

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting Minutes

Delaware Center for the Inland Bays
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

March 16, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present	CIB Staff Present
Rick Eakle (<i>Chair</i>)	E.J. Chalabala
Pat Campbell-White (<i>Vice-chair</i>)	Chris Bason
Jim Elliott (<i>Immediate Past-chair</i>)	Sally Boswell
Sergio Huerta, DNREC (<i>STAC Chair</i>)	Eric Buehl
Lloyd Hughes (<i>CAC Vice Chair</i>)	Jim Alderman
Board Alternates Present	Josh Thompson
Kevin Donnelly	Loretta Smith
Lawrence Lank	Ed Lewandowski
Bill Rohrer	Jess Gordon
Debbie Absher	Members of the Public Present
Board Members Absent	Carol Bason
Secretary John Hughes	Lyn n Jankus
Dominique Lueckenhoff	Martha Keller
William McGowan	Michael Short
EPA Representatives	Kathy Bunting-Howarth
Ed Ambrogio	Karine Lavalley
Ann Carkuff	

Summary of Motions

1. Motion to accept the previous board meeting minutes by Lloyd Hughes; seconded by Elliott; passed unanimously.
2. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Absher; seconded by Elliott; passed unanimously.
3. Motion to accept the CAC ad hoc subcommittee's report on the County Landuse Plan Update by Elliott was amended by Campbell-White to accept the report with the caveats to require members of the CIB staff and the ad hoc subcommittee to reword the four items expressed by Campbell-White and to request that the Board review the report in more detail so that it is acceptable as the policy of the board; amended motion seconded by Elliott; passed unanimously with Lank abstaining.

Action Items

1. The Chair requested that the Director begin work on what-if budget scenarios should anticipated cuts to program funding occur.
2. The Chair suggested that the Director and the staff pursue funding from DNREC to address the needs of the proposed Sudden Wetland Dieback monitoring plan.
3. The Chair requested that the Director and the staff address the concerns expressed by Campbell-White on the CIB CAC ad hoc subcommittee report on the Sussex County Landuse Plan Update and resubmit the report to the executive committee.

MINUTES:

Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Rick Eakle called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Meeting participants were asked to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Rick Eakle welcomed Jess Gordon as the new part-time development coordinator of the CIB staff.

Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes

Lloyd Hughes gave the Secretary's Report. Being no corrections, Lloyd Hughes moved to accept the December 2006 Board meeting minutes as presented. Jim Elliot seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Debbie Absher gave the Treasurer's report. Debbie moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Jim Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Rick Eakle and Jim Elliot thanked Loretta Smith and Ed Lewandowski on the work completed on the Center's successful audit.

STAC Update

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC): Dr. Sergio Huerta reported that the STAC met on January 19th and March 9th for the main purpose of revisiting the Inland Bays Environmental Indicators. The January 19th meeting entertained presentations on an environmental indicator framework from keynote speaker Dr. Denise Wardrop of Penn State, and on Blue Water Winds proposed offshore wind farm. The March 9th meeting focused on updated existing environmental indicators and planning the approach to form the environmental indicators into a complete and coherent explanation of the condition of the Inland Bays over time. The STAC was also presented with a white paper on sudden wetland dieback and a monitoring plan to study this phenomenon in Delaware's Inland Bays. Sergio Huerta asked the Board to consider this.

CAC Update

Lloyd Hughes had nothing to report on the CAC and confirmed that the CAC ad hoc subcommittee presentation will occur under the new business of the meeting.

Board Updates

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): The Chair requested that Ed Ambrogio discuss the role of Ann Carkuff on the Board. Ed replied that Ann will fill in for Suzanne Hall of the EPA until July. Ann has had extensive experience with the EPA non-point source and biosolids program. Ed also mentioned that Steve Donahue (EPA) attended the last STAC meeting to assist.

Ed Ambrogio reported that the NEP spring meeting in Washington held talks on green infrastructure projects to improve environmental quality and the revision of the NEP implementation review process to quantitatively measure unique programs. Suzanne Schwartz, head of EPA Coastal Protection Division, will be moving up and Paul Cough will take her position. Certain NEPs had difficulty spending down grant funds efficiently. This is not a problem for EPA Region III NEPs, but policy changes regarding this issue may still affect the CIB.

Ed Ambrogio reported on the proposed budgets for FY07 and FY08. A table illustrating proposed funding was presented and is attached. The FY08 request for the NEPs was reduced due to the EPA's concerns regarding the NEP's spending rates for previously appropriated funds. The FY07 budget is under a continuing resolution for the rest of the year. The FY07 budget plan that the developed is currently being reviewed by Congress. The FY07 and FY08 budget lines for the NEPs will be determined by Congress. The general funding trend is a downward one. The Chair asked what was driving the decrease in funding for the NEPs versus the increase in funding for the EPA overall? Ed Ambrogio replied that he did not know himself and that the EPA headquarters contacts reported that this division of funds had to occur in this manner. Ed Lewandowski added that NEPs have done an excellent job of requesting and receiving Congressional increases to proposed funding in the past.

Ann Carkuff reported that an assistance meeting between States, NEPs, and Region 3 EPA programs will occur in Ocean City Maryland on May 21st – 24th. The Chair requested that the Director begin work on what-if budget scenarios should anticipated cuts to program funding occur.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC): Kevin Donnelly noted that both he and Secretary Hughes were appreciative of the Director's work at the Joint Finance Committee Meeting. DNREC will also have a lean budget year. A meeting on the Pollution Control Strategy occurred between the Coalition, local legislators, DNREC, and the CIB, and, as a partial result, the PCS was not submitted for publication in the register of regulations. DNREC continues to study the buffer section of the document.

Department of Agriculture: Bill Rohrer presented the highlights of the DDA's work including a marketing program, education and outreach (2 DVDs were submitted to the Director), the Farmland Preservation Program, the popularity of the horse racing industry, crop insurance, nutrient management, pesticide recycling, plant industries, and the development of ethanol. Currently in Delaware, 82,218 acres of farmland are

permanently preserved, and Delaware is the leading state in the nation for the percentage of land permanently preserved. The Nutrient Management program has reached the 100% implementation mark for nutrient management planning for the State. Bill Rohrer also recognized the Director's work on the Nutrient Management Commission.

Sussex County: Lawrence Lank shared the County's update. Thanks were given to the CIB for hosting the February 7th meeting on the 2007 update of Sussex County's Land Use Plan (SCLUP). It was reported that the SCLUP public meetings were sometimes muddled by conversation on State Resource Area maps. The consultants are preparing a draft of the plan that the staff can review in May. More workshop meetings with the public may follow the draft release. There will be an effort to strengthen the language of the update to eliminate words like "consider" that have in the past allowed inaction on intended update ordinances. The Chair and Mr. Lank both commented on the strength of the February 7th meeting that the CIB hosted in which other environmental groups were involved.

Sussex Conservation District (SCD): Debbie Absher provided the Sussex Conservation District report. She highlighted some of the work that had been completed to date including dredging of the Assawoman Canal and nutrient management projects. The SCD is developing a storm water management database with DNREC and the Kent Co. Conservation District to track best management use and area. This should be completed by the end of 2007. Jim Elliot inquired about the SCD work on tax ditches. Debbie Absher replied that the maintenance of tax ditches is the main responsibility of tax ditches associations.

Kevin Donnelly mentioned that the State Supreme Court affirmed the Chancery Court's decision to deny the appeal of the DNREC's issuance of the dredging permits. This upheld the direction of the Department mandated by the General Assembly through epilogue language.

Old Business

No old business was reported.

New Business

Sudden Wetland Dieback: The CIB Science Coordinator, Chris Bason, presented a white paper on sudden wetland dieback, a proposed monitoring plan, and reported on Sudden Wetland Dieback. A presentation is available. The Chair recommended that the CIB staff and director pursue the funding needed for the proposed monitoring with DNREC.

CAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report: Carol Bason, CAC representative, presented the work of the subcommittee to review the progress of the implementation of the 2003 Sussex County Landuse Plan Update and to make recommendations for the 2007 Update per the CIB CCMP. The work also contained the recommendations of other environmental groups invited to participate in the process. The presentation and report is available.

Jim Elliot motioned to accept the report. Pat Campbell-White questioned whether the acceptance of the report would indicate that the report would become the Board's position. The Chair affirmed this. Pat remarked the document presented to the Board was missing pages 2 and 4. Pat pointed out three items that she would object to as a part of a management plan or Board position: 1) Enact ordinances to prohibit development in areas of the State where there is no planned infrastructure or services in Level three and four, 2) Enact an ordinance that requires sewage infrastructure prior to new development, and 3) Enact ordinances that protect State Resource areas and natural areas on the State Resource Areas Maps. The Chair asked if there were any suggestions on how to reword the items to satisfy the expressed concerns. Pat replied that the report could be accepted as a job well done and the Board could then revise the report. Pat amended the motion to accepting the report and having the ad hoc committee and the CIB staff amend the report to a form acceptable to the Board before its final approval. Jim Elliott seconded. The Chair rephrased the motion to accept the report with the caveats to require members of the CIB staff and the ad hoc subcommittee to reword the four items expressed by Campbell-White and to request that the Board review the report in more detail so that it is acceptable as the policy of the board; motion seconded by Elliott; passed unanimously with Lank abstaining.

Staff Updates: Sally Boswell introduced the new Inland Bays brochure and the 2006 annual report to the Board and reviewed previous CIB newsletters.

Open Forum

A question was submitted to the Science Coordinator on salinity testing in regards to the Sudden Wetland Dieback. Bason replied that salinity was tested and found to be within the normal range in a number of sites.

Jim Elliott asked about the status of the Pasture Point and Seal Island Projects. The Director replied that comments on the Pasture Point project from DNREC were recently received and that they contained numerous unresolved differences between the Department and CIB. The CIB is committed to working with DNREC to resolving the differences. Eric Buehl reported that the Seal Island Project is being delayed because of ownership issues that the Army Corps has with the island. Jim Elliott inquired about the Snow Goose population on the Little Assawoman Bay. Chris Bason briefed on the USFWS plan to control the goose population.

Martha Keller asked whether dredge spoil was being used on Seal Island. Eric Buehl answered no. Martha Keller asked whether volunteers could be used to monitor wetlands.

Adjournment

Jim Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Lloyd Hughes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Elliott, Acting Secretary
JHE/ej