

DRAFT



DRAFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Center for the Inland Bays
Hybrid: CIB office and via Zoom
September 18th, 2023

ATTENDANCE

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Pat Coluzzi (Speaker of the House Appt, Acting Chair)	Megan Mackey (EPA)
David Baird (SCD, Treasurer)	Ferry Akbar Buchanan (EPA)
Sec. Michael Scuse (DDA)	Sharon Webb (DNREC)
Claire Simmers (CAC)	Julie Morgan (Whisman Giordano)
Nicole Bailey Ashton (Board-Elected)	
Patti Drago (Board-Elected)	<u>Board Members Absent</u>
Jenn Volk (STAC)	Sec. Shawn Garvin (DNREC)
Aimee Isaac (Senate Pro Tem Appt, Secretary)	Debbie Botchie (Sussex County)
Marlene Saunders (Board-Elected)	Jerry Esposito (Board-Elected)
Amie Howell (EPA ex officio)	Rony Baltazar-Lopez (Pro-Temp, Ex-Officio)
Todd Lawson (Sussex County)	
	<u>Center for the Inland Bays Staff Present</u>
<u>Board Alternates Present</u>	Christophe Tulou
Terry Deputy (DNREC)	Anna Fagan
Hans Medlarz (Sussex County)	Meghan Noe Fellows
Chris Brosch (DDA)	
Stephen Williams (DNREC Alt. for Sec. Shawn Garvin)	

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Pat Coluzzi called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. P. Coluzzi led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

REMEMBRANCE OF SUSIE BALL

Anna Fagan announced that a memorial for Susie Ball would be held at the CIB office. D. Baird opened the floor to discuss ideas to memorialize Susie Ball and her endeavors at the Center. P. Coluzzi visited the idea of naming the Education Center at James Farm after Susie Ball. P. Coluzzi made a motion to approve. D. Baird seconded. The vote was unanimous. C. Simmers discussed developing an annual award in Susie Ball's name for educators or students doing work in the community. C. Simmers made a motion to approve. D. Baird seconded. The vote was unanimous.

MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

P. Coluzzi asked if any changes were to be made to the agenda. No changes were made.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aimee Isaac confirmed that the Board members received the minutes from the previous meeting. P. Drago made a motion to approve the minutes. M. Scuse seconded. The vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

D. Baird started the Treasurer's Report by introducing Julie Morgan at Whisman Giordano. J. Morgan was the auditor on the Center's single audit for last year that ended September 30, 2022. J. Morgan reviewed the reporting of the financial statements, single audit results and the 990 presentation. D. Baird made a motion to approve the Board Budget Summary. M. Scuse seconded. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Claire Simmers reviewed the last CAC meeting. The CAC has formed 2 working groups that were established in July. The first group is centered on water quality. They have been tasked with putting together a work plan. The second group is centered on invasive species. They are tasked with putting together an outreach work plan. The working groups have also been tasked with including diversity and underserved communities in their work plans. C. Simmers asked for recommendations for new CAC members.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Jenn Volk reviewed the previous STAC meeting from August 11, 2023. There are updates from several subcommittees. The wastewater planning committee is moving forward with Bryanna Lisisewski from CIB working on data. Mark Nardi is gathering information for the offshore wind committee. That committee is gathering information on potential nearshore impacts that could occur to the inland bays. A panel discussion about coastal resilience was held and discussed collectively managing for resilience and building support among the public.

Development Committee

Anna Fagan gave an update for the upcoming Decked Out event. New displays corresponding to the different CIB programs will be added to the event this year. The Dogfish Dash is upcoming this week as well and CIB is beneficiary this year again. The development team is also working on an end of the year giving event.

Delaware Department of Agriculture

Michael Scuse reported that now over 153,000 acres are protected in the State of Delaware. This is a record amount of spending on preservation land. The outreach efforts are working and a record number of land owners have put in bids for purchase. There is a farm bill meeting next week at the Department of Agriculture. A follow up meeting will be held regarding wildlife conservation programs and Ag land preservation. The general assembly awarded \$1.1 million to the oyster hatchery in Lewes. They are currently discussing ways to help expand the hatchery to get more oysters into the Inland Bays and the Delaware Bay.

Sussex County

Todd Lawson reported an update regarding the County's Inland Bays Regional Wastewater facility upgrade. The upgrade continues and constructed wetlands are being installed. There is an upcoming workshop at the EOC with topics including forest preservation, open space, buffers and housing. P. Coluzzi asked about the workshop attendance. T. Lawson clarified the purpose is more informational presentation than a public forum.

