



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Annual Meeting
Center for the Inland Bays
Indian River Inlet Facility
SEP 15, 2017
Approved DEC 15, 2017

ATTENDANCE

<i>Board Members Present</i>	<i>Board Alternates Present</i>
Joanne Cabry (Chair, House)	Hans Medlarz (Sussex County)
Diane Hanson (SCAT)	Bob Palmer (DNREC)
Susie Ball (Vice Chair, CAC)	
Rob Robinson (Senate)	<i>Center for the Inland Bays Staff</i>
Scott Andres (STAC)	Chris Bason
	Andrew McGowan
<i>Board Members Absent</i>	Marianne Walch
Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)	
Todd Lawson (Sussex County)	<i>Members of Public</i>
Jonathan Forte (Board Elected)	Senator Bryan Townsend
David Baird (Treasurer, SCD)	Laura Walters, Coastal Point Newspaper
Michelle Price-Fay (EPA)	
Vickie York (Secretary, Board-Elected)	
Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)	

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING AGENDA REVIEW/WELCOME

Chair Joanne Cabry called the annual meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She directed attention to the agenda, requested any changes and heard none.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

J. Cabry indicated that Vickie York was not present due to a conflict and directed attention to the minutes. S. Andres offered a correction to the minutes to add his attendance and J. Cabry pointed out that Susie Ball is to be listed as the Vice Chair. A vote to approve the minutes was delayed until Hans Medlarz arrived at the meeting to make quorum. At that time, J. Cabry requested a motion for approval of the minutes with revisions and the treasurer's report. Rob Robinson made the motion, was seconded by S. Ball, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Bason provided the report in David Baird's absence and noted the Finance Committee had reviewed the financial reports and recommended for approval. The report was approved later in the meeting when quorum was achieved [see Secretary's Report].

REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

S. Ball reported that the CAC did not meet since the last Board Meeting. The CAC is presenting a course on the Inland Bays to the Osher Life Long Learning program.

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

S. Andres reported Richard Watson joined STAC. Two meetings since the last Board Meeting were held. S. Andres complemented the contributions of Andrew McGowan to STAC. STAC heard a presentation from Andrew Martin, Delaware Wildlands, on the Cypress Swamp Wetlands Restoration Project. Paul Imhoff, UD, presented on his research on the use of biochar to reduce nitrate from stormwater runoff. Scott reported that new research is showing that radionuclides are being released from infiltrating stormwater due to the addition of road salt in runoff; this is being promoted by infiltration based stormwater regulations. A report on the effect of agricultural irrigation on nitrogen transport found that irrigation caused the nitrogen loads from fields to increase over the three-year study. Bob Palmer felt that the reason the loads increased was because the irrigation was poorly managed. Scott responded that that type of management was common and that improved irrigation management was needed.

DNREC

Bob Palmer reported that although a recent election brought changes to the City of Rehoboth Beach's Board of Commissioners, the Rehoboth Outfall project is moving forward. Hans Medlarz added that the City and the County have a signed written agreement to continue. B. Palmer thanked Center staff for their partnership on Division of Watershed Stewardship workdays at the James Farm.

NEW BUSINESS

Clean Water and Flood Abatement Task Force Report

Senator Bryan Townsend called in to present the report. The Senator's first legislative priority this year is Clean Water for Delaware legislation. He intended to file it late last legislative session, but the budget debacle prevented that. Sponsors of draft legislation to be filed in the House next session include Rep. Mulrone (prime), Sen Hansen (prime), Baumbach, Brady, Hudson, Longhurst, Lynn, Osienski, and Sokola. Bryan described the benefits of the legislation. The legislation creates a lock box fund for clean water projects and assesses a fee on a sliding scale of up to \$40 for individuals paying income taxes (up to \$80 per family) and \$45 fees on business licenses to generate \$20 million per year which would be leveraged with matching monies and bonds. Projects would be prioritized. The administration has been generally

supportive and is thinking this through its priorities. Bryan encouraged that those legislators that have districts with economies based on clean water to sign on as sponsors and support the bill. He feels that if those legislators cannot support, the bill will not pass. J. Cabry asked if money generated by the bill in one County will be spent in one County. B. Townsend confirmed that requirement is not in the bill but that much of the clean water needs are in Sussex County. Hans Medlarz remarked that communication should be made clear that the bill will generate new money for new projects; it is supplemental and should not cover operating budgets. D. Hanson asked if Bryan would address the Sussex County Association of Towns on the issue and he agreed. B. Palmer remarked DNREC has a \$78 million backlog of flooding and drainage projects that need attention. J. Cabry suggested that at the December Board meeting the Board develop a statement supporting the bill.

At the end of this agenda item H. Medlarz reported that the Wolfe Neck Reforestation Project has been slowed by an inability of the DNREC Division of State Parks and the County to reach a legal agreement on indemnification, access, and insurance. Parks has issued the County a commitment to resolve the issues by the end of the year.

Recognition of the Efforts of the Board of Directors

J. Cabry acknowledged the long-term efforts of the Board through their unique qualities and experiences they bring to the Board including their volunteerism and dedication.

Activities Update from the Executive Director

The environmental monitoring plan has been completed. The plan fully describes all of the ongoing monitoring efforts from all entities in the watershed and identifies monitoring gaps and how to fill them. The most important gap is the estuarine hydrodynamic and water quality model and the watershed nutrient loading model. The State of Dirickson Creek Report was completed in June (report distributed) and a press event featuring Senator Carper was held. The Dewey Beach Read Avenue Living Shoreline Project has been funded and initiated. Three new eelways will be implemented this month. The Inland Bays Cleanup was held on June 13 collecting 1,300 pounds of trash using 70 volunteers. The Don't Chuck Your Shucks Program collected 3,300 bushels of shell this year. The Oyster Gardening Program planted 25 bushels of oysters around the South Bethany Canals. The Dewey Beach Stormwater Master Plan has been completed. The Watershed Reforestation plan has completed a mapping tool to identify the best parcels to reforest for nutrient removal and wildlife habitat. The Watershed Coordinator search is just finishing up its second round of solicitations. A partnership with the Del Tech upward bound program was established at the James Farm. The 3rd annual clean water rally was held in June on the Dover Mall. The Friend of the Bays Awards will be presented at the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Event. C. Bason presented the Center's outreach metrics including a television interview with Katie Young and a WHYY interview on oyster shell recycling. He reported the Decked Out event netted \$20,000, that the Tidewater Utilities Golf Tournament will result in \$20,000, and that the Freeman Foundation presented \$7,220 to the Center. He presented a draft bill that would increase the fees that the Center receives from the environmental license plate.

Chris provided a review and update on the progress on the James Farm Master Plan including the proposal to the Longwood Foundation. R. Robison asked if there was opportunity for expansion of properties adjacent to the farm. C. Bason replied there were not but that some pieces of the property will transfer to County ownership after the passing of the last relative of the Lighthipe family that has lifetime rights. He described the planned expansion of education programs at the Farm. He requested that the Board support the fundraising effort by communicating the project within their circles.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Session Entered at 11:20 a.m.

Executive Director Performance Evaluation

The Board Came out of executive session at 11:50 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie York, Secretary/cwb –