



Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Approved October 15, 2020

Citizen's Cafe Minutes

DATE & TIME: *THUR July 23, 2020; 6:00-7:45*

LOCATION: Zoom*

Center for the Inland Bays

39375 Inlet Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Meeting called to order by: Claire Simmers

Attendees: Amanda Pappas, Lisa Swanger, Bob Collins, Claire Simmers, Anna Short, Barbara Hannah, Dennis Bartow, Glenn Christman, Susan Ball, Susie Miller, Richard Watson, Charlie Garlow, Dana Schaefer, Jim LaBella, Jodi McLaughlin, Linda Grande, Liz Nalle, Richard Watson, Susan Ball, Susie Miller, Tom Brett

CAC: Claire Simmers (Chair), Dennis Barstow, Tom Brett, Linda Grande, Amanda Pappas, Richard Watson.

CACnot attending: Gary Cannon, Pete Keenan, Cheryl Rehrig

CIB: Bob Collins; Lisa Swanger

6:06-Meeting begins

6:09- one minute of silence Claire calls as remembrance for those suffering from illness or persecution

6:10- Introductions (concerns listed for those who voiced them)

Charlie Garlow-climate action

Dana Schaefer-Cub scout leader, requests resources on how to get kids more involved with outreach programs

Jim LaBella-climate change

Liz Nalle-land use, native plants incorporate them in the environment

Susie-water quality/land development

Tom Brett-renewable energy/climate change

Rick Chamberland-health of the inland bays

6:15-6:45 CIB Storytelling

Bob Collins, Program Manager

"100 Images of the James Farm".

-owned by Sussex County

-managed by CIB

-improvements in parking

-next campus

-busy during pandemic

-Jim Alderman "father of the James Farm"

-2012 welcome kiosk was renovated

-freshwater wetland was constructed through US Fish and Wildlife grant

-reestablishment of oysters in 2004 was unsuccessful, present day seeing more success

- James Farm used as staging area for other projects
- certified wildlife habitat
- “hot spot” for horseshoe crab spawning
- Eco Bay kayaks located at James Farm
- volunteers
- Greg Thompson shout out for long time grass cutting at James Farm
- Dennis Bartow-thank you for all you do!
- Eastern Box Turtles, deer, turkeys (have made a great comeback), orb spiders, snakes (hognose, black snake), osprey, variety of birds at James Farm-e-bird hot spot
- location of native plant sales, rain barrel sales
- a lot of dogs visit James Farm!
- helicopter pad! Fish and Wildlife use for mosquito control program
- 150 acres

Concerns listed during Q & A session:

Liz Nalle

- concerned about habitat fragmentation/development

Jodi McLaughlin

- land adjacent to James Farm by reservation, land development planned?

Charlie Garlow

- what do they spray? mosquito larvae pesticide. Bob Collins-Biological larvicide (BT)

Dana Schaefer

- could special groups requests tours? Bob Collins-yes
- weekly or monthly programs for kids at home?

Lisa Swanger-holding off on that to see how to best utilize resources and staff

Susan Ball

- takes Adult Continuing Education group of ~30 people to James Farm each year with great success, highlight of their class

Lisa Swanger-CIB volunteer programs still on hold.

6:45-7:30 Citizen Storytelling - presentation/sharing

Terrapin Gardens Lisa Swanger – Outreach and Education Coordinator

- only estuarine turtle in North America
- range MA-FL and Gulf of Mexico and TX
- salt glands in eyes help remove excess salt from their blood
- maintain populations of salt marsh snails-key predator
- sexual maturity at 6 years
- lay 10-15 eggs
- can live up to 25-30 years
- natural predators fox, racoon, gulls, heron, large fish
- human impact threats top three: loss of nesting habitat to coastal development and shoreline stabilization, collisions with cars and boats, drowning in fishing gear (crab pots)

- DNREC maintains fencing along Route 1, relocate turtle to bay side
- 22 TONS of sand brought in!!!
- goal to be a self-sustaining program
- looking for a couple of additional program sites

