

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Meeting Notes
Tuesday, January 20, 2025
11:00-12:00 ET on Microsoft Teams

Attendance:

John Harrod, PDE
Haley Burns, PDE
Kathy Klein, PDE
Irene Purdy, EPA Region 2
Zach Nemec, PA Sea Grant

Donald Farreell, Northeast Rising
William Ethridge, FEMA Region 3
Avery Lentini, DRBC
Gabriel Levitan, NPS-RTCA
Julie Mawhorter, US Forest Service, PA

I. Event Updates & Discussions

- Artist in Residence Update
 - i. Eurhi Johns has officially signed a contract for the Artist in Residence Program at PDE. Eurhi will create 5 digital images with one for each of the Urban Water cities (Camden, Wilmington, Chester, and Philadelphia) and a 5th that unifies them all. Eurhi is meeting with community members in the four Urban Water cities to inform the designs. Eve will work with Eurhi to see how UWFP partners can be involved in the process.
 - ii. A mural and a book that can be used for environmental education will be developed using the designs.
- NFWF funded Collaborative Community Project Updates
 - i. 4 of 5 round one projects have received NEPA categorical exclusion and will begin work. Agreements are being created and signed for round two partners.
- 2026 Chester River Fest
 - i. Due to the World Cup, the Union Stadium may not be available. Another option is being explored for a park in Chester, PA that is on Chester Creek.
- 30th Anniversary of Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
 - i. PDE will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and initial planning for recognizing this milestone is now underway. The goal is to highlight PDE's long-standing impact across the Delaware River and Bay region through events, communications, and stakeholder engagement opportunities throughout the year.

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

- Stroud Water Research Center is conducting the winter salt snapshot 2026, <https://stroudcenter.org/event/winter-salt-snapshot-2026/>
- DRBC produced the report “The Impact of Sea level Rise on Salinity intrusion in the Delaware Estuary, <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/flow/SLR-impacts-report.html>
DRBC has a Sea Level Rise Report webinar on January 27:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_91n_GQYYSZSi0GA5L423Lg#/registration

- DRBC is moving into Phase 2 of the Water Resource Resilience Plan, <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/flow/water-resources-resilience-plan.html>
- Penn State has a Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training, <https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/course-registration/checkout/?class=3152>
- PDE is developing a regional climate change web-based hub with resources and information to support practitioners. Please share with Kathy Klein examples of work being done in the region that would be appropriate for the site.

As a result of the Water Table Project, PDE is working with partners to develop a regional climate resilience web hub which will be housed on PDE's new website. This hub will be populated with resources and information for folks ranging from community members to practitioners, teachers, and more. If you have examples of community resilience projects that could be highlighted on the hub, links, reports, or other resources to consider for inclusion, please send them to Haley Burns (hburns@delawareestuary.org) or Kathy Klein (kklein@delawareestuary.org).

III. Next meeting: February 17, 2026, via Microsoft Teams