



Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 14th 2022

10:00 am

Draft Minutes

Attending STAC Members: Dr. Elizabeth Lacey (Stockton University), Robert Karl (BTMUA), Gregg Sakowicz (JCNERR), David Steinman (USDA-NRCS), Charles Caruso (PPA), Rick Bushnell (RCTB), Colleen Adams (OCC), Vicki Pecchioli (OC Planning), Mark Villinger (OC Planning), Robert Shertenlieb (OCUA), Christine Weiben (USGS), Jim Nickels (Monmouth U), Dr. Jim Vasslides (BBP)

Attending Guests: Murray Rosenberg (Citizen Rep.), George Murnyak (Citizen Rep.), Louise Wootton (GCU), Dr. Christine Thompson (Stockton), Sheri Shifren (NJDEP)

Staff Member in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales, Ceili Pestalozzi, Martha Maxwell-Doyle

Welcome and introductions–E. Lacey

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM and call-in attendees made introductions

Review of February 10 2022 Meeting Minutes and draft agenda–E. Lacey

There were no changes to the draft agenda.

There were no changes or corrections to meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Charles Caruso and seconded by Rob Karl. The motion carried unanimously.

BBP Programmatic Update–S. Hales

Memo of Understanding (MOU) – There was a question regarding the definition of consensus at the last AC meeting so a revised version of the MOU will go out to the working group by the end of the week suggesting a new definition. The final MOU should be approved by the Policy Committee at their May 11 meeting.

BBP FY23workplan request – Production of the FY23 workplan is under way in the Program Office. It will be available ahead of the Policy Committee meeting.

BBP BIL funding- At this time the Program Office has still have not received final guidance from EPA regarding allowable use of the funds. Pending this final guidance, the AC has agreed to utilize FY24-27 BIL funds to support an OCSCD project focused on shellfish aquaculture. Additionally, we have been informed that there was an additional 1% reduction to the budget for each NEP, so the total is now down to \$908k per year.

2021 State of the Bay Report – J. Vasslides

The draft State of the Bay Report is nearly complete, with final review to be completed this week. The intention is to formally release the report following the Policy Committee meeting on May 11th. Given the short interval between the release of the report and the tentative date of the conference (June 4th), we have decided to postpone the conference into the fall.

Working Groups' Updates – E. Lacey

- a. Estuarine Habitats (Martha Maxwell Doyle) – The group is working through action items identified in the charter and receiving presentations from partners. The group will be taking a hiatus over the summer due to member field schedules.
- b. Pathogen (Shifren) – Ms. Shifren had to leave the call early so no update was available.
- c. Stormwater (Caruso) – The Stormwater group will be meeting immediately after the STAC mtg. They submitted mostly supportive comments on the pre-draft of the MS4 permit renewal; one of the changes that was particularly well received is the requirement for each permittee to have a watershed improvement plan. At today's meeting the group will work to develop a list of green infrastructure projects that may be eligible for the FY23 BIL funding, look at the NJDOT stormwater basin improvement results, and review the recently issued Hoboken RFP for a stormwater feasibility study to get an understanding of what the municipality is interested in.
- d. Shellfish (Vasslides) – At their last meeting the Shellfish Working Group prepared a longer-term visioning plan for the infrastructure needed to support shellfish restoration/enhancement/management, including actions that could be supported by the BIL funding. The next SWG meeting will be over the summer at a shellfish related location (hatchery, shell recycling site, etc.).

Barnegat Bay Oyster Restoration: providing water quality and habitat improvements in Barnegat Bay – Dr. Christine Thompson, Stockton University

Dr. Thompson provided an overview of the results of their STAC funded oyster reef project. The final project report is available on the BBP website.

Partner Updates

No updates were provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:26.