



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo by Susan Rogozinski

Connecting people, science, and nature  
for a healthy Delaware River and Bay

# MESSAGE from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2023 was a big year for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we made some big progress on a few passion projects and provided support to other organizations doing great work to implement the Delaware Estuary Program priorities. A few of these proud accomplishments include recycling over 120,000 pounds of oyster shells. This shell will be used in living shorelines that protect critical habitats from the impacts of sea level rise. Our scientists placed 6,000 baby freshwater mussels into ponds where they will grow, filter water, and provide a multitude of ecosystem services. With the help of student volunteers, hundreds of plants were placed in a 1,000 square foot rain garden at a local high school where they will grow and flourish for years to come. Finally, we are proud to have started a funding assistance program to support organizations doing green projects in historically underserved communities. We look forward to seeing their vision and projects come to life in the coming months.

All of these impactful activities would not have been possible without the commitment of PDE's Board of Directors, staff, partners, and supporters from across the region. **THANK YOU** for helping make last year a success!

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our work to improve the health and future of the Delaware River and Bay, and expand partnerships that are focused on Clean Waters, Healthy Habitats, and Strong Communities.

In gratitude for your ongoing support,

*Kathy Klein*  
Kathy Klein, Executive Director



Photo by  
Kurt Cheng

Photo by Lisa Timbers

## 2023 BOARD of DIRECTORS

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**Shawn Rodier** – Jacobs

**Krista Seng** – Aqua, an Essential Utilities Company

**David Small** – Verdantas

**Eric Wentz** – Covanta



Surveying freshwater mussels in the Delaware River with the Philadelphia Water Department.

## 2023 STATEMENT of ACTIVITIES\*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

### Support and Revenue:

Government Grants and Contracts.....	\$ 1,942,286
Contributions and Grants.....	\$ 1,475,916
Other Revenue.....	\$ 72,661
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE.....</b>	

### Expenses:

Program Services.....	\$ 3,056,333
Management and General.....	\$ 189,091
Fundraising.....	\$ 148,525
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	

Change in Net Assets.....	\$ 143,632
Net Assets at December 31, 2022.....	\$ 1,562,043
Net Assets at December 31, 2023.....	\$ 1,705,675

\*Audit not completed at time of publication.

Please remember  
PDE in your giving!



