



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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Center for the Inland Bays  
 Indian River Inlet Facility  
 DEC 14, 2018  
 Approved MAR 08, 2019

### ATTENDANCE

<i>Board Members Present</i>	<i>Board Members Absent</i>
David Baird (Treasurer, SCD)	Pat Coluzzi (House)
Richard Mais (SCAT)	Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)
Susie Ball (Chair, Board-Elected)	Todd Lawson (Sussex County)
Claire Simmers (CAC)	Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)
Mike Dunmyer (Board-Elected)	Michelle Price-Fay (EPA)
Jonathan Forte (Board-Elected)	Scott Andres (STAC)
	Rob Robinson (Senate)
<i>Center for the Inland Bays Staff</i>	
Chris Bason	<i>Board Alternates Present</i>
Marianne Walch	Terry Deputy (DNREC)
Brittany Burslem	Chris Brosch (DDA)
Michelle Schmidt	
Anna Short	

### CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Susie Ball called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

S. Ball announced Vickie York, previous secretary, has resigned from the board. S. Ball directed the Board to the minutes of the last meeting and requested any corrections or changes to the minutes; hearing none she requested a motion for approval of the minutes. Mike Dunmyer made the motion and was seconded by Claire Simmers. The vote for approval was unanimous.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

David Baird directed the board's attention to the board budget summary. Chris Bason highlighted funding sources that have been added since the original budget was approved. As well as a new portion of the report summarizing the endowment account and reserves account balances.

D. Baird then directed the Board's attention to the updated investment policy. C. Bason described the addition of a focus on sustainable investing based on the motion at the previous board meeting. C. Bason explained that it was determined that no changes were needed in regards to the second motion at the previous meeting concerning risk.

D. Baird requested a motion to approve both the board budget summary and investment policy. Jonathan Forte made the motion and

## **OTHER REPORTS**

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

Claire Simmers reported the CAC currently has 10 members, 1 member to be voted on, and 1 provisional member; as well as 2 open officer positions, Vice chair and secretary. At the November meeting CAC heard reports from the standing committees on membership and recruiting, outreach and education, and environmental toxics as well the 2 issues committees on climate change and buffers and density ordinances. C. Simmers reported the CAC has drafted an updated set of operating rules to be approved by the CAC in January and then passed on to the executive director and then the board. Draft changes include update to membership requirements and allowance for electronic meeting attendance.

### **Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

Marianne Walch reported on the November STAC meeting which included 2 presentations from experts on modeling of estuaries, one of the STAC's current focuses. The STAC is working on identifying contractors and experts who may be able to assist in building a model or provide feedback on their previous experiences. The February meeting will again be focused on modeling and a monitoring committee is being assembled.

### **Development Committee**

Mike Dunmyer reported there is a new member on the committee, Ken Sigvardsen, and that recruitment for the committee continues. Since the previous meeting a successful fundraiser was held at Gallery One and Anna Short has come on as Fundraiser. Major Donor development and Corporate partnerships are the focus in the coming year. M. Dunmyer reported planning is underway for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Affirmation of the Board email poll to release the recommendations section of the Mountaire Committee Report**

S. Ball reported the Mountaire committee met again and decided to recommend to the board that the recommendations section of the report be released. After S. Ball contacted the board and received an affirmative vote the recommendations

section was released. S. Ball requested the board members affirm their email vote, the vote carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of CAC Member Application: Bob Linett**

C. Simmers introduced Bob Linett who has worked with the EPA in the past and spearheaded the CAC committee for environmental toxins. C. Simmers described him as thoughtful and attentive. C. Simmers motioned that Bob Linett be accepted as a CAC member, M. Dunmyer seconded, the motion carried.

### **Annual Appeal Update**

Anna Short, Fundraiser, informed the board the annual appeal has been expanded, over 1500 letters were mailed, with special effort towards volunteers who have not donated in the past. The annual appeal will also feature an email and social media component. To date the annual appeal has reached 20% of its goal. S. Ball inquired as to whether we're currently on a comparable track to last year's appeal and A. Short answered yes. S. Ball gave a brief overview of the new tax laws which may have a negative effect on end of year giving.

