

DRAFT



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

DRAFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

MEETING MINUTES

*Center for the Inland Bays
Hybrid: CIB office and via Zoom
December 10, 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)	Ferry Akbar Buchanan (EPA)
Pat Coluzzi (Speaker of the House Appt, Vice Chair)	Sharon Webb (DNREC)
Jenn Volk (STAC)	Frank Piorko
Aimee Isaac (Senate Pro Temp Appt, Secretary)	Hans Medlarz (Sussex County)
Amie Howell (EPA)	
Todd Lawson (Sussex County)	<i>Board Members Absent</i>
Ken Sigvardson (Board-Elected)	Jerry Esposito (Board – Elected)
Debbie Botchie (SCAT)	Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)
<i>Center for the Inland Bays Staff Present</i>	Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)
Chris Bason	Nicole Bailey Ashton (Board-Elected)
Michelle Schmidt	
Kelli Papciak	
Shelley Neall	

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 September 24, 2021 meeting's minutes. Hearing none she requested a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Pat Coluzzi made the motion and Ken Sigvardson seconded. The vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Baird referred the board to the Treasurer's Report and Budget Summary. D. Baird reported the Finance Committee met in November to review the report. Chris Bason reported the Center will present new investments for the endowment fund at the next finance committee meeting.

D. Baird asked the board chair to move to approve the report. P. Coluzi made the motion and Ken Signardson seconded. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers said the most recent CAC meeting on November 4th focused on Coastal Community Education. C. Simmers reported CIB staff member Jackie Knoll gave an overview of the Center's education programs. C. Simmers said the second speaker was David Christopher from DE Sea Grant. He talked about healthy coastal ecosystems. C. Simmers reminded the board they are always looking for new members.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jennifer Volk gave an update on the Center's water quality data that was collected from April to October. The data will be submitted to the EPA in April of 2022. STAC will review the methodology of collecting data over the next two years. J. Volk said Center staff member, Aviah Stillman, gave an update on the Wastewater subcommittee that is being formed during the October meeting. Center staff member, Andrew McGowen, also reviewed the Center's summer water quality monitoring data. J. Volk reported future meetings will be held on Wednesdays instead of Fridays. Next meeting STAC will discuss the State of the Bays report.

Development Committee

Pat Ragan reported Decked Out was the most successful fundraising event to date, netting \$53,000. \$13,000 is allocated to the Lessons in Nature campaign. The live auction brought in \$8,000. The Development Committee will start planning next year's event for the same location.

P. Ragan said 1,300 letters were mailed for the annual appeal. The goal is to raise \$35,000. As of December 7th, \$15,000 has been donated.

Sussex County

Todd Lawson discussed the county's proposal to access the ocean outfall in Rehoboth Beach. He reported the county would give the city \$7.6 million to connect the Wolfe Neck Wastewater Facility. T. Lawson reported there is some opposition to the proposal. T. Lawson said connecting to outfall is Plan B. The county will continue to expand the Inland Bays Wastewater plant. S. Ball asked how the Center could help. T. Lawson said to contact the board of commissioners and express support for the proposal.

OLD BUSINESS

CAC Shellfish and Deforestation Resolutions

Chris Bason reported funding for the shellfish hatchery in Lewes is underway but there is a funding shortage. C. Bason said the Center is facilitating setting up meetings to help. C. Bason reported the county is moving forward with aerial photography to document trees and land use in the county.

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition of the Service of Ken Sigvardson to the Board

Susie Ball recognized Ken Sigvardson for his continued commitment to the Center as a board member since 2018. Ken thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and resigned his membership effective at the end of the meeting.

Nomination of Patti Drago to Board-Elected Director Seat

Pat Coluzzi nominated Patti Drago for the at-large Board-Elected seat. Ken Sigvardson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Nomination and Election of Office of the Chair

Pat Colluzi nominated Susie Ball to continue as Board Chair. Ken Sigvardson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Susie Ball asked if board members had any questions regarding the conflict of interest policy provided in the Board Packet. Hearing none, she asked to approve the new policy. Pat Colluzi made a motion to approve. David Baird seconded. All were in favor.

Fiscal Year 2022 Grant in Aid Application

Chris Bason said the Center submitted the Grant in Aid Application in the amount of \$91,300. C. Bason said the Center is pursuing \$300,000 total operating funds from the state and per the strategic plan and the grant in aid application is in addition to the pass through grant. C. Bason said because of the application deadline, the Executive Committee approved the application and it's already been submitted. He asked the board to affirm the approval of the Executive Committee. Susie Ball made the motion. Ken Sigvardson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Strategic Planning Update

Susie Ball updated the board on the Center's strategic plan. S. Ball said Devona Williams has met with staff, board members, and key stakeholders. Two dates have been set for January to go over the strategic plan. She encouraged everyone to attend the meetings in person, if possible.

Executive Director Report

Chris Bason reported the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) was signed in November. Susie Ball thanked CIB staff member Michelle Schmidt for her work on the CCMP.

C. Bason gave an update on federal funding. The infrastructure bill includes an additional \$132 million over five years for NEPs. That means an extra approximately \$900,000 per year for the Center.

C. Bason updated the board on the status of the James Farm Master Plan. (JFMP) \$1.186 million of the \$1.2 million goal has been raised to date. Construction design is 90% complete. The project is on track for a completion in FY22.

Michelle Schmidt updated the board on the Sussex Conservation Project. M. Schmidt said 103 acres of land have been preserved since 2020 in three separate parcels. She reported an effort to purchase more land at Piney Neck.

M. Schmidt told the board about a grant for outdoor recreation on 17 acres at Herring Creek Reserve. It could include a kayak launch, picnic tables, and trails. M. Schmidt reported the Delaware Land Protection

Coalition is requesting an additional \$25 million in the Governor's FY23 budget to purchase and preserve more open space in Delaware.

C. Bason said the Center has completed its Waterfront Property Guidebook. It will be mailed to 4,000 waterfront property owners in January.

C. Bason presented on the county's proposed changes to the buffer ordinance. He said Sussex County needs better buffers to improve water quality in the Bays and its watersheds. The current proposed ordinance is a step forward and a step backward in protection. It is not in line with the scientific recommendations for buffers nor what other nearby jurisdictions require. C. Bason said the Center is recommending requirements for forested buffers, reforestation of non-forested buffers, removal of options to reduce the widths of buffers, and disallowance of stormwater detention facilities in buffers. Todd Lawson said the county council will vote in January on proposed revisions to the county's buffer widths.

Adjournment

The Chair made a motion to adjourn, Pat Coluzzi made the motion to approve and Aimee Isaac seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Aimee Isaac.