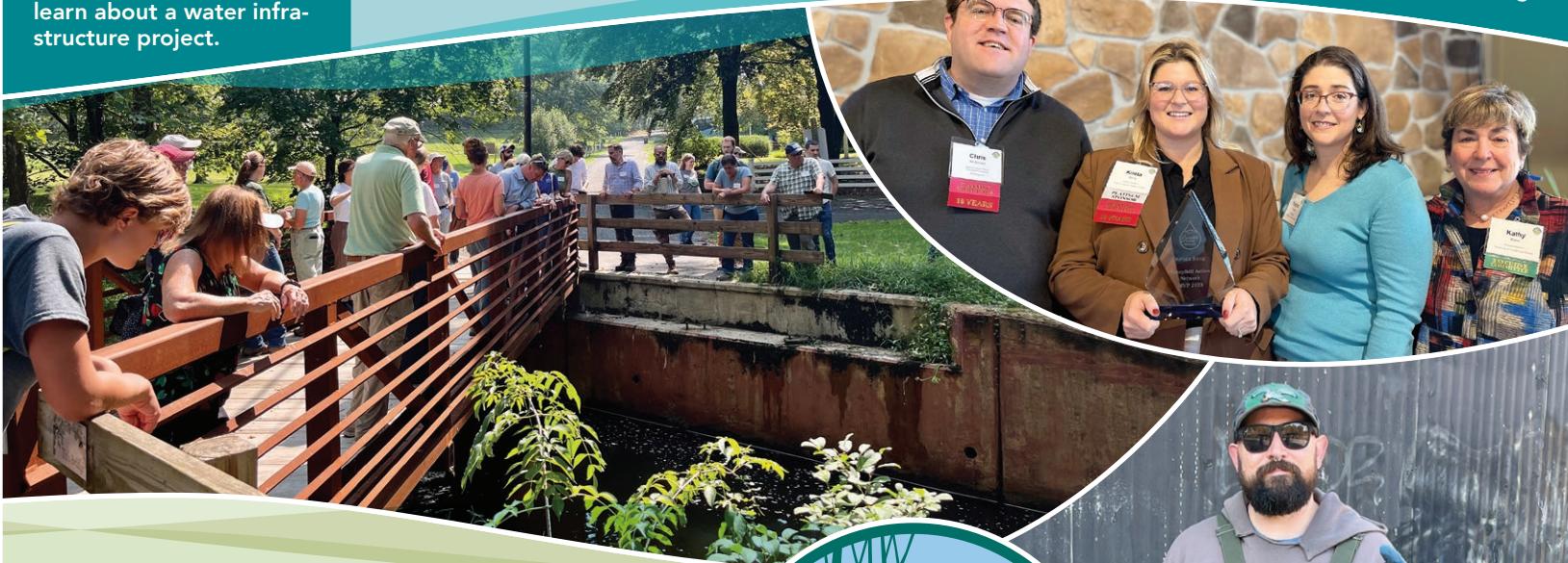
# CLEAN WATERS: 20th Anniversary of SAN

The Schuylkill River is the largest tributary to the Delaware River. Flowing 135 miles from Pottsville to Philadelphia, this important waterway supplies drinking water for roughly two million people. The **Schuylkill Action Network (SAN)** is a watershed-wide collaborative network of over 900 members and 300 diverse partner organizations working together to improve water resources in the Schuylkill River Watershed. With funding from the Philadelphia Water Department and Aqua, PDE staff coordinate meetings, tours, and events, and facilitates the day-to-day operations of the SAN.

In 2023 we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SAN! Nearly 80 partners from numerous organizations across multiple sectors came together to celebrate this milestone at the SAN Annual Meeting at Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown, PA. The meeting highlighted collaborative success over the years and emphasized the role of partnerships.

Schuylkill River Restoration Fund bus tour participants learn about a water infrastructure project.

The SAN MVP award was presented to Krista Seng at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting.



# HEALTHY HABITATS: Shell Recycling

You may not think about it often, but there is an oyster shell shortage in our region. Since 2016, PDE's Shell Recycling Program's goal has been to return oyster shells to the estuary waters in order to stabilize shorelines and create habitat. The recycling process involves picking up shell from restaurants in Wilmington, DE and Philadelphia and transporting it to one of our two recycling locations. Once there, the shell is piled up and exposed to the elements to cure for at least six months. After curing, the shell is ready to be bagged and we enlist the help of volunteers. Volunteers are an integral part of the program, to help us prepare the shell for use in living shoreline restoration projects and throughout the estuary.

(Continued on next page)



Bagging oyster shells for Living Shoreline Restoration.

In 2023, PDE collected over 65,000 lbs. of shell from 14 restaurant partners. We also received a donation of 30,000 lbs. of shell from the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. The combined weight of all that oyster shell is equivalent to nearly 4 school busses! Last year, through public and small group events, 69 volunteers helped us create over 3,400 shell bags!

To learn more or get involved, visit <https://delawareestuary.org/shell-recycling>.



Shell bags placed along the edge of the Mispillion River along Delaware Bay to stabilize the streambank.

Volunteers participate in a shell-bagging event.