### **Executive Director Update**

C. Bason gave an update focused on the top 10 successes of the center over the past year.

1. Removal of the Rehoboth Beach Wastewater Discharge
2. Commencement of Oyster Farming in the Inland Bays

In response to a question from D. Baird, C. Bason reported there are currently 3 active operators over about 5-6 acres, of 200+ available acres.

3. Groundbreaking on Phase 1 of the James Farm Master Plan

S. Ball inquired as to when Phase 1 will be complete to which C. Bason answered April at the latest.

4. County Approves Stormwater Management Districts

D. Baird expressed approval and noted this was an aggressive move in the right direction on the county's part.

5. County Board of Adjustments approves plan including removal of final point source at Allen Harim

6. County approves Clean Bay Renewables Facility in watershed

Chris Brosch informed the board on the concerns surrounding the building of the facility including a lack of litter to funnel to the facility. Jonathan Forte inquired as to whether farmers were in favor of the new facility and C. Brosch answered that the facility was going to disrupt the supply of nutrients but that he felt the markets would adjust. Terry Deputy asked whether it was a good thing that litter, and hence nutrients, were diminishing and C. Brosch answered that recently needs were in balance and this facility would disrupt the balance. R. Mais inquired as to whether

the balance has come about due to less manure, or more crops, or both, to which C. Brosch answered mostly due to an increase in growing productivity resulting in more crops despite a loss of agriculture acreage. C. Brosch informed the board in addition to nutrient management, genetics has increase yields and resulted in more efficient nutrient usage. A concern surrounding the facility is that it would siphon off manure that would otherwise be of use to fertilize crops and while the facility will produce a useable substitution it will strip out some of the useful nutrients. However, the facility's product eliminates the risk of over applying phosphorus.

7. County passes ordinance to exclude tidal wetlands from density calculations
8. Clean Water for Delaware Act makes it to Committee in Legislature

D. Baird explained Sussex Conservation District's, as well as the Kent and New Castle District's, concerns with the bill and informed the board he and his colleagues had met with Chris and others to try to correct some of the concerns.

9. Most successful Decked Out! event.
10. Over \$650,000 in grants awarded to CIB and its projects

C. Bason presented the strategic plan in a balanced score card approach.

C. Bason presented on outreach metrics.

A. Short gave a development update including an update on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala and the annual appeal.

M. Walch gave a Science and Restoration Program update including water quality monitoring on the Indian River, the South Bethany Floating Wetlands project, the citizen science program, the Sassafras landing tree planting, the living shoreline initiative, and the shellfish enhancement program.

Michelle Schmidt gave an update on CCMP progress. Due to a mandate from the EPA that the Center complete a CCMP revision by 2023 M. Schmidt reported she is in discussion with the EPA to potentially switch the current update process to a full revision. After that decision the next step will be a workshop with all CCMP signatories.

S. Ball inquired as to whether T. Deputy could give us an update on DNREC's involvement as a signatory. T. Deputy informed the board that Secretary Garvin is aware that a response is needed from DNREC and T. Deputy committed to doing what he could to push things forward.

C. Simmers inquired as to whether DNREC's participation was more important in a revision vs. an update and M. Schmidt answered that in her opinion DNREC's involvement was equally important to either process.

C. Bason informed the board that some comments from DNREC had been received but that a commitment to a schedule moving forward was needed. T. Deputy said there were comments he believed could be addressed rather quickly but that he was unable to give a commitment to Secretary Garvin's schedule.

C. Bason expressed frustration that completion of the process was being held up by DNREC and he requested guidance from the board. S. Ball inquired as to whether it was a possibility to proceed without DNREC as a signatory. T. Deputy recommended against

bypassing DNREC at this point and expressed his view that there are still a view options as a pass forward. T. Deputy recommended at least having a face to face meeting with Secretary Garvin before making a decision to proceed without DNREC as a signatory. T. Deputy committed to addressing comments made by his staff but reiterated he did not have the authority to make any commitments on the part of Secretary Garvin. M. Schmidt suggested we wait to hear about EPA's decision re: revision vs update and then seek an in person meeting with Secretary Garvin in mid-January.

S. Ball requested an official motion for action. M. Dunmyer motioned that the board support taking affirmative action to strength their relationship with Secretary Garvin and to seek a working meeting with all parties necessary to close out the remaining issues for Secretary Garvin's signature by February 1<sup>st</sup>. C. Simmers seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 votes in favor.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Ball/cwb –