

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
11:00-12:00 ET on Zoom

Attendees:

Eve Quinones, PDE
John Harrod, PDE
Haley Burns, PDE
Kathy Klein, PDE

Avery Lentini, DRBC
Bart Wilson, USFWS
Emily Maung-Douglas, DE Sea Grant

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

- Welcome and brief introductions
- Overview of agenda

II. Event Updates & Discussions (11:10 – 11:40AM)

- **Delaware River Festival**
 - Penn's Landing, Philadelphia & Wiggins Park, Camden on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 10am to 4pm
 - This annual event brings people together and features a day of family-friendly fun, educational activities, and water-centered learning to the Camden and Philadelphia waterfronts.
 - The event will host the [Trash Free Water Contest](#). The goal of this art contest is to bring awareness to the problem of aquatic trash and highlight the ways people can help be part of the solution. Submissions may be used in litter campaigns and related activities.
- **Experience the Estuary**
 - Partnership for the Delaware Estuary on Thursday, October 9, 2025, is hosting the Experience the Estuary Celebration at Vie by Cescaphe in Philadelphia, featuring dinner, cocktails, an auction, and a raw oyster bar. Tickets are now available [here](#).
- **Artist in Residence Program**
 - PDE has completed the review of all Artist-in-Residence proposals and selected Eurhi Jones as the artist for the program. Contract finalization is in progress pending an updated project budget, and we are coordinating her participation in the upcoming Delaware River Festival.
 - Kathy Klein spoke of the interview process and how we had to be flexible in the capacity of what exactly we are going to be producing final products.
 - Avery Lentini will share in the DRBC newsletter the AiR program, the artists, and photos.
- **NFWF Collaborative Community Projects Round 2**

- PDE has been setting up meetings with organizations involved in Round Two of the collaborative community projects to explain the contracting process and discuss updates to scopes of work and budgets that reflect their current needs. These meetings also aim to clarify what is required from them for NEPA Categorical Exclusion documentation and gather the necessary details for drafting the contracts.
- **Urban Waters Community of Practice**
 - The Community of Practice cohort is a structured, six-month learning and collaboration initiative designed to strengthen partnerships within the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. It brings together 12 participants—6 Urban Waters Ambassadors and 6 National Estuary Program (NEP) representatives—for monthly 90-minute sessions focused on relationship-building, partnership impact frameworks, and collaborative strategies.
 - As part of Community of Practice cohort #2, PDE’s Eve Quinones will participate in these sessions from August 2025 to January 2026, engaging in pre- and post-meeting activities, accessing curated resources, and preparing a capstone presentation. Her role will include sharing experiences, learning from peers, and applying partnership impact tools to enhance collaboration and storytelling within the Delaware Estuary and Urban Waters communities.
- **Community Cohort Connection Meeting**
 - The Community Cohort Connection Meeting will take place on Friday, October 17th from 12pm–3pm at American Water’s headquarters in Camden, NJ. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch for the first hour, which will be dedicated to networking and getting to know fellow cohort members, Urban Water Partners, and their organizations. From 1–2pm, four Community Cohort groups will give 15-minute presentations showcasing how their work is advancing environmental and community resilience in their cities. The final hour will include a guided outdoor [field trip to](#) visit to the RCA Pier Park, where we’ll discuss the project’s development over time and it’s significance today.

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

- **Roundtable:** share updates, events, initiatives, and other opportunities
 - Avery Lentini ,DRBC:
 - i. The Climate Resilience Plan has been renamed to the Water Resources Resilience Plan.
 - ii. The first listening session was held with DRBC on Monday.
 - iii. Seeking a balanced mix of input from both partners and residents.
 - Emily Maung-Douglas, DE Sea Grant:
 - i. At the beginning of summer, Sea Grant launch the Coastal Connections program launched, which is focused on building connections between urban communities and water, nature, and art through activities like water quality testing and macroinvertebrate exploration.

- ii. Collaborated with Wilmington State Parks, DNREC Aquatics, and Delaware Nature Society youth programs.
 1. Challenges: High heat index and transportation issues.
 2. Successes: Third event ran smoothly; participants especially enjoyed fishing and water quality exercises.
 3. Future Plans: This was the first summer running the program, but there is interest in continuing next year.
 4. Funding Update: National funding for interns was cut, but the program is not dependent on interns and will likely continue.
 5. Support Opportunity: Kathy mentioned that PDE may have funding available to support interns.
- Bart Wilson, USFWS
 - i. Bart addressed the progress on addressing the flooding in one-third of the community not address by the Southbridge Wetland Park. He explained that initial efforts to secure funding for that area were unsuccessful.

IV. Next meeting: SAVE THE DATE! Friday, October 17th 12pm-3pm, In-Person