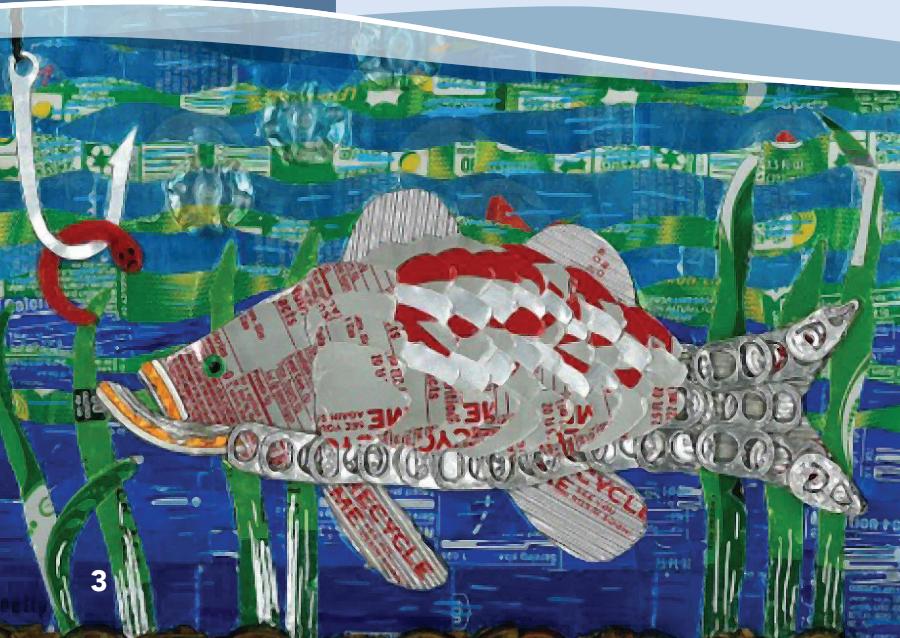


First Place: Fishing for Trash Free Waters by Helen Munnely.

## STRONG COMMUNITIES: Trash Free Waters Art Contest

In conjunction with the Delaware River Festival, and with funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PDE held the 2023 Trash Free Waters Art Contest. Artists from across the region were invited to participate by creating an original piece of artwork. The primary goals of the contest were to bring awareness to the problem of aquatic trash and to highlight how people can be part of the solution.

Local artists submitted 67 original pieces of artwork, which were displayed inside the Independence Seaport Museum during the Delaware River Festival in September. The public was able to choose the winners, and an estimated 600 festival attendees voted on their favorite submissions. The first place piece of artwork will be used in an upcoming advertising campaign at Septa and PATCO stops in Philadelphia to help spread the message about keeping trash out of our waterways.



Delaware River Festival participants vote for their favorite artists.

# 2023 FUNDERS, SPONSORS, and DONORS

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary thanks everyone who supported our work with contributions, grants, event sponsorship, cooperative agreements, and donations.

## GRANTS, CONTRACTS, & PROJECT FUNDING SUPPORT

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University  
American Planning Association, Delaware Chapter  
American Rivers  
Apsona  
Aqua America, Inc.  
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.  
Atlantic Capes Fisheries  
Ballard Spahr  
Betsy's Cape Shore Salts  
Bivalve Packing Company  
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority  
Canva  
Center for Aquatic Science  
Center for Research in Wind  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Christina Brandywine River Remediation  
Restoration Resilience  
City of Wilmington  
City of Wilmington, Green Jobs  
Collaborate Northeast  
Constellation Energy Generation, LLC  
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency  
Delaware Center for the Inland Bays  
Delaware Community Foundation  
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Delaware Department of Transportation  
Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Delaware Nature Society  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
Delaware Sea Grant  
Delaware Technical Community College  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Delaware Water Infrastructure Advisory Council  
Discovery Center  
Dr. Susan S. Kilham Research Fund

