



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

MEETING MINUTES

*Center for the Inland Bays
 Hybrid: CIB office and via Zoom
 September 24, 2021*

ATTENDANCE

<i>Board Members Present</i>	<i>Board Alternates Present</i>
Susie Ball (Chair, Board-Elected)	Terry Deputy (DNREC)
David Baird (SCD, Treasurer)	Chris Brosch (DDA)
Claire Simmers (CAC)	<i>Other Attendees</i>
Pat Ragan (Board-Elected)	Ed Hale
Todd Lawson (Sussex County)	Ted Becker
Jenn Volk (STAC)	Steve Friend
Aimee Isaac (Senate Pro Temp Appt, Secretary)	Rick Chamberlain
Amie Howell (EPA)	
Nicole Bailey Ashton (Board-Elected)	<i>Board Members Absent</i>
	Pat Coluzzi (Speaker of the House Appt, Vice Chair)
<i>Center for the Inland Bays Staff Present</i>	Ken Sigvardson (Board-Elected)
Chris Bason	Jerry Esposito (Board – Elected)
Brittany Burslem	Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)
Anna Short	Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)
Marianne Walch	
Kelli Papciak	

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Chair Susie Ball called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and led the pledge of allegiance.

S. Ball wanted to thank former board member, Richard Mais, who was not reelected to the

Fenwick Island Town Council. S. Ball reported he will continue to be involved on the Development Committee. S. Ball said the board has asked SCAT to propose a replacement.

The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aimee Isaac requested necessary revisions to the June 4th, 2021 meeting's minutes. Hearing none she requested a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Chris Brosch made the motion and Nicole Bailey-Ashton seconded. The vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Baird referred the board to the Finance Committee meeting minutes from August 18, 2021.

Chris Bason reviewed the \$1.86 million FY21 budget update for Q2. Bason reported spending is on track. The endowment account balance continues to grow and is \$198,926. C. Bason said the Center is ending its relationship with financial advisor Nick Vali. C. Bason said staff will revisit where funds are allocated and will present findings at the next Finance Committee meeting.

D. Baird asked if anyone had any questions on the Finance Committee report. Hearing none, he asked the board chair to move to approve the report. Pat Ragan made the motion and Nicole Bailey-Ashton seconded. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers said the most recent CAC meeting on August 5th was about Oysters. C. Simmers reported CIB staff member Nivete Perez-Perez spoke about the Center's Oyster Gardening initiative. Zina Henz, Environmental Scientist at DNREC, spoke about shellfish aquaculture.

C. Simmers said the committee approved a membership application for John Grandy. She reported the committee also approved proposed resolutions for the Delaware Hatchery and the loss of Tree Canopy.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jennifer Volk said DNREC representatives attended the June 22nd meeting to discuss use of the Center's Continuous Water Quality Monitoring data. DNREC discussed how they would use the data in reports they submit to the EPA. CIB staff will submit its data from January 2016 through December 2020.

J. Volk reported at the July 30th meeting DNREC and EPA representatives discussed how they use water quality monitoring reports. J. Volk said two presentations were given on microplastics in waterways. J. Volk reported Center staff member Marianne Walch gave an update on the State of the Bays report.

J. Volk said the next STAC meeting in October will focus on water quality monitoring, progress on the State of the Bays report, wetland restoration and dredging, and a new STAC member will discuss his research and how it pertains to the Inland Bays.

J. Volk reported STAC will be updating its memberships soon and calling for CVs.

House of Representatives

No representative present.

Senate Pro Temp

Aimee Isaac reported SB2, a community solar bill, and SB 24, a penalty for balloon release, were signed into law over the summer. A. Issac reported a bill was introduced in June that prohibits restaurants from using single serve plastics.

Development Committee

Pat Ragan reported to date, the Center has raised over \$40,000 in sponsorships and over \$13,000 in ticket sales for Decked Out. P. Ragan reported additional revenue will come from the Gallery One live auction during the event. P. Ragan anticipated the event will net \$50,000, which will support the Capital Campaign.

NEW BUSINESS

CAC Member Application

Claire Simmers presented the application for Dr. John Grandy to join CAC. C. Simmers detailed his credentials, including earning a Doctorate in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Massachusetts. C. Simmers reported he was appointed as Vice President and Senior Vice President as Wildlife Protection for the Humane Society. C. Simmers reported he accepted a position as Executive Director of the Pegasus Foundation and as a representative of the Pettus-Crowe Foundation.

Susie Ball asked the board to approve the application. Pat Ragan motioned to approve. Nicole Bailey-Ashton seconded. The vote was unanimous.

