

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Magnolia's Restaurant
Ocean View, Delaware

December 14, 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
Dr. Sergio Huerta, DNREC (<i>STAC chair</i>)	Eric Buehl
Ron Wuslich (<i>Secretary and CAC chair</i>)	Jim Alderman
Dr. William McGowan	Loretta Smith
David Baker	Ed Lewandowski
Ed Ambrogio (<i>ex officio</i>) U.S. EPA	Jess Gordon
Board Alternates Present	Pat Drizd
Kevin Donnelly	Members of the Public Present
	Dave Blazer (<i>MD Coastal Bays</i>)
Board Members Absent	Carol Cain (<i>MD Coastal Bays</i>)
Secretary John Hughes	Dr. Kent Price
Secretary Michael Scuse	Lloyd Hughes
EPA Representatives	Bob Collins
Suzanne Hall	William Rohrer
Theresa Trainor	
Ed Ambrogio	

Summary of Motions

1. Motion to accept the previous board meeting minutes by Ron Wuslich; seconded by Jim Elliott; passed unanimously.
2. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Bill McGowan; seconded by Elliott; passed unanimously.
3. Motion to accept four new members to the CAC by Ron Wuslich; seconded by Elliott; passed unanimously.
4. Motion to adjourn by Rick Eakle; seconded by Elliott. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

MINUTES:

Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Rick Eakle called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Meeting participants were asked to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes

Ron Wuslich gave the Secretary's Report. Mr. Wuslich moved to accept the September 2007 Board meeting minutes as presented. Jim Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Bill McGowan gave the Treasurer's report. Mr. McGowan moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Jim Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. McGowan stated that during his time as Treasurer, the Treasurer's reports have been consistently excellent. He credited Loretta Smith and Ed Lewandowski on the clarity of the reports and on their fiscal responsibility.

STAC Update

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC): Dr. Sergio Huerta reported that the STAC met on November 16 to report on three topics: The condition of the freshwater and tidal wetlands, the discovery of the Red Tide (*Karenia brevis*) organism in the waters off the Inland Bays, and the draft sediment management plan for Rehoboth Bay. Presentations were made on all three topics. The topics presented highlighted the fact that considerable changes are happening in the environment and it is advisable to be proactive in our response.

CAC Update

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): Ron Wuslich reported that the Center has received four applications for membership to the CAC. Mr. Wuslich made a motion to accept these members, which was seconded by Elliott and passed unanimously. This brings the number of CAC members to 24, a full complement of voting members. Since the last CAC meeting, the Management Committee has reviewed the *Land Use* element of the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan, attended local meetings and written editorials concerning Inland Bays water quality and planning & enforcement. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for January 8th at 4:00 p.m. and will cover wetlands restoration and water quality in the Inland Bays.

Board Updates

DNREC

Chairman Rick Eakle acknowledged Kevin Donnelly's retirement from DNREC and thanked him for all of his work with the Center. Kevin reported that a tight budget year is expected for all state government. The Governor's recommended budget is expected in late December/early January. That recommended budget is what the agency will request before the Joint Finance Committee in February. Participation and presence of the Board and Center staff is suggested at the JFC hearing.

Jack Pingree is the Program Manager for DNREC's Recreational and Shellfish Protection Program and he will serve as the division coordinator in working with the University of Delaware on the Red Tide issue in Delaware.

The agency is still working on the components of the Pollution Control Strategy. There is an effort by the agency staff to go back into the field in order to update their wetlands and streams maps that are currently of mixed quality in terms of being able to portray to the public (in a regulatory sense) those bodies of water that ultimately may be part of a buffer plan. However, Mr. Donnelly is optimistic that the intentions of the agency regarding the Pollution Control Strategy should be available on or before next month.

DE Department of Agriculture

Mr. Bill Rohrer (alternate for Secretary Michael Scuse) discussed the value of the Crop Insurance Program to cover the value of \$76 million worth of crops in 2007, compared with \$43 million in 2003. The Forest Land Preservation Program is a new program this year, to assist in permanently preserving forest land. The Farmland Preservation Program received permanent funding this year at \$10 million per year, which contributes to the preservation of farmland in Delaware. The Marketing Program is another new program, focusing on stimulating local farmers markets. Delaware has become the model for dealing with avian influenza. The Nutrient Management law and regulations are fully implemented at this point.