Drexel University  
DuPont Clear into the Future  
Eastern Highway Specialists  
EDiS  
Energy Transfer/Sunoco Foundation  
Esri  
Essential Foundation  
Exelon Foundation  
Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center  
Fishtown Seafood  
Fork Restaurant  
George, Miles & Buhr, LLC  
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation  
Google Ads  
GreenWeaver Landscapes, LLC  
H. Fletcher Brown Boys & Girls Club  
Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County  
Habithèque Inc.  
HDR, Inc.  
Hilco Redevelopment Partners  
Independence Seaport Museum  
John Bartram Association  
Kensington Quarters  
Klein Paul Fund  
Leading Light Wind  
Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware  
Longwood Gardens  
MailChimp  
Mercer County Parks Commission  
Misconduct Tavern  
Museum of Science and Industry Chicago  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Sea Grant  
Natural Lands  
Nature Conservancy, Delaware  
New Castle County  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium  
New Jersey Sea Grant  
NV5  
Olde Bar  
PECO Energy Company  
Pennsylvania American Water  
Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management Program  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST)  
Pew Charitable Trust  
Philadelphia Water Department  
Post Haste  
Project ABLE, University of Delaware Blue Tech  
PSEG Foundation  
PSEG Power LLC  
Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC  
Rutgers University  
Rutgers University, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory  
Salem County Career & Technical High School  
Salesforce Foundation  
Sansom Street Oyster House  
Schuylkill River Restoration Fund  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Sussex County Council  
Sweet Amalia Oyster Farm  
Tudor Consulting  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Defense  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
University of Delaware  
University of Delaware, Environmental Club  
University of Maryland  
University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center  
Upper Montgomery Joint Authority  
Vernick Fish  
Wakerfern Foundation  
Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin  
Westside Grows Together  
Wildlife Acoustics  
William Paterson University  
William Penn Foundation  
Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library  
WRT  
Yamaha Rightwaters

Photo by Kristen Cooney

The 2023 Experience the Estuary Celebration was held in Philadelphia.



## 2023 EXPERIENCE THE ESTUARY CELEBRATION SUPPORTERS

Adventure Aquarium  
Aqua  
Atlantic Capes Fisheries  
Barclay Prime  
Brandywine Brewing Company  
Tavern & Grill  
Bivalve Packing Company  
Brandywine River Museum of Art  
Nicole Brown  
Haley Burns  
Iris Burt  
Caesars Entertainment  
Kate Campbell  
Chaddsford Winery  
Constellation  
Delaware Museum of Nature & Science  
Roy Denmark  
Dogfish Head Craft Brewed Ales  
Kevin Donnelly  
Craig Durand  
Eastern State Penitentiary  
Katie Eberhart  
Fork  
The Grand  
The Grand Review  
Jenn Gius  
Helium Comedy Club  
Elizabeth Horsey  
Ron Huen  
Judy Hykel  
JLL  
Kathy Klein & David Paul  
Jecy Klinkam  
Ed Lewandowski  
Lewes Cycle Sports  
Longwood Gardens  
Hali MacLaren – HKM Jewelry  
Moshulu  
Emily McGurk  
McQuillan family  
Frank McShane & Vanessa Fenton

Jeannie Morris  
Mt. Cuba Center  
Northland Airboats  
Nola & Luna O'Connell  
Kerry & Patrick O'Connell  
Ørsted North America  
Jeff Pantazes  
Philadelphia Distilling Company  
Philadelphia Union  
Quest Adventures  
Rick Steves' Europe, Inc.  
Shawn Rodier  
Kendra Scott  
Krista Seng  
Sever Glassworks  
Shake Shack  
Jenny Shinn  
Cyndi Slothour  
David Small  
SoDel Concepts  
Sweet Amalia Oyster Farm  
Joe & Janine Tarsavage  
Total Wine & More  
Robert G. Traver  
Jill Voorhees  
Winterthur  
Lisa Wool

## 2023 EXPERIENCE THE ESTUARY CELEBRATION SPONSORS

AKRF  
Aqua, an Essential Utilities Company  
Artesian Water Company  
Brown and Caldwell  
Calpine  
Cape Atlantic Conservation District  
Chemours  
Constellation  
Delaware River & Bay Authority  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

DSM Firmenich  
Ecotone, LLC  
Energy Transfer  
Exelon Corporation  
Hazen and Sawyer  
HDR  
Jacobs  
Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP  
Maritime Academy Charter School  
Monroe Energy  
Mott MacDonald  
New Castle Conservation District  
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority

Philadelphia Water Department  
Pilot's Association for the Bay and River Delaware

PSEG  
Ramboll  
Rutgers University, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory  
Suburban Consulting Engineers  
TRC Environmental  
TTI Environmental, Inc.  
University of Pennsylvania, Master of Environmental Studies  
Urban Engineers  
US Wind  
Veolia  
Verdantas  
Vicinity Energy  
WSP