CAC Resolutions

Claire Simmers reported CAC has two resolutions to present to the board, including the Aquaculture Development Center.

Susie Ball introduced Ed Hale with Delaware Sea Grant. E. Hale reported there are only 10 to 15 individuals or corporations involved in aquaculture in Delaware. E. Hale reported there are 51 acres leased of the 343 acres available in the Inland Bays. He said Delaware is behind surrounding states for aquaculture production. E. Hale said an oyster hatchery will be built in Lewes at the Broadkill River and Roosevelt Inlet. The location could generate 50-75 million oyster larvae. Terry Deputy committed to having Michael Bott on his staff become involved with the hatchery. Todd Lawson expressed openness to inquiring about County support for the hatchery concept should it be needed.

S. Ball asked about the role of CIB and the CAC proposal. Marianne Walch reported the hatchery could support the Center's Oyster Gardening program.

S. Ball asked to accept the CAC resolution. Pat Ragan made the motion to approve and Chris Brosch seconded. The vote was unanimous.

C. Simmers introduced the second CAC proposal, Tree Canopy Loss within the Inland Bays watershed. C. Simmers said it could include requesting updated data to mitigate the loss of the

tree canopy due to changes in land use. S. Ball asked about updated maps in the watershed. Todd Lawson reported the county uses flyover data and maps are updated every few years. He committed to responding to the Center on the type of data being generated for the property tax assessment so that it could be determined if it could produce an updated landuse/canopy datalayer. T. Lawson said the county is considering changing the county buffer ordinance and saving more mature trees in the buffer zones.

S. Ball asked the board to accept the CAC resolution. Pat Ragan made the motion to approve and Aimee Isaac seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Executive Director Report

Chris Bason updated the board on the possibility of the Center receiving \$900,000 in extra funding per year for five years to implement infrastructure associated with the CCMP. C. Bason said the bipartisan infrastructure bill, passed by the Senate, still needs to be approved by the House. He suggested priorities for the funding be determined through the strategic plan process. C. Bason said the CCMP was approved on August 18th and the draft design is 90% complete. C. Bason reported there will be a press event on November 19th and Senator Tom Carper is scheduled to speak at the event. The CCMP will be signed on that day.

Anna Short updated the board on the Capital Campaign. The revised goal of \$1.1 million has been surpassed. A. Short said to date, \$1.142 million has been raised. The public phase of the fundraising begins at the Decked Out event.

C. Bason gave additional updates on the James Farm Master Plan. He reported the bathrooms have been installed. He said the Center is refining the cost estimates for the trails, boardwalk, and signage. C. Bason said the next step is to determine what will be put out for bid through Sussex County. He reported the Center will encourage visitors at The Preserve to participate in a user survey over the next two to three years. The data collected will be used as a baseline of who's visiting The Preserve.

C. Bason reported that the James Farm design received an award from the Maryland Association of Landscape Architects. C. Bason reported the Center and DNREC together also received an award for the best restored shoreline from the American Beach Preservation Association for the Sassafras Landing Living Shoreline.

C. Bason updated the board on the recent fish kills. C. Bason said there were 15 fish kills over the summer, which is the highest number since record keeping began. C. Bason reported the fish kills coincided with poor water quality and low oxygen measured through the continuous water quality monitoring.

C. Bason said the state of Delaware has appropriated \$16 million in the bond bill for dredging. C. Bason reported the Center is asking RK&K to develop literature on the potential benefits of dredging.

C. Bason told the board the Center has hired Goeins-Williams Associates for \$45,000 for strategic planning and consulting.

C. Bason updated the board on the public education efforts at the Center. C. Bason said the Center reached 557 people at The Preserve through diverse public programs. In addition, the

Center reached 694 children through youth education programs at The Preserve and in schools.

Board Elections

S. Ball asked the board for nominations for the board-elected directors. Hearing none, she nominated Ken Sigvardson for reelection. Pat Ragan made the motion to accept and Chris Brosch seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Chris Bason asked the board for nominations for Susie Ball's seat as board-elected director. Hearing no nominations, C. Bason requested a motion to reelect Susie Ball to the board. Chris Bosch made the motion to approve and Pat Ragan seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Annual Recognition of Board of Directors

S. Ball thanked all board members and committee chairs for their service to the Center.

Executive Session

The board moved into Executive Session at 11:36 a.m. to discuss a non-disclosure agreement associated with conservation efforts on Piney Neck and exited the session at 11:40.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair made a motion to adjourn, Chris Brosch made the motion to approve and Pat Ragan seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40pm.
Respectfully submitted, Aimee Isaac.