Sussex Conservation District (SCD): Mr. Bill McGowan stated that there is about \$250,000 in agricultural structures in the Inland Bays; agriculture is still a significant resource in the Inland Bays. SCD is participating in studies regarding storm water in Sussex County, and is working with the Center to produce a storm water workshop in the spring. When a developer files for a project, they must file a notice of intent. In 2007, approximately 7,000 acres were listed as "notice of intent;" 2,000 of these acres were disturbed. However, the 2,000 acres does not ultimately represent the final number of acres that will be disturbed. SCD is considered the on-site monitoring and professional and technical expertise for storm water in the County.

Sussex County Administrator

Mr. David Baker stated that the County is currently taking comments on the *Comprehensive Plan*. Once these comments are reviewed, recommendations will be made to the Governor and the County Council, after which the County can vote on the plan. Mr. Baker is interested in sitting down with the Center in order to hear some of our concerns about the plan.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

Mr. Ed Ambrogio reported that there is still no budget; EPA's budget is on a Continuing Resolution. In the next couple of weeks, either another continuing resolution will take place or the budget will be passed. A couple of months ago, a 20th anniversary celebration of the NEPs took place in Washington. It was well-attended and proved to be a good outreach and networking opportunity for the NEPs. Mr. Ambrogio's office recently went through a Regional Review of the water programs to review how effectively they are operating. The Deputy Assistant Administrator was especially pleased with the Estuary program's habitat numbers, but was concerned about the decline of submerged aquatic vegetation, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Ambrogio stated that similar problems also exist in the coastal bays, but regional uncontrollable natural environmental factors likely play more of a role in the decline than pollution does. Overall, the Estuary Program was held up as a good example of leveraging and collaboration. Lastly, the National Estuary Program's National Meeting took place in the fall in Puerto Rico and was very successful. Suzanne Hall mentioned that a proposal was submitted for an EPA grant for research. Along with Ms. Hall, Chris Bason presented this proposal to the Council who

will decide who receives the grant. The panel members were impressed with the presentation; their decision is pending.

Old Business

Jim Elliott asked Kevin Donnelly about where things stood on buffer zones. Mr. Donnelly explained that buffers are tied into the Pollution Control Strategy, which is still under construction.

Pat Campbell-White discussed the issue of removing effluent from Rehoboth's canals. The city continues to explore land-based alternatives to the removal of effluent.

New Business

Ed Lewandowski took the opportunity to discuss an upcoming Board Retreat in order to conduct Strategic Planning. The last Board Retreat took place in 2001, and much has changed since then. A late winter/early spring retreat is planned.

EPA Presentation: NEP Program Evaluation Guidance (Theresa Trainor, EPA/CMB)

Effective October 2007, the Center is under new Program Evaluation Guidelines from the EPA. Our next evaluation is scheduled for 2009. Ms. Trainor's presentation discussed the changes in the new NEP program evaluation. Rick Eakle asked Ms. Trainor about the financial management section of the new guidelines, which discusses funding and fundraising. Since EPA dollars cannot be used to support fundraising, Mr. Eakle questioned how it could be a part of their evaluation. Ms. Trainor explained that the EPA discovered many NEPs were working with partner agencies to bring in additional money without using federal dollars to do so. However, the EPA realizes not all NEPs have the ability or the capacity to fund raise, and therefore evaluations will be based on each organization's unique ability to raise funds. Ms. Trainor did stress the importance of diversifying funding sources, however, citing the dire projections about the federal budget. Ron Wuslich questioned whether the result of an evaluation will have an impact on funding. Ms. Trainor confirmed that the program evaluation was designed to determine if a specific NEP merited continued funding. However, she pointed out that in the history of conducting the program evaluations, only one NEP has failed. Ed Lewandowski asked Ms. Trainor if the competitive grants officer at headquarters will look at these evaluations and change funding based on their results. Ms. Trainor said it is very unlikely. Budget cuts are not so much related to performance, she explained. Ms. Trainor expects this to be the final guidance for the NEPs.

CIB Presentation: Research, Monitoring & Reporting: A Review of Science at the CIB (Chris Bason)

Chris Bason, CIB Science Coordinator, provided a presentation describing the ecology of the inland bays and how the CIB is able to integrate its science objectives into the annual work plan.

Adjournment

Rick Eakle moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Jim Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Wuslich, Secretary
JRG