



Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
October 13th 2021
9:00 am

Attending STAC Members: Dr. Elizabeth Lacey (Stockton University), Robert Karl (BTMUA), Mark Villinger (OC Planning), Victoria Pecchioli (OC Planning), Victoria Kemp (OC Planning), Gregg Sakowicz (JCNERR), Joe Smith (USFWS), Christine Weiben (USGS), David Steinman (USDA-NRCS), Charles Caruso (PPA), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA-R2), Robert Shertenlieb (OCUA), Kimberly Cenno (NJDEP), Dr. Jim Vasslides (BBP)

Attending Guests: Bill Shadel (TNC), Kim McKenna (Stockton University), Kristina Koreivo (NJDEP Stormwater Permitting), Tim Ebersberger (NJDEP Stormwater Permitting), Jack Szczepanski (Princeton Hydro), Matt Csik (NJ American Water), George Murnyak (Citizen Rep.)

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

Welcome and introductions–E. Lacey

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM and call-in attendees made introductions

Review of June 9th Meeting Minutes and draft agenda–E. Lacey

The minutes from June 9th and the agenda for today were approved without changes

BBP Programmatic Update–S. Hales

CCMP – Dr. Hales invited everyone to a virtual and in-person CCMP signing event on October 26, 2021. The final 2021 CCMP document will be posted online the day of the event. There will also be a limited print run that program partners will be distributing. Details of the event have been sent via email.

Memo of Understanding (MOU) – MOU has been postponed so that another meeting can be held to discuss conflict of interest and communication issues. The MOU will be presented at the next AC meeting and passed on electronically to the Policy Committee for approval.

Program Office Relocation – The relocation date is still TBD. There have been delays with getting furniture/supplies and renovations done at the space. We will not be in the new office on Oct. 26th.

Demonstration of the NJ Bay Island Restoration Planner– Ms. Kimberly McKenna, Stockton Coastal Research Center and Mr. Bill Shadel, The Nature Conservancy

Mr. Shadel and Ms. McKenna made a presentation to introduce the Bay Island Restoration Planner. The slides for this presentation are available by contacting the Program Office.

- The Bay Island Restoration Planner (BIRP) is funded by USFWS and TNC and was developed for the NJ Bay Islands Initiative (NJBII), Virginia Rettig, Chair.
- The BIRP tool identifies islands in greatest need for restoration
- MIDTRAM and other monitoring that collected data for the tool was completed in 2020
- A data subgroup was formed to gather data for tool. They analyzed 28 features, developed the tool, and beta tested the tool. The group is still in the adjustment phase.

- Features included in the tool: RAM marsh condition scores, shoreline change analysis between 1977 and 2015 (rate)
- Mr. Shadel led a demonstration of the tool which can be found at the following link: <https://dev-maps.coastalresilience.org/nj-bay-islands/>

NJDEP Stormwater Utility Guidance – Mr. Timothy Ebersberger and Ms. Kristina Koreivo, NJDEP

Ms. Koreivo and Mr. Ebersberger provided an overview of the NJDEP stormwater utility guidance and website. The slides for this presentation are available by contacting the Program Office.

- Stormwater utility fees are different from property taxes in that they reflect the amount of runoff a property contributes by considering the size, land cover/impervious surface, and existing stormwater infrastructure
- DEP was required to fulfill tasks set out in the act
 - o Technical assistance
 - o Establishment of fees and credits
 - o Develop an asset management program
 - o Coordinate with DCA and other agencies
- A stormwater utility can assess fees and other charges to recover the utility's costs for stormwater management
- Agricultural and horticultural land is exempt from stormwater utility fees, and credits must be provided for stormwater management measures in place on a given property
- There are various rate structures (tiered, ERU, EHA, REF – see website for details)
- The website includes a list of ten stormwater related activities that fees can be used for, including many stormwater related activities, and utilities may contact DEP to ask if they can use fees for something else they think is appropriate.

2021 State of the Bay Report – J. Vasslides

Dr. Vasslides informed the STAC that he recently sent out the text and figures version of the SOTB report and he is still accepting comments through the end of this week. After any comments are incorporated, the report will go out for proofreading and then the layout will be designed. The document is still in need of some photos.

FY22 STAC Grant Funding Opportunity – E. Lacey

Dr. Lacey provided an update on the Letters of Interest received in response to the revised GFO. The full proposal is due on Oct. 22, 2021. Only one proposal was submitted and there will be three reviewers for the proposal. The project team will be joining us at the December meeting to give a presentation. Reviewer comments will go out before the December meeting.

USACE NJ Back Bay Study Public Comment – S. Hales

Dr. Hales provided an update on the BBP comment letter on the draft EIS. The draft letter was distributed a few weeks ago. A number of comments were received on the draft and those revisions were made and submitted to USACE. The BBP comment letter was critical of the tentatively selected plan (TSP). The report is incomplete and there are a lot of unknowns about the impacts of the TSP. The BBP will be sharing its comments with state and federal elected officials and other groups throughout the state. Any other recommendations need to be prepared by the end of the month in order to be considered by The Corps. There is funding to do some studies on the impacts of the TSP project (opportunity to move forward science and address data gaps regarding this project). We will send a notice with the deadline for recommendation and more information about the available funding.

Working Groups' Updates – E. Lacey

- a. Estuarine Habitats (Martha Maxwell-Doyle) – The working group changed its name to Estuarine Habitats to encompass more habitat types (wetlands, mud flats, SAV, coastal forests). More work has been completed on visioning. Highlighting data gaps would be an important first step for this working group. A white paper

might be a good way to achieve that. The working group would like to identify data gaps and investigate funding opportunities that would allow the work to continue long-term.

- b. Pathogen (Shifren) – Sheri was not on the call today. Dr. Hales updates that DEP is continuing pathogen monitoring in the lower Toms River. They are continuing storm studies and sharing that data with others working in the area.
- c. Stormwater (Caruso) – The Stormwater working group last met in May. At that meeting, we discussed the Hammonton stormwater utility (SWU) feasibility study. We invited the presentation today to get more info on SWUs. We will discuss a model SWU feasibility RFP today. The first part of the Feasibility Study would be the spending and equity analysis. We also discussed CCMP projects that the work group can be involved in (today we will discuss stormwater reuse). We submitted comments on the proposed changes to the Pinelands Stormwater rule.
- d. Shellfish (Vassslides) – Next meeting will be in November. We will share updates on shell recycling programs and discuss how the working group can support shell recycling programs.

Partner Updates – E. Lacey

- Mr. Caruso stated that the SWWG will meet after this and everyone is welcome to join us.
- Mr. Csik gave an update on 1,4 dioxane in the Delaware River: in 2020 and 2021 1,4 dioxane contamination was discovered in Delaware river. The chemical was detected from the Lehigh River to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. There are both environmental and drinking water concerns with this contaminant. NJ American Water worked closely with NJDEP, PADCNr, and DRC on this issue. Incidents like this could happen in other areas. Mr. Csik would like to share information as a warning and model for solutions. In this case, a clean conclusion was reached that can benefit all.
- Mr. Smith gave an update on a dredge placement project on the Forsythe Refuge. The Refuge completed a dredge placement project on Good Luck Point last winter and monitored it over the growing season. Preliminary results showed promising colonization in the first year. They are hoping to use the site as a lab to promote better projects in the future.

Adjournment – E. Lacey

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM