

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
11:00-12:00 ET on Zoom

Attendance:

John Harrod, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Haley Burns, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Kathy Klein, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Zach Nemec, PA Sea Grant
Julie Bell, National Park Service
Frank McLaughlin, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Flavia Rutkosky, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tomas Deza, National Park Service
Kelsey Brooks, Environmental Finance Center University of Maryland
Will Whalon, Philadelphia Water Department
Kefeni Kejela, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Susan Parry, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bart Wilson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Emily Maung-Douglass, DE Sea Grant
Nicole Lick, EPA Region 3
Donald Farrell, Northeast Rising
Will Ethridge, FEMA Region 3
Megan Mackey, EPA Region 3
Avery Lentini, Delaware River Basin Commission
Kim Hachadoorian, The Nature Conservancy
Irene Purdy, EPA Region 2

I. Welcome & Introductions (11:00-11:10AM)

II. Event Updates & Discussions (11:10 – 11:50AM)

- Collaborative Community Projects:
 - For the NEPA categorical exclusion submissions, PDE is gathering additional information that has been requested related to historical preservation.
 - Project partners were provided an extension to complete their projects through June 30, 2025
- Artist in Residence:
 - A request for qualifications has been created to find 4 artist – one in each of Chester, Camden, Philadelphia and Wilmington – to create community art. Please share the RFQ broadly. Would like submissions by end of December.
 - PDE is creating a request for proposals for an artist mentor to help the 4 artist develop their art with the community. It will be shared with UWFP once completed.
 - The group brainstormed community organizations that may be able to connect the selected artists with community members that would inform the art.
- Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit:
 - Registration is now open: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-delaware-estuary-science-environmental-summit-tickets-938790837667?aff=oddtcreator>

- More event information can be found here: <https://delawareestuary.org/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>
- PDE received a PSEG grant to cover the registration costs for 10 representatives from Urban Water communities. The process for selecting candidates is being determined.
- 2025 UWFP Delaware Location WorkPlan: The group provided comments on suggested language changes to the plan

III. Partner Updates & Resource Sharing (11:50 – 12:00AM)

- This afternoon DRBC is having a [special hearing](#) on the dry conditions throughout the Basin. Can register [here](#)
- PA Sea Grant: [Choose Native Plant Guides](#) have been released (download links at bottom)
- Kathy attended a National Estuary Program (NEP) meeting last week on Long Island. A lot of changes are anticipated in the new year with new administration; we are trying to figure out what that will mean. We will pass along any information that we receive. Association of National Estuary Programs does pay for a lobbyist in D.C. to look out for the interest of NEPs since they are authorized programs that receive annual appropriations. If anyone is interested in seeing the info coming out from those folks, Kathy can share that. There was also a helpful CDRW election recap meeting last week; we can share notes if anyone is interested. Much of the work we are doing right now is driven by Justice40 executive order, and we all assume that will go away. We will likely have to think differently about/be more sensitive in the way we talk about things, particularly in regard to going after federal funding; language is important.

IV. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 from 11-12 ET on Zoom.