7:33-7:35 Anna Short

September plans- first launch of “Peer to Peer” Fundraising Campaign

7:36- Minutes approved for April 02, 2020; 6:00-7:45

Rich
Dennis-second
no abstentions
Passed

7:38 Lisa Swanger updates from CIB

-Native Plant Sale cancelled

CCMP Update-Lisa Swanger

- Since January 2020 CIB, CAC, STAC, Sussex County Council, DNREC working on comments
- review drafts and updating actions and narrative
- public comment period early August
- seasonal citizen science program wrapped up
- August 27 6:30 pm information session with review of terrapin and horseshoe crab survey results

7:42 pm Citizen Input regarding concerns of the DIB:

Glen-“everything that Claire listed”
-development, water quality, and climate change

Liz
-buffers are critically important, poultry processing, poultry by products/manure

Linda Grande
-garbage going into water ways

Dennis Bartow
-pick up trucks uncovered allowing trash to blow from cab

7:50pm-meeting closing remarks by Claire

Motion to adjourn:

Richard Watson

Linda-second

7:51 pm END.

The focus of the CAC story telling part will be on continuing our conversations on the CAC implementation of relevant sections of the Community Based Watershed Management report which is included at the end of the Agenda file.

We start with questions related to mission and membership. Since our time is short during the Cafe, preparing your comments ahead of time will enhance our conversations.

Mission:

1. What are the top 3 key concerns of your stakeholders?

- Tom Brett: 1) Quality of our drinking water; 2) Health of our streams, rivers, and bays
3) Impact of poultry processing on water and soil of Sussex County
 - Claire Simmers: 1) Development in Sussex County – lack of buffers, and enforcement; 2) water quality of streams, bays, rivers; 3) climate change
 - Amanda Pappas 1) Speed of development in Sussex County/loss of wetland habitat 2) safe, healthy drinking and recreational waters

2. What actions should CAC take this year to address those concerns?

- The Indian River coal power plant is a huge threat to the bays and a potential catastrophe affecting drinking water and health of our bays. (Tom Brett)
- CAC should advocate for significant improvements in renewable energy requirements, including the total elimination of coal powered energy. (Tom Brett)
- Participate in outreach to educate residents so they support aggressive goals for renewable energy requirements. 60% by 2030, 100% by 2045. Renewable energy should be correctly defined. Credits should not be part of solution. Goal should include a straight-forward percentage of energy generation of truly renewable energies. (Tom Brett)
- Work with Sussex County and local towns to increase buffers and responsible development (Claire Simmers)
- Initiate updated research on Burton Island and effect of Indian River coal power plant on the quality of the bays (Claire Simmers)
- Work with STAC on the State of the Bays report (Claire Simmers)
- Plan community outreach program – virtual and then eventually in person (Claire Simmers)
- Develop a strong presence within county zoning and planning committees/meetings, find allies with shared interest (Amanda Pappas)
- Review DE Climate Action Plan and comment (Amanda Pappas)
- Surveys to assess citizen concerns (Amanda Pappas)
 - Ted Lawson
 - Chris Bason
 - board seats open?

3. What actions should CAC plan to take next year (CIB Fiscal Year is Oct 01-Sep 30).

- The goals of #2 will not be achieved in current FY, and should be carried over to next year. (Tom Brett)
- Formalize an action plan for next year (Claire Simmers)
- Develop a plan for increasing representation of communities of color, widen age distribution, and bridge northern/southern/eastern/western Delaware at CIB events and within CAC (Amanda Pappas)

Membership:

