

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 15, 2025
11:00-12:00 ET on Zoom

Attendance:

Avery Lentini, Delaware River Basin Commission
Emily Maung-Douglas, DE Sea Grant
Eve Quinones, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Gabriel Levitan, National Parks Service – Rivers,
Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
Haley Burns, PDE

Irene Purdy, Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
John Harrod, PDE
Tomas Deza, NPS - RTCA
Zach Nemec, PA Sea Grant

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

- Welcome and introductions
- Overview of meeting agenda

II. Event Updates & Discussions (11:10 – 11:50AM)

- **Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Program**
 - Eve shared that the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) has been completed and submitted to the EPA for review and approval. Final approval was received and PDE will move forward with releasing the RFP to the public.
 - Haley provided additional context, explaining that the RFP had to be resubmitted because the opportunity needed to be re-competed. This was due to the requirement that artists be contracted directly, rather than being engaged through subawards.
- **NEPA Categorical Exclusion – Collaborative Community Projects (Round 1)**
 - Eve is compiling the necessary materials to re-submit documentation required for obtaining a categorical exclusion for the first round of projects.
 - These projects cannot proceed until the exclusion is officially approved.
- **NFWF-Funded Collaborative Community Projects (Round 2)**
 - Eve contacted community organizations involved in Round 2 to confirm continued interest in pursuing the project proposals originally submitted in 2023 during round 1.
 - Outreach was made to the following 10 organizations in total. 8 of which will be NFWF funded:
 - Camden (1): Urban Promise
 - Philadelphia (4): Lawncrest Recreation Advisory Council, William H. Hunter Elementary, Belmont Alliance Civic Association CDC, The U-School Inc.
 - Chester (2): Making a Change Group, 9th Street Community and Youth Center
 - Wilmington (1): G.A.P. Youth Mentoring Initiative, Inc.
 - Meetings will be scheduled with organizations wanting to participate to discuss updates to scopes of work, budgets, and contracting details.

III. Partner Updates & Resource Sharing (11:50 – 12:00AM)

- Roundtable: share updates, events, initiatives, and other opportunities
 - Avery Lentini (DRBC) mentioned that The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its third-quarter public hearing on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, starting at 1:30 p.m. The public hearing is open to the public and will be held virtually via Zoom Webinar. The DRBC will also hold its third-quarter business meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, starting at 10:30 a.m.
 - Emily Maung – Douglas (DE Sea Grant) shared with the group about Theo McKinney, a junior at the University of Delaware, majoring in Elementary Education and a graduate of the AAP program. Theo is interested in becoming a science teacher.
 - i. Over the summer, Theo developed lessons and activities focused on urban heat, working with the Boys and Girls Club and Wilmington Green Jobs. Emily shared that it's been great to see Theo grow in the role.
 - John Harrod (PDE) shared that PDE is beginning a partnership with One Village Alliance to help install a public garden and green space around their project site.
 - i. The organization recently lost federal funding and expressed appreciation for PDE's support.
 - John also mentioned a funded environmental justice gathering will be held in Camden, NJ, supported by PSEG funding
 - John then went on to ask Emily and Zach Nemec (DE Sea Grant) about National Sea Grant.
 - i. Emily noted that Sea Grant has been zeroed out in the federal budget, like the last four years under the Trump administration. However, there is strong bipartisan support to sustain the program for the next four years. She then shared the DE Sea Grant support page for partners to show their support of the program:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFc5B4MWcqH8K9zyKp3O89JQf7yXRqHdLyDee2ZJ4edQJX1Q/viewform>
 - ii. Tomas Deza (NPS) added that NPS-RTCA has also been zeroed out, but there is strong partner support and hope that Congress will continue funding. And if partners could support NPS then please access the link below:
[SIGN ON Support for NPS Community Assistance Programs 07.11.2025.docx | Powered by Box](#)
 - iii. Zach shared the PA Sea Grant Support Page also for partners to show their support:
<https://seagrants.psu.edu/support-pennsylvania-sea-grant-today/>

IV. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2025, from 11-12 ET via Zoom.