



Revised: 10/13/2025

**Science & Technical Advisory Committee
(STAC) and Estuary Implementation
Committee (EIC) Annual Joint Meeting
October 15, 2025, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

STAC

Lesley Baggett (AKRF)
Randy Brown (PADEP)
Jenn Gius (HSRL)
Steven Goldsmith (Villanova University)
Kelly Good (Villanova University)
Greg Lech (PAF&B)
Jon Miller (Stevens Institute of Technology)
Josh Moody (NJDEP)
Kristy Northrup (Roux Inc)
Alison Rogerson (DNREC)
Namsoo Suk (DRBC)
Dane Ward (Monmouth University)

EIC

Elizabeth Butler (EPA Region II)
Rachael Phillos (DNREC)
Catherine Magliocchetti (EPA Region II)

Other attendees

Haley Burns (PDE)
Michael Coverdale (DNREC)
LeeAnn Haaf (PDE)
Martha Maxwell-Doyle (PDE)
Leah Morgan (PDE)
Irene Purdy (EPA Region II)
Meghan Rogalus (PADEP)
Robert Schuster (NJDEP)

Welcome & Introductions

- Call for approval of August 2025 STAC Meet and Greet minutes.
 - Namsoo moved to approve the minutes and Josh seconded the motion.
- Roundtable introductions took place for everyone on the call.

STAC Business Updates – LeeAnn Haaf, Greg Lech, Leah Morgan

- NEP Updates
 - What's on the STAC's to do list in 2026?
 - MINA (Monitoring Inventory and Needs Assessment report), a companion to CCMP, should be redone for 2026 by current EPA guidance. We will likely do a revision of this but want to make things flow a bit better
 - This should integrate well with other NEP documents (i.e., Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin and State of the Estuary Report).
 - We will continue to try to streamline things; MINA is currently a separate report and will hopefully reintegrate things to ensure they make more sense with other NEP products.
- Subcommittee updates
 - Onboarding

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- Website has been updated with new member information; members should please review to ensure accuracy:
<https://delawareestuary.org/committees/science-and-technical-advisory-committee/science-technical-advisory-committee-membership/>
- Leah to circulate information collection forms to have short bios, LinkedIn profiles, and photos for new members on the PDE website.
- Anyone interested in joining the onboarding subcommittee can reach out to Leah – this would be a small commitment with a few discussion-based meetings per year.
- TREB
 - Kickoff meeting to take place next Thursday
 - Discussion points to include:
 - What are we doing to implement a new report?
 - What strategies are associated with accomplishing this?
 - Anyone interested in participating on this subcommittee or attending the meeting can reach out to LeeAnn
- Delaware Bay Sediment Management white paper update
 - Dropbox folder has been opened for members to share resources:
[Sediment Management - STAC Resources - Dropbox](#)
 - No roadmap for this yet; currently in the report collection phase

New Member Meet and Greet – Kristy Northrup, Roux Inc.: STAC Introductions

- Work details remediation after due diligence and site investigation
- Land use compliance covers range of regulated areas, and work involves delineation, permitting, and mitigation
- Ecological risk assessments involve various sampling methods, studies, testing, and modeling approaches
- Risk management decision is made after site and risk assessments

EIC Business Updates – Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Haley Burns

- Freshwater Mussel Hatchery Update
 - Conceptual redesign was completed for a one story building rather than the originally designed two story building.
 - Designers did not achieve any cost saving from the original design; we still have a \$2.6 million funding gap.
 - Discussions are still ongoing with regard to whether this will be built at Bartram's Garden or not
 - Decision will need to happen sooner versus later given that funders are waiting for confirmations.
- FY2025 NEPORT reporting has completed

- This is a requirement for PDE being a National Estuary Program with which the EIC was involved.
- DELEP Steering Committee program meeting scheduled for the end of this month.
- Fifth year of IIJA funding is in the regions right now; EPA is hoping to get this funding out ASAP

STAC Roundtable Updates Review and Discussion

- Dave Smith was confirmed as STAC vice chair at the last meeting
- Bartram's LS that PDE implemented: is there a status update?
 - Materials are installed but haven't been monitored in a few years, but we have some information on mussel free releases that were done a few years ago.
 - We haven't returned to the site since the chemical spill that happened at the site in recent years.
- Tulpehocken Creek Watershed funding could be of interest to the SAN; LeeAnn to pass information along
- EPA finally issued a new DO criteria for the upper portion of the estuary that DRBC has been working on coordinating. The next step is figuring out how to implement this criteria, which includes 67 point source discharges.
 - The previous criteria was last updated in 1967
 - Implementation may be discussed at the WQAC meeting as well.
- Regarding the sediment management white paper, is this decided as the next white paper topic or are we open to other ideas?
 - No – there is still open discussion encouraged for any other white paper ideas from members.
 - For sediment management, the last report done for the estuary was 2013 – this isn't the NEP's responsibility specifically, so we are navigating what our question would be.
 - Namsoo had an idea for a white paper regarding the hatchery for Atlantic sturgeon; Maryland has an Atlantic sturgeon hatchery even though it's an endangered species. Is this worth investigating? There are 200-300 other sturgeon available for the Delaware Estuary, is that worthwhile?
 - Consideration of genetics would also be important – is this kind of propagation feasible?
 - We can discuss this further at our next STAC meeting and involve Sheila for a USFWS perspective.
- Upcoming meetings and conferences

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- RAE in New Haven Connecticut
- Delaware Wetlands Conference coming up in January – deadline for abstract submission is this Friday with possible extension due to the government shutdown.
- NJDEP NCS round 2 – funding available on a rolling basis for projects focused on blue or green carbon – i.e., living shorelines, revegetation projects, can be across a salinity gradient – any questions can be directed to Josh -
<https://dep.nj.gov/climatechange/mitigation/ncs-grant/>
- EPA Region III is working and getting paid at the moment – but this may not continue for much longer and there is no information that has been received

Adjourn

- Next meeting will be to develop the STAC work plan for 2026 while reviewing the 2025 work plan
- LH motioned to adjourn at 11:09, seconded by Randy.

Attachments:

- 1. Roundtable Updates – August 2025**
- 2. 2025 STAC Meet and Greet Meeting Minutes Draft**
- 3. PDE STAC 2025 Workplan**
- 4. Shad white paper press release**
- 5. Shad white paper WHYY article**
- 6. Kristy slides**

Next STAC Meeting: 2026 Workplan Development Meeting, December 17, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, in person at the PDE Offices in Wilmington, DE.