with 4,000 acres planted in 2015 and a goal of 8,000 acres in 2016.

D. Baird encouraged Board to let people know the value of cover crops and its impact on the bays and continue funding and increase funding. Rob Robinson asked if the subsidy provided to the farmers by the SCD covered the full cost of planting cover cost. D. Baird advised that while costs to plant cover crop vary widely the subsidy is about half the cost incurred. D. Baird informed the Board the Maryland pays a much higher subsidy and as a result sees more cover crop being planted. Chris Bason observed that state and federal funding is lacking for these types of programs and questioned whether there were cover crops that would encourage farmers to plant without a government subsidy. D. Baird said that at times there is a market for cover crop and Ed Kee informed the Board that wheat is the one cover crop with a dual purpose and often times farmers will plant it and decide whether to harvest based on performance.

Organization of Board Meetings

J. Cabry suggested having themes for meeting. J. Cabry suggested keeping the CAC and STAC report but opened discussion on whether other reports are needed. E. Kee responded he gets a lot out of the reports but does like idea of having focused meetings. J. Cabry suggested moving up the Executive Committee meetings in order to allow more time to formulate and review agenda.

R. Robinson expressed interest in hearing from staff on projects they are working on. C. Bason requested board meeting topics remain in line with CCMP implementation.

OPEN FORUM

R. Robinson asked for a report from Army Corps on aquaculture permits. C. Bason spoke with Ed Bonner from the Corps in the spring and was told to expect report around September. F. Piorko will investigate and send info to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Cabry adjourned the meeting at 3:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Ball, Secretary –
SB/blb