EPA

Amie Howell reported that CIB received their base funding for the NEP program in August. The amount was \$850,000 this year. EPA headquarters approved the Center's equity strategy and will be tied to future match funding for the next 3 years. Thank you to Christophe, Anna and the CIB team for a great program evaluation this year. A. Howell stated that they got to see a lot of work on the ground happening and that CIB should be rated proficient for this cycle which is the highest rating that can be received.

House & Senate

Aimee Isaac reported on House Bill 99 was signed into law that establishes greenhouse gas reductions. Senate Bill 170 was signed into law which is a study of the impacts of offshore wind development. A late bill in the session established minimum buffer requirements for all 3 Delaware counties. Pat Coluzzi announced that there are no new updates for the House.

DNREC

Stephen Willams reported that DNREC has been assigned with the task of evaluating a report of feasibility on the non-tidal wetland program with more information regarding the impact of the Sackett decision. The purpose is to look at recommendations and answer whether Delaware is affected.

OLD BUSINESS

FY23-25 Strategic Plan Update and Tracking

Christophe Tulou reported an update to the strategic plan and how the Center plans to track the progress on the key performance indicators. The Center is looking at the Monday.com software as the way to track progress. This will also assist the Center report progress to the Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Monitoring Plan Approval

Pat Coluzzi stated that the Board would be voting on the environmental monitoring plan and invited Christophe Tulou to report on the details of the current version of the plan. C. Tulou stated that the Environmental Monitoring Plan is something the Science and Technical

Advisory Committee looks at every other year. It includes measures that the Center, through its citizen science and its partners, are collecting to paint the picture of the health and vitality of the bays and the watershed. This version includes assessments of sea grasses, salt marshes, forests and other living resources, emerging contaminants (plastics) and disease loads in wild versus aquaculture oysters. P. Drago made a motion to approve the Environmental Monitoring Plan. D. Baird seconded. The vote was unanimous.

FY2024 BIL Workplan Approval

Anna Fagan confirmed that the Board members received a draft of the FY2024 BIL workplan that is included in the board packet. The BIL workplan will be voted on for approval. No questions were presented. M. Scuse made a motion to approve the FY2024 BIL Workplan. A. Isaac seconded. The vote was unanimous.

2024 Committee Meeting Schedule

Anna Fagan confirmed that the Board members received the proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming year. A. Fagan asked for any requests regarding changes or conflicts. No changes were requested.

Executive Director's Report

Christophe Tulou started off by referring to the round table between the Sussex County council and Planning and Zoning. C. Tulou stated that it is great that the council is willing to look at the variety of issues in development. C. Tulou stated that the implications for development done wrong are huge for the watershed and the bays. The State of the Bays report on water quality indicators is a consistent 'B' grade. There are many contributing factors to this grade and its impairments, and there are better ways than others to develop land. It is a good opportunity to look at the variety of impacts and drivers of development patterns to see if there is a superior design that can be settled on. The Center is hearing in the community about stormwater regulations at the state level. C. Tulou asked, what influence do they have on developers? Development is the largest portion of land use change in the watershed. C. Tulou asked, how could stormwater regulations work better for all of our purposes? There would be an opportunity to bring experts together to discuss. C. Tulou will provide updates as soon as they become available regarding these discussions. C. Tulou recognized the STAC working group that is looking at the potential environmental impacts of offshore wind. C. Tulou gave the board an update on current news regarding offshore wind. STAC has met with US Wind and Orsted to get a better idea of how they are thinking about current issues. The Bioenergy Devco company received their construction permits for their biogas facility near Seaford. The Center has previously supported this facility. A civil rights petition has been received and accepted by the EPA. The petition is focused on giving information about the facility to neighboring communities in a language that they can understand.

Board Leadership and Member Recruitment

C. Tulou thanked the board members for their assistance in discussions regarding a new Chair for the CIB Board. C. Tulou asked the board to please bring any referrals for this position to his attention.

Board Elections - Board Elected Directors

Anna Fagan stated that Nicole Bailey-Ashton's CIB board seat is up for renewal at the end of this calendar year. The board will vote to renew N. Bailey-Ashton's position. P. Drago made a motion to approve. M. Scuse seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Annual Recognition of the Board of Directors

Pat Coluzzi thanked the Board for their dedication to the Center and how they care about the challenges they are faced with and their continued participation.

Open Forum

No discussion.

Adjournment

P. Coluzzi made a motion to adjourn. A. Isaac seconded. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am.