



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

*Center for the Inland Bays
 Remote via Zoom
 December 11, 2020
 APPROVED: June 4, 2021*

ATTENDANCE

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

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

In David Baird's absence Chris Bason referred the board to the updated board budget summary which was previously reviewed and approved by the finance committee. C. Bason informed the board the budget had been updated to include several new funding sources and an increased bottom line of \$1.5M. C. Bason then directed the board to the operating reserves balance which is on track to meet the \$356,000 operating reserves goal by the end of the current fiscal year. S. Ball requested a motion to approve the board budget summary. P. Ragan made the motion and K. Sigvardson seconded. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers reported Marianne Walch gave a presentation on restoration successes and Brian Trader, of Delaware Botanic Gardens gave a presentation of the living shoreline that the Gardens and the Center are collaborating on. CAC also continued to review the draft CCMP and focus on membership.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jenn Volk reported Kate Fleming with Sea Grant spoke about a derelict crab pot program she will be leading this winter. Dr. Andrew Wozniak, a new STAC member gave an introduction to his interests and expertise and Dr. Wei-Jun Cai and Scott Andres spoke about their joint monitoring efforts. CIB staff members reviewed the FY21 workplan with the STAC. M. Walch will review the environmental monitoring plan updates and state of the bays indicator review process at the next meeting. Work continues on the proposed dredging and water quality workshop and white paper product.

Development Committee

Jerry Esposito reported Get Out for the Bays wrapped up raising \$23,000. The annual appeal is underway with a goal of \$32,500 and \$15,000 raised to date. Thankuary, a month of donor appreciation, will be taking place during January and will include a letter from the board chair and a social media campaign. Anna Short is will begin working on updating the Case for Support of the organization and work is beginning on a planned giving outreach campaign.

House of Representatives

Pat Coluzzi reported house bill 200, the Clean Water for Delaware act, is scheduled for hearing on December 16th. C. Bason added it has a good chance of going forward this year.

Senate Pro Tem

A. Isaac reported that there is a new Pro Tem and she will be reaching out to him in January in regards to her appointment.

OLD BUSINESS

CCMP Revision Update and Timeline

Michelle Schmidt reported the public comment period for the CCMP has ended resulting in 6 comments being received and 5 new actions being considered for inclusion. Next steps are to finalize actions and edits to narrative, a final review of the draft by the signatories, review by EPA, design and print, and finally, a press event.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of CAC Member Application: Jalyn Powell

C. Simmers summarized Jalyn Powell's resume telling the board she is a youth social advocate and fairly new to environmental justice. She offers diversity to the CAC in the form of age and ethnicity. C. Simmers nominated Jalyn Powell to the CAC membership, the vote was unanimous.

Nomination of Nicole Bailey Ashton for Board-Elected Director Seat

S. Ball informed the board that the executive committee met with Nicole Bailey Ashton who has extensive non-profit experience. C. Bason informed the board that Nicole lives on the bay and was previously an event planner. S. Ball requested a motion to nominate Nicole for a board elected director seat. P. Ragan made the motion and Richard Mais seconded. The vote was unanimous.

FY22 Operating Grant Budget Update

C. Bason updated the board on the outlook for the Center's major operating grants beginning with the federal appropriation to the National Estuary Program (NEP). The Center, in conjunction with the Association of National Estuary Programs, is working on advocating for reauthorization of the NEP. Currently senate appropriation language allows for \$700,000 per NEP while the house has language allowing for \$675,000.

The Center was not successful in its application to the NEP competitive program.

The Center's state pass through grant via DNREC has been reduced from \$198,700 to \$129,900 in the current proposed budget. S. Ball and C. Bason have requested communication from DNREC secretary Shawn Garvin and have not received a response. C. Bason and P. Ragan have begun conversations with Speaker of the House, Pete Schwartzkopf to rectify the discrepancy. J. Esposito requested Terry Deputy pass the board's concerns to Secretary Garvin and T. Deputy confirmed he would.

James Farm Master Plan and Capital Campaign Update

C. Bason updated the board on the implementation of the James Farm master plan. Visitation to James Farm has increased over 25% in 2020 in comparison to 2019. The purpose of the master plan is to safely accommodate increased visitation while maintaining and preserving the various ecosystems. Phase 1 has been completely implemented. Phase 2 will focus on the campus area, interpretive signage, and the trail system. Design of phase 2 is currently 95% complete.

The next big step will be construction of the restroom. P. Coluzzi raised the question as to whether 2 stalls were sufficient and Hans Medlarz recommended the bathroom be a 4 season facility. C. Bason will take both concerns to the architect.

Next steps include development of wayfinding and education signage, concepts for gateway sign and 2nd gateway pier monuments, stormwater plans, and specs and costs for trail systems with boardwalks.

Anna Short provided an update on the Capital Campaign that will fund the James Farm Master Plan Implementation. The Capital Campaign has a remainder of \$612,000 left to raise. There is currently \$235,000 in pending foundation applications and requests for a bond bill appropriation and community transportation funds are in the works. C. Simmers questioned whether an endowment for ongoing maintenance had been considered and A. Short said they would discuss at the next steering committee meeting.

Estuary and Watershed Nutrient Loading Model Update

J. Volk provided an update on model development. Previously a white paper was finalized describing needs

and priorities. A request for information determined the project would require between \$500,000 and \$1M and would take more than 3 years to complete. Work has begun on a funding strategy to be finalized prior to the March 5th board meeting.

M. Schmidt informed the board that DNREC is developing a tool called Delaware Targeting and Planning (DTAP). The Center held a coordination meeting with DNREC and other partners to discuss the Center's modeling efforts as well as DTAP. It has been determined that data from DTAP, with additional modifications, could serve as watershed loading data (and then be used as input data for hydrodynamic/water quality models). The Center will continue to seek partners who may be interested in model add-ons.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Isaac/blb –