



**Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**February 10<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
**9:00 am**

**Draft Minutes**

**Attending STAC Members:** Dr. Elizabeth Lacey (Stockton University), Robert Karl (BTMUA), Gregg Sakowicz (JCNERR), Joe Smith (USFWS), Christine Weiben (USGS), David Steinman (USDA-NRCS), Charles Caruso (PPA), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA-R2), Rick Bushnell (RCTB), Colleen Adams (OCC), Dr. Steven Yergeau (RCE), Dr. Peter Rowe (NJSGC), Dr. Jim Vasslides (BBP)

**Attending Guests:** Dorina Frizzera (Getting to Resilience), Johannes Krause (FIU), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Sheri Shifren (NJDEP), Murray Rosenberg (Citizen Rep.), Angela Andersen (LBT), Louise Wootton (GCU), Liz Butler (EPA), Jack Szczepanski (PrincetonHydro), Virginia Rettig (USFWFS), Karen Greene (NMFS)

**Staff Member in Attendance:** Dr. Stan Hales, Ceili Pestalozzi, Karen Walzer, Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Shannon Vasquez

**Welcome and introductions–E. Lacey**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM and call-in attendees made introductions

**Review of December 8 2021 Meeting Minutes and draft agenda–E. Lacey**

There were no changes to the draft agenda. A motion to approve was made by Christine Raabe and seconded by Rick Bushnell. The motion carried unanimously.

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

**BBP Programmatic Update–S. Hales**

Memo of Understanding (MOU) – The document reviewed and accepted by OCC (including donation and advocacy policies). We are still waiting on comments from one partner. Once those are received the full document will be distributed to the AC for review and approval.

BBP workplan request- The Program Office is working on the draft FY23 workplan. We will be asking all partners to provide an update on their activities over the previous year as well as planned activities for the new year. The request will be sent out towards the end of next week.

BBP Office move- The college has indicated that they are waiting on office furniture but there are supply chain issues. At this time it is unclear when the move will occur.

**20 years of Barnegat Bay salt marsh change revealed by high-resolution remote sensing – Dr. Johannes Krause, FIU**

Dr. Krause provided a presentation on the results of his part of a US EPA RARE project related to salt marsh change

- Previous salt marsh extent assessments were done at relatively coarse resolution scales

- The current study uses high-resolution aerial imagery at 1m<sup>2</sup> resolution
- A 5-step methodology leads to 2 mapping products
- There was a slight difference between the 2 mapping styles with respect to marsh loss/gain
- Overall, there was about 32ha/yr of marsh loss
- Barnegat Bay was divided into 4 zones to look at spatial differences in changes in time
- The rates of marsh loss have been relatively stable since 1972
- The study also examined the relative contributions of drivers of marsh loss – mainly mosquito control (~400ha), edge erosion (~300 ha), ponding (~240ha), and channel widening.

### **2021 State of the Bay Report – J. Vasslides**

The report itself is still undergoing revisions with respect to the graphics and layout, but we hope to have it done soon. We have decided to make the conference a more “public-facing” event this time around, and are thinking about paired target-community science/what you can do presentations. We are working with the CEC to develop the program, but are shooting for a potential outdoor event in late spring. Would like a couple of STAC members to work with a small CEC group to bring this event together (Barbara Spinweber volunteered). OCSCD indicated that they will be hosting their roundtable event at Jake’s Branch on a Wednesday in April, so perhaps the SOTB event could occur at a similar time.

### **Working Groups’ Updates – E. Lacey**

- Estuarine Habitats (Virginia Rettig) – The EHWG meets monthly. Some partners (led by TNC, Stockton, DOT) have started working on regional sediment management planning, which will begin in earnest in March. The partners are also interested in trying to find funding for SAV mapping/monitoring. Additionally, they have been looking for ways to engage with the new NJDEP Climate Change Resiliency strategy. The EHWG provided comments on the NJDEP Natural and Working Lands Strategy scoping document for the STAC’s acceptance and submission. Dr. Vasslides moved to accept the EHWG comments for submission, and Rick Bushnell seconded. The motion was approved by consensus.
- Pathogen (Shifren) – The Pathogen Work Group hasn’t done too much lately. The focus has been on the DEP grant to Clean Ocean Action (COA) for pollution source track down activities along the Toms River. COA has been meeting with municipalities as a follow up to water quality sampling and investigations by “poo”lution dogs.
- Stormwater (Caruso) – The Stormwater Work Group is working more closely with DEP (thanks to Stan and Lynette); Steven Boyer of DEP has been assigned as a liaison to the group. The work group meeting following the STAC meeting will focus on stormwater mapping, including a presentation by DEP. The Lacey Twp. Engineer will also be presenting on their enhanced stormwater mapping grant results. The conversation will hopefully get to what to do with all the data collected as part of these mapping processes, and how they can be used to advance CCMP items.
- Shellfish (Vasslides) – The shellfish working group is meeting in early March to discuss the priorities for shellfish restoration. The shell recycling subgroup is meeting next week, and is likely to discuss standing up an independent entity to continue the conversation.

### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding 2022 priority/process setting – E. Lacey/S. Hales**

The BBP is slated to receive \$925k each year over the next 5 years as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation. The Program Office has not received final guidance from OMB yet, so they would like to discuss a potential plan pending the guidance. From a Program Office perspective, they would like to have capacity building (“our” ability to be sustainable in our approaches over the long run). From an EPA perspective, they would like the funds to address climate change and DEIJ issues. There is also an interest from EPA in getting some of the 1<sup>st</sup> year funds spent this calendar year. Stan presented a “strawperson” idea for how to allocate the funds, including DEIJ support, an RFP for SAV mapping, completing the stream crossing mapping to setup additional stormwater work, an RFP for municipal stormwater improvements, and other ideas. A discussion ensued.

**Partner Updates**

NJSGC is currently planning Ocean Fun Days to be in-person this year on May 21-22. Please be on the lookout for NJSGC strategic plan survey, which will be out soon. NJSGC is involved with a Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development project for mitigating runoff and pollution impacts, especially for urban areas. Finally, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act the whole of the Sea Grant network will receive \$50M over five years for marine debris, but it is not yet known how the money will be directed or constrained.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10.