



Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

A National Estuary Program

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Minutes from the Annual Joint Meeting of the *Estuary Implementation Committee* and *Science and Technical Advisory Committee*

Wednesday, September 29th, 2010 - 9:30 A.M. to 3:15 P.M.
Marcus Hook Community Center, Marcus Hook, PA

STAC Attendees:

Gregory Breese- USFWS
Thomas Belton – NJDEP
Gerald Bright – PWD (alt. for Butler)
David Burke– PADEP
Tom Fikslin – DRBC
Jeff Gebert – ACOE
Desmond Kahn-DNREC
Jerry Kauffman – U of Delaware
Sue Kilham – Drexel University
John Kraeuter – Rutgers University
Danielle Kreeger – PDE
Doug Miller - U of Delaware
Sherilyn Morgan- EPA (alt. for Searfoss)
Ken Strait-PSEG
Eric Vowinkel – USGS

EIC Attendees:

Jen Adkins – PDE
Ed Ambrogio - EPA R3
Paula Conolly - PWD
John Kennel- DNREC
Irene Purdy – US EPA Region 2
Janice Rollwagen - EPA R2
Jay Springer- NJDEP

Other Attendees:

Priscilla Cole – PDE
Jim Eisenhardt - JMT
Andrew Homsey - U of Delaware
Angela Padeletti – PDE
Rob Schuster - NJDEP
Jay Smith- USACE

- 1) **Call to Order & Introductions** – J. Adkins (EIC Chair) **9:30 – 9:45**

- 2) **STAC Updates** – S. Kilham (STAC Chair) **9:45 – 10:00**
 - Minutes from 6/10 meeting approved
 - Minutes from EIC meeting approved
 - Update on **Oil Spill Preparedness in the Delaware Estuary**: STAC Brief
 - EIC wants to talk to congressional reps first before sending out to press

- 3) **Science Conference** – D. Kreeger, J. Adkins **10:00 – 11:00**
 - A record amount of abstracts were received this year
 - ~40 people will be asked to convert to poster presentations
 - Online registration will be up and running soon, pricing went up a bit
 - It is important to retain sponsorship levels to keep costs down
 - Opening session will feature Howard Neukrug; Green City, Clean Water
 - Session 7: Joint Panel
 - DNREC, PWD, have been confirmed, waiting on NJDEP

4) PDE Measurable Goals – J. Adkins **11:00 – 11:30**

- A hand out was given with measurable goals, we would like to distill to one set of goals
- PDE would like to have measurable goals with numbers attached to each goal
- We'd like to have some stretch goals and some that are manageable
- Measurable goals should wait until after the SOEBTR, so that they are based on science
- Need to keep in mind regulatory constraints when dealing with measurable goals
- Possibly report on goals every 3 years with NEP review
- Section leads for the SOEBTR could tee up initial goals, but will probably not set measurable goals for each metric within the SOEBTR effort
- Should make at least some of the goals accessible to the public
- Goals should include management goals and involve managers from all 3 states
- Setting these types of goals will take time, but PDE is going to start the process now
- **Irene and Jen will work on finding and sharing examples from other NEPs for next STAC meeting**

5) State of the Estuary and Basin Report – Section leads and D. Kreeger **11:30 – 12:15**

- Section 1: No data from NOAA yet
- Section 2: No update
- Section 3: Data is being processed, 2010 data will be included
- **PDE needs a SOW for the USGS project and need ASAP to spend out FY2010. Also need to know about funding mechanism.**
- Section 4: The RSM is moving forward on working on the sediment section
- Section 5A: DRBC added 29 more samples to DEBI run, DEBI data is being analyzed, no B-IBI will be performed because of budget
- Section 5B and 5C: No update
- Section 6A: historical data is in hand and are waiting for 2010 data
- Section 6B: Working on getting more recent fish data passage
- Section 7: PDE is working to set up contract with Ray Najjar
- Section 8: No progress
- Section 9: No progress
- Please remember if you said you would do a poster for the PDE Science Conference on your chapter
- **Section leads should present progress reports again at the December STAC meeting when more time will be devoted to this agenda topic. Be prepared to also discuss common formatting, make a list of feature topics, and formalize timeline.**

Lunch **12:00 – 1:00**

6) Climate Ready Estuaries Study Results – J. Adkins **12:15 – 1:00**

- **Please help share and promote the report**
- The report can be viewed online, in total or be section. Each appendix can serve as a stand-alone item as well.
- PDE plans to translate the report and prepare outreach materials for the public in 2011.

