

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
11:00-12:00 ET

Attendees:

Haley Burns – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Jordana Cutajar – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Kathy Klein – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Avery Lentini – Delaware River Basin Commission
Gabe Levitan – National Park Service
Nicole Lick – Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
Meg Mackey – Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
Zach Nemec – PA Sea Grant
Donald Parrell – Wilmington CERT/New Castle County CERT
Irene Purdy – Environmental Protection Agency Region 2

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

II. Discussion (11:10 – 11:40AM)

- Update on EPA Urban Waters Funding Status
 - Federal agencies do not have funds to continue supporting ambassadors or the learning network for FY26, and do not anticipate receiving any for FY27. EPA has been funding ambassador positions for some locations, PDE organization included. PDE has been receiving \$70k from EPA, so it is a significant gap to fill.
 - PDE is committed to finding a way to continue leading and hosting the location, but not sure what that will look like at end of this year. We operate on calendar year budget and will have a better idea of funding and staffing by November.
 - Monthly locations calls will be ongoing, and EPA desk officers for Urban Waters locations will still be available, but everything will be scaled back.
 - Some other funding opportunities include USGS matching funds and NFWF 5 Star programs.
 - PDE continue these monthly meetings at least through end of the year. PDE will keep everyone posted as we figure out next steps.
- Collaborative Community Projects
 - i. There are some funds that are not able to be put towards projects, so the funds are available to implement some new elements of the program:
 - Event Scholarships
 - Offering to community organizations to allow representatives to attend the CDRW Forum in September, and the Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit in February. Scholarships include registration and a stipend to cover some time, travel, lodging, etc.

- An invitation to apply for scholarships to the CDRW Forum was sent out last week. So far 10 individuals from 9 different organizations have applied. The goal is to start by awarding 1 per organization, but if spots remain open we will look at offering scholarships to multiple people from the same organization.
 - If anyone knows of community organizations that we should consider to fill any remaining spots, please send that info to [John](#)
 - Supplies for Partners: Offering to provide certain supplies to organizations working on these community projects to help them move forward. There is a list of supplies that we can make available for them to choose from (gloves, shovels, etc.)
 - ii. Contracted with a PR consultant to help promote projects being funded to help get officials and media out to sites. (This consultant will also be helping to promote the Artist in Residence Program.) PDE is working on a calendar of activities/events and will share that when available.
- Artist in Residence (AiR) Update
 - i. Wilmington Community Art Project – Wilmington has been a bit more complicated in other cities in terms of identifying a location for the public artwork. There is a meeting coming up with folks from the City to discuss using Rodney Reservoir Park.
 - ii. Bus Tour – This will take place on September 24 and will highlight multiple projects in Camden, as well as a photography exhibit connected to this project. A save the date calendar event was sent and an official RSVP form will be sent in the coming weeks. RSVPs will be required to ensure accurate counts for lunch, parking, and bus seats. Folks are also welcome to drive and meet the group at the various stops. More info to come.
 - iii. PDE is looking to create some products to give away to community members at ribbon cuttings in each city.
 - iv. PDE is also working to raise money to continue doing an artist in residence in other communities in the estuary – some funding has been secured, but it will likely require piecing multiple funding sources together.
- CDRW Forum
 - i. There will be a presentation highlighting AiR program on Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 11am-12:15pm
 - ii. Registration opens this week.
- Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit
 - i. Taking place February 23-24, 2027 at Clayton Conference Center at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE. The theme is *Rooted in Science, Growing with Innovation*.
 - ii. Possible speakers and special sessions are currently being explored. A call for abstracts should be going out in early August.

III. Partner Updates & Resource Sharing (11:40 – 12:00AM)

- Roundtable: share updates, events, initiatives, and other opportunities
 - i. Zach shared that he will be presenting for Sea Grant at the CDRW Forum on Wed. Sept 30, at 1pm. Act 167 [Stormwater planning](#) is currently underway, with a quick turnaround for comments to PA DEP. Through a protect your drinking water grant to do road salt engagement with municipalities in Delaware County, there will be a training with public works in August/September – let [Zach](#) know if you have anyone to recommend
 - ii. DE Sea Grant is holding a [Litter & Marine Debris Workshop](#) for Educators on Aug. 11 at the Route 9 Library and Innovation Center.
 - iii. Jordana shared that they are looking for potential projects – resilient communities

partnership offers small scale planning grants, have some IJJA funds for wetland restoration planning as well.

- iv. Donald shared that Wilmington CERT has been holding a lot of trainings. They just had a stop the bleed training, with a CPR training plus others coming up. He will pass info along to John in case anyone is interested in getting involved. New Castle County just created a Steering Committee to help develop the CERT team. There is an effort to partner with more robust teams down-state, including in Sussex County and Georgetown. has robust team, especially Georgetown. Wilmington CERT is working closely with DEMA as well.
- v. If interested in being an exhibitor at Delaware River Festival, apply [here](#).
- vi. NPS-RTCA is still looking for conservation and recreation technical assistance projects. We work with partners on all levels - non-profits, local towns, county planning departments. Our application can be found [here](#).
- vii. PDE's new [Climate Resilience Hub](#) is up and running. Resources and other information is being added frequently. If you have any events, funding opportunities, documents, or other information that you think should be included, please email [Haley](#).

IV. Next meeting: August 18, 2026, via Microsoft Teams