## 2023 SCIENCE SUMMIT SPONSORS

American Water  
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Delaware River & Bay Authority  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
Delaware Sea Grant  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Drexel University  
The Energy Transfer/Sunoco Foundation  
Hazen and Sawyer  
Monroe Energy  
New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Ørsted North America  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Philadelphia Water Department  
Pinelands Nursery  
PSEG Services Corporation  
Sovereign Consulting Inc.  
Urban Engineers, Inc.  
Vicinity Energy  
Villanova University

Photo by Patricia Land



John Burghardt  
David Bushek  
Constellation Energy Generation, LLC  
Roy Denmark & Judy Hykel  
Robert D. Goldman PG  
Vincent & Jeanette Gorman  
Martha Hays  
Andrew Homsey  
Ann Baker Horsey  
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.  
Daniel J. Martin  
Joe & Jeanne McAtee  
Debra McCarty & Richard Stasiorowski

## 2023 DONORS

(Campaign year – January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023)

### \$5,000 and Above

Curtis W. McGraw Foundation  
Kathy Klein & David Paul  
Estate of Susan S. Kilham  
Morgan Family Foundation  
Janet Yabroff

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

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George F. Phelps  
Krista Seng  
David & Cindy Small  
Jill Voorhees & Mark Corrigan  
Brian Yerger

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Tracey Whitesell & Terrance Huettl  
Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Roy Denmark & Judy Hykel  
Robert D. Goldman PG  
Vincent & Jeanette Gorman  
Martha Hays  
Andrew Homsey  
Ann Baker Horsey  
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.  
Daniel J. Martin  
Joe & Jeanne McAtee  
Debra McCarty & Richard Stasiorowski

Frank McShane &  
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Octoraro Native Plant Nursery  
Jeffrey & Lynn Pantazes  
Michael J. Pickel &  
Leah Gaffney  
Dawn Rittenhouse  
Flavia Williams Rutkosky  
Alexandra Seibert  
Marshall Taylor  
TTI Environmental  
Warren Environmental Counsel  
LLC  
Fred Wood

### **\$100 to \$249**

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AmazonSmile Foundation  
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Charles App  
Ronald G. Ashley  
John Balletto  
Ed & Ridgely Biddle  
Bernie Bittner  
Nicole Brown  
Michele Buckley  
Josef & Hilde Burger  
Karen Caiola  
Peter Calder  
Cape May-Lewes Ferry  
The Honorable Tom & Mrs.  
Martha Carper  
Steven & Margaret Castorani  
Julie Varner & Thomas  
Chegwidden  
Edward W. Christoffers  
George & Karen Cook  
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Earthshare  
Jeff Fleming  
Karen & Kyle Forst  
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George Horvath  
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Robert G. Locke & Sarah  
Thorne-Locke



Photo by  
Rebecca  
Reynolds

### **Up to \$99**

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Jineen Boyle  
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Haley Burns & David Karas

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John Cheezum Jr.  
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Barbara Ross  
June Satterfield  
Linda Margolies Schrading  
William E. Toffey

### **In Memory of John T. & Martha Ann Mattern Grey**

David Mattern & Charlotte Crystal

### **In Honor of LeeAnn Haaf**

Howard & Gail Schaeitz

### **In Memory of Dr. Susan S. Kilham**

### **In Honor of Danielle Kreeger**

Anonymous

### **In Memory of Peter Pappas**

Mr. Edward Pappas

### **In Memory of Rebecca Shenton's Father**

Jill Clark

### **In Memory of Carl N. Schuster, Jr.**

George & Susan Shuster

### **In Honor of Joe Tarsavage**

Elizabeth Horsey

Danielle Kreeger

Rob Monahan

Background Photo  
by Alexis Mears



Volunteers pick up litter  
during the SAN Scrub  
and Pub.