6) **STAC Business** – S. Kilham **1:00 – 1:15**

- Approved 6/16/10 minutes
- Next Meeting **December 15th, 2010**

7) **EIC Business** – J. Adkins **1:15 – 1:45**

- No change to last meeting's minutes
- A Steering committee meeting possibly in early December?
- What should PDE needs to get out of the Steering Committee?
- Probably should have a meeting (not a call) soon because of there are many new products and activities to share and get SC feedback on, such as the Climate report, strategic goal setting, RSM Plan [*see below*], etc.
- Note: Tom F. Comment period closes next week to extend criteria for tidal estuary, DRBC. Currently nutrient strategy is being worked on.
- Alliance projects were selected, a total of 5.
- **November 18th, 2010 is next EIC/Board meeting in Salem NJ**

7) **Regional Sediment Management presentation** – Jay Smith

- The RSM meets every month, will likely drop back to quarterly after the RSMP is finished
- A website has been established with brochures and documentation available
 - White papers will be available on sediment quantity, sediment quality, dredging, and restoration and beneficial use
- The group is working with Chris Summerfield of U. Del on some modeling of sediment dynamics for the Delaware Estuary
- The Technical Team of RSM would like two STAC members to be a part of the team to perform an external technical review (i.e., two not currently on the team)
- They would like the Steering Committee to be the Advisory Partner Team, plus a few others. They would like them to do a policy program review and provide guidance on how to achieve. They would look for the group to review and possibly promote the RSM Plan.
- Discussion: no two people have enough expertise to review all the white papers and the whole plan, so it would be better to send it to all of the STAC members but recruit one or a few people to facilitate review and synthesize review comments. Only those with the appropriate expertise will likely comment on specific elements of the plan and so this approach would facilitate a more thorough review.
- **John Kraeuter, Sue Kilham, Des Kahn, Gerry Kauffman volunteered to serve as RSMP review coordinators**
- EIC will bring these ideas to their superiors (i.e., SC members) to be discussed at the next EIC meeting and likely the next (December?) Steering Committee meeting

9) **DRBC Rule-making for Marcellus Shale** – T. Fikslin **2:15 – 2:45**

- Updated STAC & EIC on current activities as they relate to the Estuary
- A withdrawal permit was approved for the west branch of Delaware, the water will have to be within the basin
- DRBC now has regulatory authority to regulate water withdrawal, the drilling pad and the waste water
- An umbrella drilling EIS in NY exists for all drilling

- Buffer provisions could keep drilling out of forested areas
- Monitoring will need to be done by drillers of surface and ground water, post fracking surface and ground water and monitoring the frack water itself
- PA's rule says waste water needs to go to water treatment centers, some have been approached
- DRBC is not sure of what percent of water will be returned to system, current regulations on dissolved solids are 133% of background, which is not a lot in freshwater systems
- DRBC, USGS and NPS are looking to put in water quality stations in Wayne county
- David Burke can provide material if interested
- Water withdrawals are not per day, it is a one occurrence. But the drills need to be re-fracked every few years
- Frack water has high COD and natural occurring high metals and toxins, if the water is re-used those could concentrate
- The information about this is constantly changing and makes it difficult to report on/assess the impacts
- October 15th, DRBC might release what they will be regulating/monitoring
 - STAC could comment on this

10) PSEG Early Site Permit Application for Expanding Salem/Hope Creek – Jeff Pantazes 2:45 - 3:15

- In NJ ~50% of energy comes from coal, ~50% is nuclear
- DE and NJ are importers of energy
- It takes ~13 years from start to finish to build a plant, 2012
- In 2012 they will make a decision if they will go ahead with this plant
- A public scoping meeting should take place by the end of this year
- There would be 2 cooling towers, slimmer and taller than the one that exists now
- A second access road would be raised above the wetlands
- Mason's Point/Abbots farm are places they are looking to do marsh restoration
- With the addition of this generating capacity, PSEG would be the largest provider of nuclear power in the US

Adjourn

3:15

Upcoming PDE Events / Participation

- Delaware Coast Day – October 3
- Atlantic Estuarine Research Federation – November 4-6
- National Estuary Program Fall Meeting – November 8-10
- Restore America's estuaries Conference – November 14-17
- RRI - NRDA Trustee Workshop – December 9

For additional information, please contact **Danielle Kreeger**, Phone: 302-655-4990 x104, email: DKreeger@DelawareEstuary.org

Current STAC Members:

Sue Kilham (Chair) – Drexel University

Allison Allen – NOAA

Gregory Breese – USFWS

Tom Belton – NJDEP

Lance H. Butler – PWD

David Burke/Alan Everett – PADEP

Tom Fikslin – DRBC

Jeff Gebert – Army Corps of Engineers

Bob Hoke - DuPont

Steve Hughes – Cheyney University

Desmond Kahn - DNREC

Jerry Kauffman - Univ of Delaware

John Kraueter – Rutgers University

Danielle Kreeger – PDE

Doug Miller - Univ of Delaware

Jerre Mohler – USFWS

Renee Searfoss – EPA Region 3

Ken Strait - PSEG

David Velinsky – Academy Nat. Sci.

Eric Vowinkel - USGS

David Wolanski - DNREC