



**Science & Technical Advisory Committee
(STAC) Annual Meet & Greet Minutes
August 28, 2025, 10:00 – 1:00 PM**

Attendees

STAC members

Randy Brown (PA Coastal Zone)
Emmy Casper (Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey)
Jenn Gius (HSRL)
Steve Goldsmith (Villanova)
Kelly Good (Villanova)
LeeAnn Haaf (PDE)
Ron Heun (PSEG)
Greg Lech (PA Fish & Boat)
Jon Miller (Stevens)
Josh Moody (NJDEP)
Kristy Northrup (virtual)

Dave Smith (USGS)

Namsoo Suk (DRBC) (virtual)

Other attendees

Haley Burns (PDE)
Ben Coverdale (DNREC)
Joe DiDomenico (PDE)
Sally Ehlers (PDE)
Kathy Klein (PDE)
Thomas Manning (PDE)
Leah Morgan (PDE)
Caity Soriano (DNREC)
Thi Vu (PDE)

Welcome & Introductions - Greg Lech

- Introductions of in-person and virtual attendees
- Call for approval of May 2025 STAC/MACC meeting minutes
 - Motioned to approve by Dave, seconded by Josh, opposed by none
- Vote: Dave Smith co-chair
 - Motioned to approve by Josh, seconded by LeeAnn, opposed by none
- NEP overview – Kathy Klein
 - The President zeroed out NEP funding but was later restored by congress
 - The hatchery project is at a decision making point right now due to all funding being federal thus far and there still being a funding gap.
 - ANEP meeting this fall will be held in Mobile Bay: [ANEP 2025 Tech Transfer - Mobile Bay National Estuary Program](#)
 - Juvenile mussel release to take place tomorrow (August 29) at Palmyra Cove

STAC member presentations

- Kelly Good – *Watersheds as systems: understanding upstream decisions and downstream consequences*
 - Source water protection, microplastics in watersheds, and resilient infrastructure systems: main research foci in Kelly's research group

- Identification of point source discharge of iodine at the watershed scale to inform monitoring efforts and wastewater permitting
- Steve Goldsmith – *Road salt impacts to the greater Philadelphia region water supply: Insights from a multi-sector collaborative approach*
 - What is the risk of road salt to the Philadelphia area?
 - Switching from use of road salt to brining using could adjust road salt input 20-40%
 - Easiest option for reduction into waterways is to use less salt
 - DRBC formed a workgroup to deal with chloride input which recently met with a local municipality on how to limit inputs
- Jenn Gius – *Oyster Stock Assessment in Delaware Bay, NJ*
 - Stock assessment survey is designed to evaluate density of beds to make management decisions in Delaware Bay
 - Managing the NJ Delaware Bay oyster stock is a collaborative approach with varying entities, each with independent members and duties
 - Oysterfest in Bivalve, NJ – October 18:

<https://www.bayshorecenter.org/upcoming-event/new-jersey-oyster-festival-2/>
- Emmy Caspar – *Researching American Oystercatchers on the Delaware Bay*
 - Birds used “backpack” tags good for 3 years to monitor habitat use
 - Open to collaboration with other groups implementing living shorelines to help enhance shorebird habitat
 - Story map: [The Delaware Bay American Oystercatcher Project](#)

STAC Workplan Review

- Shad white paper subcommittee update
 - Final product is complete! It will be circulated amongst the STAC soon, likely with two-week timeline for members to review
 - A press release is also being coordinated in the next month or so prior to wider circulation
- Onboarding subcommittee update
 - Subcommittee consists of Leah, Greg, Lesley Baggett, and Dane Ward, and the subcommittee met earlier this month
 - Introductory information to be collected from all members including short bio, photo, etc., for later upload to the PDE website for potential new members and the general public to access

- Next white papers – Delaware Bay beach sustainability, osprey-menhaden dynamics
 - Sediment updates are 10+ years old; focus would be solely on Delaware Bay beach restoration
 - Machine learning, satellite passing to create maps – are these applicable in DE Bay like they are on the oceanfront?
 - Incorporation of replenishment data with storm data
 - Kristy's company works with a dredge firm in southern NJ, and dredge material for beneficial reuse could be considered relative to replenishment as well.
 - LeeAnn will follow up with the committee regarding this, and we will add an agenda item for our workshop planning meeting in December to discuss further.
 - Loss of nesting and foraging habitats, and beach grass decline could also be considered
 - Osprey vs menhaden dynamics
 - There are no clear issues with menhaden fishery currently but osprey are starving to death; what other dynamics could be at play that could be affecting the osprey population/causing them to die from starvation?
 - We could set up a Dropbox for STAC members to access to drop in reports and updates

Roundtable Updates Review and Discussion

- Review and discuss member input to the [STAC Roundtable Updates Document](#).
- Additions to the document discussed during the meeting include:
 - PADEP – coastal zone grants closed yesterday
 - PADEP has been funded through NOAA through 2026, but coastal programs were cut \$1.5 million
 - Support for municipalities to reestablish shellfish beds
 - NJDEP - [NJDEP| Climate Change | Natural Climate Solutions Grant](#)