

UWFP Delaware River Location Monthly Meeting Notes
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
11:00-12:00 ET

Attendees:

Haley Burns (PDE)
John Harrod (PDE)
Avery Lentini (DRBC)
Megan Mackey (EPA R3)
Emily Maung-Douglass (DE Sea Grant)
Zach Nemec (PA Sea Grant)
Irene Purdy (EPA R2)
Matthew Williams (DEEC)

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Discussion

- UWFP Delaware Location Ambassador Update
 - Eve Quinones has moved on to a position with Urban Promise in Camden.
 - Since moving forward there is no more EPA funding for the ambassador position, PDE will not be filling Eve's position. PDE still intends to serve as the location ambassador with current staff and is evaluating how to best coordinate the program without one designated individual in the role.
- Delaware Estuary Program Artist in Residence Program
 - The Camden A.i.R Bus Tour was a success. The group visited the community garden where there was a ribbon cutting ceremony, as well as Cramer Hill Park and JPEG gallery. John shared some images on the screen.
 - Chester Ribbon Cutting: October 24 at Ruth Bennett Community Farm. The A.i.R. project ribbon cutting will take place as part of the farm's Fall Festival. The festival runs from 11am-2pm, with the ribbon cutting slated for 12pm. An email invite with this information will be sent soon.
 - Eurhi presented at the CDRW Forum in Newark at the end of September. There was a good crowd for the session. During her presentation Eurhi used the phrase "carrot to connection" when discussing how art can be used as gateway to learning about the environment.
- Community Collaborative Projects
 - Projects are moving along – a lot of procurement happening now for Phase 1 projects.
 - Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association is having a planting event at 1pm on October 29.

- [Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit](#)
 - February 23-24 in Newark, DE
 - UWFP programming
 - Typically there is a session reserved for UW programming. A suggestion was made for something that ties into art/the artist in residence program.
 - Folks are welcome to submit abstracts under the Urban Waters category or otherwise.
 - Community Cohort – with some remaining NFWF Collaborative Community Project Funding, PDE will be offering scholarship and stipends for community leaders to attend the Summit.
 - [Sponsorship](#) is open.
 - [Registration](#) just opened. Rates will increase in mid-January.
 - The deadline to [submit abstracts](#) is October 30.
- UWFP 2027 Workplan
 - The premise of the Urban Waters program is to bring together agencies and partners to leverage resources. What can/do we want partners to bring to this partnership? Are there other areas we should look at, things to do differently?
 - In updating activities, it was suggested to include the hope to continue/re-initiate the AiR program in some way.
 - We want to maintain engagement, but try to capture that in way that reflects the current landscape – there are different levels of engagement in different agencies and in different locations.
 - Any news on USGS? NOAA participated locally in the past.
 - Suggestion for involvement of PWD or Phila. Dept. of Sustainability
 - DE Sea Grant partnered with PDE, DNREC and Brandywine Park on coastal connections events, a place-based youth education program. Emily said this isn't necessarily ready to be include in the plan, but it would be great to find more ways to have Urban Waters partners join in, in the future.
 - There might be connections that could be built in the workplan based on the 4 themes being focused on for the NEP 40th Anniversary communications efforts
 1. Works: Economic Impact and ROI
 2. Plays: Recreation Benefits
 3. Eats: Rich Culinary Resources
 4. Lives: Quality of Life for People, Plants, and Wildlife
 - If anything comes to mind after the meeting, share with John.

III. Partner Updates & Resource Sharing

- DRBC: Water Resources Resilience Plan is in phase 2 of 3, with phase 2 running through 2027. They are wrapping up the vulnerability assessment section, and gap analysis is next. Over 900 survey response were received – this survey looked at communities' awareness of and ranking of certain local hazards.

- PA Sea Grant – Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association is seeking public feedback on ongoing stream assessments.
 - **Tuesday, 10/20, 6:00pm-7:30pm (VIRTUAL) - Chester Creek - [Register Here](#)**
 - **Monday, 10/26, 6:00pm-7:30pm (VIRTUAL) - Ridley Creek - [Register Here](#)**
 - **Monday, 11/2, 5:30pm-7:00pm (VIRTUAL) - Crum Creek - [Register Here](#)**
- Clean Air Council's [Climate Resilient Communities Project](#) included Chester, as well as Eastwick and Gray's Ferry communities in Philadelphia.
- There is a Delaware Environmental Education Center (DEEC) Community Advisory Committee Meeting tomorrow, 10/21, 5:30-7pm

IV. Next meeting: November 17, 2026, via Microsoft Teams