1. Using the areas below confirm or update the stakeholder group you most represent

up to 16 members

CAC membership will be sought from the following areas:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| • University/ Community College staff | Dr. Claire Simmers | yes | Amanda Pappas |
| • Local school staff | | | |
| • Government agency employees | | | |
| • County/municipal officials | | | |
| • Environmental groups | Tom Brett | (confirmed) | |
| • Civic associations | | | |
| • Realtors | | | |
| • Representatives of Sussex County Industries | Cheryl | Rehrig | |
| • Home Builders and Developers | | | |
| • Farmers | | | |
| • Trade Associations | Pete | Keenan | |
| • Recreational Associations | | | |
| • Homeowner Associations | Gary | Cannon | |
| • Professional Boards | | | |
| • Environmental Consultants | Richard | Watson | |
| • Interested stakeholders | Dr. Dennis | Bartow | Linda Grande |

2. What is at least one suggestion you have to develop CAC membership, especially in the areas where we have no CAC members?

- Tom Brett: 1) Local school staff - Outreach to HS teachers, especially science teachers interested in advocating for climate change/clean energy agendas among their students.
2) Possibly recruit HS students to participate. Seek permission from school districts to try to recruit students.
- Claire Simmers: 1) use CIB relationships to recruit a 1) developer and 2) Realtor
- Amanda Pappas: 1) Hold a membership information session (virtual), send an electronic flyer out to CIB email list and Facebook with introduction to CAC, "Looking for members" section, date for information and member sign up session-this could take place during next CAC meeting

* Citizen's Café July 23, 2020 – Remote Access

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jul 23, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrcOmurz4iE9PKZpjiBSybyDLbUPCQxP7v>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

(<https://www.epa.gov/nep/community-based-watershed-management-handbook>)

INVOLVING STAKEHOLDER GROUPS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Citizens Advisory Committee. To generate public support for the program, citizens must have a vested interest in the outcome of its activities. For this to occur, the public must participate in each phase of the planning and implementation process—forming a management structure for the program; identifying and prioritizing the problems facing the watershed; creating a Management Plan; implementing the plan; and monitoring progress and program success. Examples of how the public can be involved in each of these steps are shown in **Table 2.1** (on page 13).

WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

Public participation is a two-way process consisting of informing stakeholders about the watershed—public outreach—and eliciting participation in program activities and the decision-making process—public involvement. The success of a public participation strategy can be measured by increased awareness of the watershed, enhanced support for management actions, and greater participation in the planning and implementation processes.

Most NEPs form a Citizens Advisory Committee to ensure that the Management Committee and program staff include the public in the decision-making process and integrate the public into each program phase. The Citizens Advisory Committee recommends the most effective ways to inform the public and solicit its participation. It also identifies key people and organizations that can help bring watershed-related issues to the public's attention and build support for program activities. To successfully incorporate the public into these processes, the Citizens Advisory Committee must work closely with other committees, such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. For example, the Citizens Advisory Committee can work with the

program's outreach coordinator to present scientific findings to the public. By forming a Citizens Advisory Committee as part of the program's management structure, the program ensures representation of public concerns while options are fluid, rather than after data collection and analyses have been completed and final decisions made.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Long Island Sound Study developed membership evaluation guidelines to determine the basic eligibility of an applicant for membership on the Citizens Advisory Committee. These guidelines include a member composition requirement (e.g., a fair distribution of members from New York and Connecticut and among various membership categories including environmental, conservation, and watershed associations; user community groups; regional and local government agencies; and environmental education or academic organizations) and specific membership criteria (e.g., evaluation of potential bias, minimal knowledge or interest in water quality and resource management issues, and an ability to attend meetings regularly). The Citizens Advisory Committee application process requires potential members to submit a letter of interest and undergo a formal evaluation by the membership committee. For additional information, see www.longislandsoundstudy.net.

A typical Citizens Advisory Committee represents a broad spectrum of major resource groups, such as fishing interests, farmers, and recreational users. It also includes representatives from various environmental organizations and citizen councils. Also important are representatives from business and industry, such as lumber, shipping, and petrochemical manufacturing. Of course, representation will vary with the type of stakeholders present in the watershed. Some programs, particularly in populous areas with numerous established stakeholder groups, focus membership on individuals that can represent a given constituency and serve as liaisons to that group. In these cases, if the individuals lose their connection to their constituency, new representatives are assigned. Other programs encourage individual citizens to serve directly on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Members of the general public who will work with the program constructively and effectively, and who care about the issues and the program, often make a contribution that is as valuable as that of a seasoned community leader or environmental resource manager. Regardless of the makeup, the Citizens Advisory Committee should remain

open to new members to ensure widespread representation as more members of the community learn about the program and as new interests and issues arise. In very large watersheds, such as the Long Island Sound drainage basin with a population of 8.4 million, it may be necessary to establish guidelines for membership.

Table 2.1: Examples of public participation in the NEP

<p>Phase:</p> <p>Public Participation:</p> <p>Results/Outcomes:</p>	<p>Establishing a Governance Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify stakeholders—potentially interested and affected parties. • Develop a process for public input and participation. • Develop a vision, preliminary goals, and objectives for the program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on Management Conference. • Involvement of individuals and groups with expertise and interest in subject area as well as those who are potentially impacted. • Build constituencies.
<p>Phase:</p> <p>Public Participation:</p> <p>Results/Outcomes:</p>	<p>Linking Good Science and Sound Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct public opinion surveys to identify those issues of greatest concern and measure public understanding of watershed issues. • Hold workshops to gather information from local residents and disseminate scientific findings. • Use resource valuation/comparative risk ranking to prioritize problems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed users help determine the focus of the program. • The public decision-making process is guided by science. • Controversial issues are identified. • Participants develop a shared understanding of the problems.
<p>Phase:</p> <p>Public Participation:</p>	<p>Developing the Management Plan—A Blueprint for Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine program visions, goals, and objectives through public meetings and workshops. • Utilize charettes, constituent focus groups, workshops, etc., to identify all possible options for addressing problems. • Utilize focus groups and public and technical input to develop criteria, narrow the range of options, and refine actions. • Obtain commitments and widespread community support for actions.

Results/Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan is created and built that all parties support. • Strong public support helps to secure governmental agency commitments for implementation. • Recommended actions are created that are measurable and achievable and take into account social impacts and impacts on quality of life.
Phase: Public Participation: Results/Outcomes:	Implementing the Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a public review of the draft management plan. • Distribute the management plan and/or public summary documents to stakeholders. • Educate new residents and participants about the mission, goals, and progress of the program. • Utilize tools such as environmental report cards to update constituents on implementation progress and program successes. • Encourage citizens to implement “good housekeeping” best management practices. • Conduct volunteer monitoring and other ways to use volunteers. • Conduct public opinion surveys to determine behavior changes and trends in public perception of NEP progress. • Involve the public when plan redirection or reformulation is needed. • Add to or modify participating entities as needed. • Form institution oversight organizations—public watchdog. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in conservation and management is sustained/enhanced. • New participants and their interests are brought into the process. • Residents are actively involved in management plan implementation and monitoring. • Information on public attitudes and behaviors is used to evaluate success of public participation efforts.

Based on EPA RESOLVE Workshop, June 1997, and *Integrating Technical Analysis with Deliberation in Regional Watershed Management Planning: Applying the National Research Council Approach*. [1999] by Thomas Webler and Seth Tuler.

Citizens Advisory Committee membership should reflect the program’s purposes for the Committee. Although each program establishes its own criteria for appointees, nominees generally meet one or more of the following criteria.

- Serve as spokespersons for a major user or interest group and bring information back to that group.
- Are well-respected leaders in the community.
- Have experience in the development of water quality and resource management policy.
- Have experience with volunteer nonprofit groups, the general public, outreach and education activities, and the media.

- Understand the technical and economic feasibility of the pollution control options under consideration.
- Understand the consensus-building process.
- Are energetic and motivated individuals.

Although many NEPs use a Citizens Advisory Committee as a formal mechanism for public involvement, this does not preclude the need for general public participation. The Citizens Advisory Committee often creates a strategy that outlines when and how to involve groups and individuals in the community.