



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Center for the Inland Bays
Remote via Zoom
March 5, 2021
APPROVED: June 4, 2021

ATTENDANCE

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| Board Members Present | Center for the Inland Bays Staff Present |
| Jerry Esposito (Board-Elected) | Chris Bason |
| Susie Ball (Chair, Board-Elected) | Brittany Burslem |
| Amie Howell (EPA) | Marianne Walch |
| Claire Simmers (CAC) | |
| Ken Sigvardson (Board-Elected) | Board Members Absent |
| Pat Ragan (Board-Elected) | David Baird (SCD, Treasurer) |
| Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA) | Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC) |
| Todd Lawson (Sussex County) | Pat Coluzzi (Speaker of the House Appt, Vice Chair) appointee) |
| Jenn Volk (STAC) | Nicole Bailey (Board-Elected) |
| Aimee Isaac (Senate Pro Temp Appt, Secretary) | |
| Richard Mais (SCAT) | Board Alternates Present |

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| | Terry Deputy (DNREC) |
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CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Chair Susie Ball called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM and led the board in the pledge of allegiance. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Aimee Isaac informed the board that the minutes from the December board meeting were mistakenly left out of the board packet and would be included in the next packet to be approved at the June meeting.

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. Pat Ragan motioned for approval of the summary and Claire Simmers seconded, the vote was unanimous. C. Bason then directed the board to the FY20 audited financial statement and 990 which had previously been reviewed and approved by the finance committee and emailed to the board. Richard Mais motioned for approval of the audit and 990 and Aimee Isaac seconded, the vote was unanimous.

C. Bason informed the board that the Center had requested and been granted full forgiveness of their first paycheck protection loan and had applied for and been approved for a second loan in the amount of \$163,265. C. Simmers motioned for approval of the loan and R. Mais seconded. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers reported that at the most recent CAC meeting Michelle Schmidt gave a presentation on the CCMP, and Daniel Leathers, Delaware State Climatologist gave a presentation on the Center for Environmental Monitoring and Analysis.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jenn Volk reported that at the most recent meeting Christian Schwartz with the University of Delaware spoke about the resilience of coastal ecosystems and Andrew McGowan presented findings from the Center’s long term shorezone fish survey. Marianne Walch reviewed the State of the Bays indicators with the STAC.

Development Committee

Jerry Esposito reported the annual appeal had concluded raising about \$45,000, exceeding the

goal of \$32,500. The capital campaign has raised a total of \$451k of \$850K, there are several major grant requests pending and the public phase will launch in May.

Senate Pro Tem

Aimee Isaac reported that she has been officially approved as the appointee of the new Senate Pro Tem. A. Isaac reported on two bills that the Center supported. SB33, Renewable Energy Portfolio, was signed into law by the Governor and increases the requirement for electrical energy sales from renewable sources to 40% by 2035. SB22, Invasive Species, passed the legislature and will be signed into law prohibiting sale, transfer, etc. of invasive plants in Delaware effective 7/1/22. Department of Agriculture will provide oversight.

OLD BUSINESS

CCMP Revision Update and Timeline

C. Bason reported that EPA Region III & Headquarters are currently reviewing the draft CCMP. Next steps will be addressing any comments from them, then design and print of the document followed by a press event with a target date in August at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of CAC Member Application: Frank Piorko

C. Simmers directed the board's attention to Frank Piorko's resume explaining F. Piorko is a former DNREC division director and former national estuary program executive director. C. Bason pointed out that F. Piorko holds a master service agreement with the Center for Watershed Planning contracts which could pose real or potential conflicts of interests of which he is aware and he would recuse himself from any CAC votes and discussions relating to his contractual business with the Center. Pat Ragan nominated Frank Piorko to the CAC membership, R. Mais seconded, the vote was unanimous.

Strategic Plan Review and Proposed Addendum

C. Bason updated the board on the strategic plan for the fiscal years 2019-2021 highlighting the major achievements and areas of focus needed within several of the major goals. Several items from the current strategic plan have not been completed due to setbacks attributed to COVID-19 and other reasons. The executive committee has approved extending the current strategic plan for 1 year. The board approved without objection. A new strategic plan for fiscal years 2023-2025 will be planned via a face to face facilitated planning process with the board and staff during FY22.

Environmental Monitoring Plan Update

M. Walch updated the board on the Inland Bays Environmental Monitoring Plan. The original monitoring plan was developed in the 90's and was updated in early 2018 with the intention of updating the plan every 3 years. The STAC began working on updating the plan in July 2020

and approved an updated plan at their January 2021 meeting. M. Walch provided an overview of the updated plan detailing progress and next steps on each of the plan's 12 recommendations. The board approved the updated plan without objection.

Hydrodynamic & Water Quality Model Finance Strategy

Jenn Volk informed the board that the Hydrodynamic & Water Quality Model Finance Strategy was not ready to be shared yet and would be shared at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Isaac/blb –