

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
11:00-12:00 ET

Attendance:

Eve Quinones, PDE
John Harrod, PDE
Haley Burns, PDE
Kathy Klein, PDE
William Ethridge II, FEMA R3
Donald Farrell, Northeast Rising
Avery Lentini, DRBC

Zach Nemec, PA Sea Grant
Tomas Deza, NPS-RTCA
Gabriel Levitan, NPS-RTCA
Megan Mackey, EPA R3
Nicole Lick, EPA R3
Irene Purdy, EPA R2

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

II. Discussion (11:10 – 11:40AM)

- **Collaborative Community Projects**
 - i. A brief overview of the collaborative community projects was provided, with NEPA categorical exclusions currently in place.
 - ii. Kathy (PDE) discussed Danni Van Drew's (DRPR Strategies) involvement with promoting four of the Collaborative Community Projects, providing a brief description of each initiative. One for each of the four Urban Water Cities within the Delaware River Watershed. She noted that Danni is actively coordinating with project partners and stakeholders regarding the installation dates for these projects and there may be volunteer opportunities available upon more information from project leads.
- **Chester Rain Garden Project**
 - i. John (PDE) provided an update on the Chester Rain Garden Project, noting that the project was originally planned in partnership with DELCORA. However, due to project constraints, the project shifted project partners to Chester Economic Development Authority to bring this project to completion. The size is 1,442 square feet. Updated photos will be acquired to showcase the growth of the rain garden area.
- **Artist in Residence Program**
 - i. The group discussed updates from Philadelphia, including activities related to the apiary at Growing Together Garden and The WaterShed Projects.
 - ii. Kathy discussed Danni's involvement in the September 24 event, noting that representatives from NJDEP, PADEP, and EPA will be in attendance. PDE is

excited for this opportunity to showcase the outcomes and impact of the Artist in Residence Program and to share its successes with partners and stakeholders.

- iii. Kathy (PDE) reviewed planned giveaway items for AiR program, including tote bags, stickers/sticker sheets, and postcards.
- iv. Kathy (PDE) shared updates from Wilmington, Delaware, including recent meetings with the Parks Department regarding the mural component of the Rodney Reservoir project. The discussions highlighted the possibility that a less permanent installation may be needed for the mural. Despite this challenge, the meetings have helped strengthen partnerships and support the continued expansion of the Artist in Residence Program.
- v. Kathy (PDE) also reported that the program was awarded a \$25,000 Constellation grant, which will help advance the program's growth and support future implementation efforts.
- **CDRW Forum Scholarships**
 - i. Haley (PDE) shared that funding was reallocated from the Collaborative Community Projects (CCPs) budget to support CDRW Forum scholarships. To date, 17 scholarships have been approved, and the team is currently working with recipients to complete the registration process.
 - ii. Kathy (PDE) announced that PDE will be presenting on the second day of the CDRW Forum, highlighting the Artist in Residence (AiR) Program.
- **Call for resources for PDE's Climate Resilience Hub**
 - i. Haley (PDE) provided an overview of PDE's Climate Resilience Hub, highlighting its purpose as a centralized resource for climate resilience information, tools, and opportunities for communities and partners throughout the Delaware Estuary region.
 - 1. Climate Resilience Hub: <https://www.delawareestuary.org/climate-resilience-hub/>
 - ii. Haley (PDE) shared examples of resources already available on the Hub to give partners a better understanding of the types of materials being sought.
 - iii. Partners were encouraged to submit relevant resources, tools, case studies, reports, and educational materials that could help strengthen and expand the Hub's offerings.
 - iv. She also reviewed the website's Library, which serves as a repository for climate resilience materials and information. It also houses meeting minutes and other relevant documents for partner reference.
 - 1. Website Library: <https://www.delawareestuary.org/library/>
- **Upcoming Events**
 - i. Delaware Estuary Program Artist in Residence Bus Tour:
 - 1. September 24: The Delaware Estuary Program will host its Artist in Residence Bus Tour, providing partners and community members an opportunity to experience program projects and learn about their impact throughout the region.
 - ii. National Estuaries Week:
 - 1. September 20-27: National Estuaries Week will be celebrated across the country, highlighting the importance of estuary conservation, restoration, and community engagement.

2. Activities and events will be supported by all 28 National Estuary Programs (NEPs).
- iii. Delaware River Fest:
 1. September 26: Delaware River Fest will bring together community members, organizations, and partners to celebrate and promote stewardship of the Delaware River and its watershed.
- iv. Experience the Estuary Celebration:
 1. October 8: PDE's annual Experience the Estuary Celebration will recognize partners, accomplishments, and ongoing efforts to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary.
- v. Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit:
 1. February 2027: Planning is underway for the Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit.
 2. Haley (PDE) shared that the call for abstracts is expected to open by the end of next week, inviting researchers, practitioners, and partners to submit proposals for presentations and posters.

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

- Roundtable: share updates, events, initiatives, and other opportunities
 - i. Avery (DRBC) shared information about an upcoming event, Our Founding Waters, taking place on September 2, 2026.
 1. More information about the event can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/OurFoundingWaters.html>
 2. The event will celebrate the Delaware River as both a natural and cultural resource, highlighting its significance to the region's history, communities, and environment and will be held at the Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center (Pennsylvania side).
 3. If additional partners wish to table, they can sign up to do so here: <https://ourfoundingwatersriverfestival.eventbrite.com/>.
 - ii. Donald Farrell (Northeast Rising) inquired about a grant opportunity through the Delaware River Basin Commission and requested support with the proposed project.
 1. PDE offered to assist and John (PDE) stated he would reach out to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration related to the grant.

IV. Next meeting: September 15, 2026, via Microsoft Teams