# PARTNERSHIP for the DELAWARE ESTUARY STAFF

**Chesa Blom**, Philadelphia Community Coordinator  
**Kendra Bober**, Delaware Community Coordinator  
**Haley Burns**, Delaware Estuary Program Coordinator  
**Kurt Cheng**, Senior Science Manager  
**Marguerite DiGiorgio**, Engagement Assistant Coordinator  
**Kaitie Evers**, Engagement and SAN Coordinator  
**Kelly Faller**, Estuary Science Coordinator  
**Karen Forst**, Assistant Director of Grants  
**Matthew Gentry**, Assistant Science Manager  
**LeeAnn Haaf, Ph.D.**, Assistant Director of Estuary Science  
**John Harrod**, Engagement Director  
**Davian Higgins-Reeves**, Staff Accountant

**Elizabeth Horsey**, Development Director  
**Kathy Klein**, Executive Director  
**Jessica Klinkam**, Restoration Specialist  
**Danielle Kreeger, Ph.D.**, Senior Science Director  
**Kate Layton**, Communications Coordinator  
**Jonetta Lucas**, Finance Director  
**Martha Maxwell-Doyle**, Programs Director  
**Leah Morgan**, Estuary Science Coordinator  
**Nancy Nyamumbo**, Staff Accountant  
**Kerry O'Connell**, Development Coordinator  
**Meghan Rogalus**, Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) Manager  
**Ella Rothermel**, Urban Resilience Assistant Manager  
**Jana Savini**, Coastal Collaboration Coordinator  
**Cyndi Slothour**, Office Administrator  
**Ken Williamson**, Restoration Specialist  
**Brian Yerger**, Business and Operations Director

## DELAWARE ESTUARY PROGRAM COMMITTEES

### 2023 STEERING COMMITTEE

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**Bevin Buchhesiter**, Acting Deputy Secretary of Water Programs – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
**Nicole Brown**, Chair – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Board of Directors  
**Marc Cammarata**, Deputy Water Commissioner – Philadelphia Water Department  
**Shawn M. Garvin**, Secretary – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
**Javier Laureano, Ph.D.**, Director of Clean Water Division – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
**Adam Ortiz**, Regional Administrator – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
**Steve Tambini**, Executive Director – Delaware River Basin Commission

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**Sandra Insalaco**, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
**Lynette Lurig**, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
**Catherine Magliocchetti**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
**Rachael Phillos**, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
**Chad Pindar**, Delaware River Basin Commission  
**William Whalon**, Philadelphia Water Department

### 2023 SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### LEADERSHIP

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**Vice Chair: Gregory Lech** – Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Division of Environmental Services  
**Science Advisor: LeeAnn Haaf, Ph.D.** – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary  
**Ex Officio Representative: Kathy Klein** – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, EIC Chair

#### STANDING REPRESENTATIVES

**Lance Butler** – Philadelphia Water Department  
**Randall Brown** – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
**Sheila Elyer** – United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Danielle Kreeger, Ph.D.** – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary  
**Joshua Moody, Ph.D.** – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
**Alison Rogerson** – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
**Kelly Somers** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
**Namsoo S. Suk, Ph.D.** – Delaware River Basin Commission, Monitoring Advisory Committee, & Toxics Advisory Committee

#### ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

**Lesley Baggett, Ph.D.** – AKRF  
**Laura Craig, Ph.D.** – Engineering and Land Planning Associates, Inc.  
**Ronald B. Heun, Jr.** – PSEG Nuclear, LLC  
**Doug Janiec** – Sovereign Consulting, Inc.  
**Daphne Munroe, Ph.D.** – Rutgers University, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory  
**Andrew Reif** – United States Geological Survey  
**Pete Rowe** – New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium  
**David Smith** – United States Geological Survey  
**Bart Wilson** – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

**Partnership for the Delaware Estuary**  
110 S. Poplar Street, Suite 202, Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 655-4990 • [www.DelawareEstuary.org](http://www.DelawareEstuary.org)

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, host of the Delaware Estuary Program, leads collaborative, science-based efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which covers portions of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

