



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

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

## MINUTES

*Center for the Inland Bays  
 Remote via Zoom  
 June 4, 2021*

### ATTENDANCE

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

### CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Chair Susie Ball called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM and led the pledge of allegiance. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aimee Isaac requested necessary revisions to the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting's minutes. Hearing none she requested a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Claire Simmers made the motion and Pat Coluzzi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Aimee Isaac requested necessary revisions to March 5, 2021 meeting's minutes. Hearing none she requested a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Ken Sigvardson made the motion and Pat Coluzzi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

David Baird referred the board to the updated board budget summary. D. Baird informed the board revenue is \$1.13M and expenses \$759K. Both numbers are in line with the revised adopted budget. D. Baird reminded the board of a strategic goal of \$3M in total revenue from direct revenues coming into the Center and partner revenue that the Center is engaged in. Currently in the \$2.8M range. D. Baird requested a motion to approve the FY21 Board Budget Summary. P. Coluzzi made the motion and K. Sigvardson seconded. The vote was unanimous.

D. Baird requested a motion to approve the FY22 Budget and Grant Plan. P. Ragan made the motion and P. Coluzzi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

C. Bason detailed proposed revisions to the Operating Reserves Policy. Currently \$360K is in the reserve account. C. Bason proposed changing the target of 25% of annual operating budget in reserves to 25% of the annual budget's personnel and administrative costs in reserves. 33% of reserves would remain in liquid funds with the remainder invested in easily-accessible low-risk funds. D. Baird requested a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Operating Reserves Policy. K. Sigvardson made the motion and C. Simmers seconded. The vote was unanimous.

## OTHER REPORTS

### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers reported the theme of the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was Wetlands and Water Quality. During this meeting, Zach Garmoe from the Center talked about programs in Delaware for water quality testing and continuous monitoring of water. Alison Rogerson, of DNREC Water Stewardship and Wetland Water Monitoring Assessment Program, reviewed types of wetlands and locations. The August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting planned for in-person and via zoom and will focus on the State of the Bays report.

### House of Representatives

No report.

### Senate Pro Temp

Aimee Issac reports joint resolution 2 was introduced. It requires DNREC to begin coordination with federal agencies carrying authority to identify the structure necessary for a state nontidal wetlands program to shift permitting authority from federal level to state. DNREC will report results of the review in one year. It was released from the Senate committee and placed on the Senate ready list. She reported that Senate Bill 2 was introduced yesterday. It expands and

removes barriers and lowers costs for community solar.

### DDA

Chris Brosch reported the Governor's annual report from the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission shares accomplishments of commission over last year. Governor's recommended budget increases money to Conservation Districts for Cover Crops to \$2.9 million in the next fiscal year.

### CCMP Implementation

Chris Bason updated the board on the CCMP revision process. EPA received a draft in January. EPA sent a revised draft back April 9<sup>th</sup> with a meeting held with the Center on April 19<sup>th</sup>. C. Bason reported we are waiting on approval from DNREC and SCAT. There is a November target for release of the report. Center intends to release State of the Bays Report and Economic Valuation Report for the Bays around the same timeframe.

### Development Committee

Jerry Esposito reported 2,500 Spring appeal letters were mailed to lapsed donors and owners of waterfront properties. So far the appeal has raised \$3,000 of \$10,000 goal. \$932K has been raised towards the Capital Campaign. The goal increased to \$1.1 million because of increased costs. Decked out will be September 30<sup>th</sup> at Big Chill Beach Club.

### Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Doug Janiec shared at the last meeting M. Schmidt and M. Walch spoke on wastewater planning, a STAC led CCMP action item. A. McGowan and M. Walch spoke on continuous water quality monitoring networks in the Bays. The next meeting in July will feature 4 speakers. Topics will include microplastics in the Bays. Work continues on the proposed dredging and water quality workshop and white paper product.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Executive Session

Board moved to Executive Session at 10:15am. Board exited Executive Session at 10:34am.

### James Farm Update

Anna Short updated the board on the implementation of James Farm Master Plan and Capital Campaign. The bathroom is installed and will open to the public when approved by the Department of Health. Next steps are to formalize the trail plan and Education building designs with a full completion date set for summer of 2022. Capital Campaign public launch will be in September at Decked Out. Dogfish Head donated \$15,000 to the Center and brewed a beer in the Center's honor. Goal for the Capital Campaign increased to \$1.1million because of increased costs, including the cost of lumber.

### Review and Approval of CAC Member Application: Rick Chamberlin

C. Simmers summarized Rick Chamberlin's resume telling the board has lived in the area since 1964. He's interested in shellfish and water quality. He has 25 years of experience with DE State Police and is now retired. C. Simmers put his name forward for membership. P. Coluzzi made a motion to accept. K. Sigvardson seconded. The vote was unanimous. S. Ball welcomed R. Chamberlin to CAC.

### FY22 Annual Workplan Summary and Approval

C. Bason updated the board on the annual workplan. It includes several projects such as the wastewater planning workgroup, revamping the website, plans for Herring Creek Preserve, seaweed mariculture, widgeon grass, shellfish restoration, blue crabs, reforestation, and living shoreline. S. Ball motioned to approve FY22 Workplan. P. Coluzzi made the motion, A. Issac seconded. The vote was unanimous.

### Mountaire Wastewater

C. Bason summarized the Center's involvement in the Mountaire permit violations and the subsequent settlement. C. Bason reported that in 2017, a wastewater plant failure sprayed high levels of solids, bacteria, and nitrogen onto the land that drains into Swan Creek and Indian River, negatively impacting groundwater and water quality in these tributaries to the Inland Bays. C. Bason reported that the facility continues to discharge in excess of permitted levels, with average nitrogen levels in effluent measuring twice the drinking water quality standard over 20 years. C. Bason reported that hundreds of residents and DNREC settled a lawsuit with the company for \$65 million and the Center provided recommendations regarding mitigation. Some of these recommendations were reflected in the final agreement, updated permits and consent decree; but others were not. C. Bason recommends the Center continues to monitor pollution in the Indian River.

C. Bason reviewed the summary of the Center's input on Consent Decree and draft permit with response and outcomes. C. Bason reviewed lessons learned and recommended next actions.

S. Ball asks the board to request that DNREC use the funds they received as a result of the settlement to help with the remediation of the affected waters. P. Coluzzi supports. J. Grandy supports. S. Ball asks C. Bason to reach out to DNREC and give updated reports at future meetings.

### Sussex Conservation Partnership Presentation

C. Bason detailed partnership between Center, Sussex County, DNREC Division of Parks & Fish and Wildlife, Sussex County Land Trust, and Delaware Wildlands. Partnership meets regularly. C. Bason detailed parcels protected, including Herring Creek Preserve, Piney Neck #1 on Pepper Creek, and Piney Neck #2. C. Bason reported the Center requests the county add extra money to the budget for land acquisition.

### OPEN FORUM

C. Simmers reported the state budget may have a large surplus. C. Simmers asks if the Center can request surplus funds to support projects. C. Bason suggests additional open space funding may be worth pursuing with state leadership.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Chair made a motion to adjourn, P. Coluzzi made the motion, C. Simmers seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Isaac/kap –