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

DEIJA COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, September 26, 2024

TIME: 6 - 7:30pm

LOCATION: First State Community Action Agency, 308 N Railroad Ave, Georgetown, DE 19947

Remote via Zoom:

By computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83871927116>

By phone: (301) 715-8592 Meeting ID: 838 7192 7116 #

Meeting called by: Dr. Marlene Saunders, Chair

Attendees: *Anna Fagan, Meghan Noe Fellows, Bonnie Hall, Chanta Howard Wilkinson, Nivette Perez-Perez, Ragghi Rain, Flavia Rutkosky, Melina Vella*

Welcome / Call to Order *6:03 pm* A. Fagan

Meeting Agenda Review A. Fagan

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes A. Fagan

N. Perez-Perez made a motion to approve. B. Hall seconded. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

Southern Delaware Coastal Resilience Plan M. Vella

-M. Vella presented to the Committee on the Southern Delaware Coastal Resilience Plan (SDCR), a project aimed at preparing vulnerable communities for the impacts of climate change. A copy of the presentation will be provided to Committee members following the meeting.

-Six action items for the Committee were identified: (1) Connection to networks in the target communities, (2) Recommendations for organizations to partner with for Clima-con (3) Contacts for community members who may be interested in participating in or hosting a community conversation (4) Review the agenda for the conversations and Clima-con (5) Review the questionnaire (6) Participate in Community Conversations and/or Clima-con.

-Some discussion was had about the length of the facilitated conversations. The Committee suggested that a 3-hour session may be too long, and suggested splitting this into two 90-minute sessions, with the understanding that there is much content to discuss. Discussion was also had about scheduling sessions on weekends or evenings to accommodate different schedules. Virtual options should also be considered.

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-The Committee agreed on the importance of incentives to encourage participation, suggesting that attendance at a certain number of sessions could be a requirement for receiving these incentives. They also considered the possibility of recording sessions for those unable to attend, allowing them to participate by listening to the recordings and completing assignments. The team emphasized the need for community involvement by any means necessary, with a focus on capturing insights from community members without requiring extensive preparation.

New Business

2026 State of the Bays

N. Perez-Perez / M. Noe Fellows

-N. Perez-Perez presented on the State of the Bays report, a compilation of environmental data about the Bays and their watershed that the Center produces every five years. A copy of the presentation will be provided to Committee members following the meeting.

-The Center is asking the Committee to form a subcommittee to review portions of the 2021 State of the Bays report through the lens of DEIJA values and provide comments for improvement to incorporate into the 2026 report. This is a similar exercise to that conducted by sister program Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.

-M. Saunders and C. Wilkinson committed to the subcommittee. They will target early January for the first meeting. A follow-up email will be sent to the full committee and interested parties seeking additional commitments. Please contact M. Saunders or N. Perez-Perez to express interest or ask questions.

Legislative Updates

M. Saunders

-Brief discussion was had regarding the People's Anti-pollution and the upcoming election.

Updates on US Wind Project and CIB Position

C. Tulou

-Agenda item tabled due to conflict with C. Tulou's schedule.

Subcommittee Discussion

All

-Agenda item covered in previous 2026 State of the Bays discussion.

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Open Forum

Adjourn

7:28pm

M. Saunders