



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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Center for the Inland  
 Bays  
 Remote via Zoom  
 September 18, 2020  
 APPROVED DEC 11, 2020

### ATTENDANCE

<i>Board Members Present</i>	<i>Other Attendees</i>
Richard Mais (SCAT)	Megan Mackey (EPA)
Susie Ball (Chair, Board-Elected)	Ferry Akbar Buchanan (EPA)
Pat Coluzzi (Speaker of the House Appt, Vice Chair)	Tyler Monteith (DNREC)
Terry Deputy (DNREC)	Stephen Williams (DNREC)
Ken Sigvardson (Board-Elected)	Doug Janiec (STAC)
Pat Ragan (Board-Elected)	
Karrie Crumlish (EPA)	<i>Center for the Inland Bays Staff</i>
David Baird (SCD, Treasurer)	Chris Bason
Todd Lawson (Sussex County)	Brittany Burslem
Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)	Maddy Goss
Claire Simmers (CAC)	Lisa Swanger
Jenn Volk (STAC)	Michelle Schmidt
Aimee Isaac (Senate Pro Temp Appt, Secretary)	Marianne Walch
	<i>Board Members Absent</i>
	Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)

### CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Chair Susie Ball called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM and led the pledge of allegiance. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aimee Isaac requested necessary revisions to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none she requested a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, Ken Sigvardson made the motion and Pat Ragan seconded. The vote was unanimous.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

David Baird drew the board's attention to the updated board budget summary which was previously reviewed and approved by the finance committee. D. Baird made a motion to approve the board budget summary. Claire Simmers seconded the motion. S. Ball requested a motion to approve the financial statement audit.

## OTHER REPORTS

### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

C. Simmers reported Bob Collins made a presentation on the James Farm and Lisa Swanger made a presentation on Terrapin Gardens. Conversations continued related to the mission of CAC and membership. Issues of concern brought up at the meeting included quality of drinking water, health of streams, rivers, and bays, impact of poultry processing on water and soil, development in Sussex county, loss of wetland habitat, lack of buffers and enforcement, climate change, and incorporating native plants in the environment. As a result of discussion on the issues of concern, CAC decided to take several actions in the remainder of this year and the coming year. The actions include: advocate for improvements in renewable energy requirements; work with Sussex County and local towns to increase buffers; review the Delaware climate action plan, comment, and survey citizens to assess their concerns. There is one new candidate for membership that will hopefully have completed the membership requirements by early 2021. The October CAC meeting will be restoration themed with one speaker from CIB and one from Delaware Botanic Gardens.

### Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jenn Volk reported Doug Janiec has been appointed as STAC Vice Chair and Judy Denver has come on as Secretary. Eight responses to the modeling request for information were received. Cost estimates for price were \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 and time estimates were 3-4 years. Several STAC members are working on a funding strategy to be shared at the next STAC meeting. Four new STAC members have been recruited: three University of Delaware staff members and one community member. The STAC is reviewing the CCMP to ensure they have expert members in each area. Presentations and discussion at the most recent meeting revolved around wetlands and dredging, and the environmental monitoring plan. D. Janiec is working on putting together a workshop on dredging and the impacts on water quality in the bays. STAC's next meeting will feature presentations on derelict ghost pots, monitoring in the Inland Bays, CIB's workplan, and new STAC members and CIB staff members.

### Development Committee

Jerry Esposito reported the spring appeal has been completed. 3,000 letters were mailed, \$10,450 was raised. The development committee has participated in two trainings on fundraising put on by the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement. The Capital Campaign committee, to be launched in the first quarter of 2021, held its first meeting and appointed George Cole as honorary chair. Two grants have been submitted, the campaign has a budget of \$1.5 Million and needs to raise an additional \$800,000. The "Get Out for the Bays" fundraiser has begun with a goal of \$15,000 with over half having

been raised already. Annual appeal planning will begin in October.

### **Sussex County**

Todd Lawson shared that the County recently purchased 37 acres called The Jones Farm that was previously under development pressure and will now remain open space. The County also purchased 17 acres of farm land on Route 24 at the head waters of Herring Creek with plans to conserve and provide public access. The county is making upgrades at the Inland Bays and South Coastal wastewater facilities and is decommissioning the Piney Neck wastewater facility. The hotel tax that was previously approved to be collected in order to provide waterways funding has been put on hold due to COVID-19. The recent election has had an impact on the buffer ordinance and working group. The initiative has been put on hold.

### **Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA)**

Secretary Scuse reported DDA has processed over 1,000 annual reports for nutrient management certified operators and is working on implementing a more robust annual report in 2021 that will report on management strategies that farmers are using that are not currently being captured. Last year's cost share program was very successful with \$2.9M in funding. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and budget related issues, the program was only funded at \$1.25M this year. The manure relocation program continues to be successful, with 43,000 tons leaving the state of Delaware. DDA has secured funding for the University of Delaware extension to hire a turf extension specialist.

### **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)**

Terry Deputy reported the Division of Watershed Stewardship, Watershed Assessment and Management section is planning to develop a water quality model the will be specifically designed for Delaware and focus on nonpoint source pollution loading and BMPs to mitigate that pollution. Once complete there are several add-ons that the Center could pay for in order to create the model the Center is looking to develop. DNREC is also preparing an update to the climate action plan some of which will intersect with CCMP goals.

### **Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT)**

Richard Mais reported SCAT's focus has been on the pandemic and crowd control but expressed appreciation for the Center's leadership on project implementation in Dewey and Bethany. The towns continue to work with Michelle Schmidt on the CCMP and after the first of the year will begin working with Lisa Swanger on the public engagement and education plan.

Chris Bason inquired as to whether the towns plan on commenting on DNREC's climate action plan. R. Mais answered they would explore it.

### **Sussex Conservation District (SCD)**

David Baird reported 164,525 acres have been enrolled in the cover crop program, an increase of 2% over last year. Secretary Garvin has appointed Mark Nardi to SCD's board.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Karrie Crumlish is the acting EPA appointee to the board through mid-December. She thanked the EPA region 3 team for getting her up to speed on the CIB and reported they had received a stellar FY21 workplan and application package and have approved the

NEP for funding for FY21.

### **House of Representatives**

Pat Coluzzi reported she is working with Representative Schwartzkopf on funding for the James Farm. Representative Schwartzkopf grew up in the area of James Farm and visited it frequently and could be a good candidate for a human interest piece with the goal of fundraising in mind.

### **Senate Pro Tem**

A. Isaac reported Senate bill 233 sponsored by senator Hansen has been introduced which would add fresh water protections at the state level for fresh water wetlands.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **CCMP Revision and Timeline**

Michelle Schmidt said the CCMP is out for public comment through November 15<sup>th</sup>. We have yet to receive comments but with continued outreach, that is expected to change. Next steps are documenting and sharing the comments, making final edits, review by EPA (January and February of 2021), design and print (April 2021), and finally, a press event (May 2021).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Executive Director Update**

C. Bason and Center staff gave updates on several projects including the Economic Valuation of the Inland Bays, the Diamondback terrapin survey and gardens, ongoing education plans, the continuous water quality monitoring network, the Burton Pond Dam fish passage, the Delaware Botanic Gardens living shoreline demonstration, the saltmarsh acreage and condition indicator, and the Sussex Conservation Workgroup.

### **Recognition of Members of the Board**

S. Ball thanked the members of the board for their hard work and contribution to the inland bays.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair requested a motion to adjourn, C. Simmers made the motion, K. Sigvardson seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Isaac/blb –