

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS

Citizens' Advisory Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Center for the Inland Bays
Rehoboth Beach, DE
August 12, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

CAC Members Present	Harry Haon
Ron Wuslich, Chair	Glen Urquhart
Carol Bason, Vice-Chair	Arleen Wilkes
Valerie Cloutier	April Willey
Bob Cubbison	
Martha Keller	Members of the General Public
Barbara Lifflander	Allen Allenspach
Carl Mantegna	Frank Bell
Vicky Mertes	John Fenton
Graham Purchase	Mr. Truitt
Todd Smallwood	
Barbara Sorgeler	Center for the Inland Bays Staff
Helen Truitt	Sally Boswell
CAC Alternates Present	Eric Buehl
None	EJ Chalabala
CAC Members Not In Attendance	Jenn Jones
Steve Callanen	Susan Mitchell, Intern
Bob Collins	
June Connor	Press in attendance
Muns Farestad	Andrew Ostroski
Bob Gallagher	
Jeff Gordon	

MINUTES:

Welcome and Introductions

Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Chairman Ron Wuslich called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., welcomed those in attendance and ask that everyone present introduce themselves. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a quorum when the meeting was called to order.

Minutes of the June 2008 Meeting

The motion to accept the Minutes of the June 10, 2008 meeting was made by Martha Keller and seconded by Carl Mantegna.

CIB Fundraising Update

CIB Development Coordinator Jenn Jones gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Development Strategies” and gave an overview of the work that she is doing to generate financial support for the CIB mission.

2008 CAC Activity Planning Session

Chair Ron Wuslich opened the discussion with a query:

How do we reach the masses of people who don't understand the problems facing the Inland Bays watershed? Vice Chair Carol Bason added that we are not only challenged to reach and educate citizens who are uninformed about issues affecting the Inland Bays watershed, but also people who have been misinformed.

The Chair summarized CAC accomplishments of the past year:

1. Four committees have been established
 - a. Executive Committee (active)
 - b. Outreach/Education Committee (active)
 - c. Public Policy Committee (pending initiation at this meeting)
 - d. Stakeholder Concerns (pending further discussion)
2. CAC now meets 6 times annually instead of quarterly and has had a quorum for every meeting.
3. Additional CAC members have been added. A few seats remain, but work is underway to fill them.
4. CAC took a leadership role in the development of the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan. CAC's recommendations for the plan were adopted by the Center for the Inland Bays and are having an impact on the development of this critical document.
5. Three newspaper editorials were written by CAC members and published in newspapers in the watershed during the first quarter of this year.
 - a. *Inland Bays Water Quality*-Ron Wuslich
 - b. *Sussex County's Proposed Comprehensive Plan...Replete with "toothless" words that will not protect our fragile Inland Bays*-Valerie Cloutier
 - c. *Ensuring property rights and protecting critical natural resources are not mutually exclusive goals in growth management*-Carol Bason

The CAC then broke into small groups for a half hour to discuss and produce a list of issues/projects that CAC should address in 2008-09. The list created from the reports of those small groups follow:

1. Farmland nutrient management (encouraging Best Management Practices-BMP's)
2. Solicit stakeholder concerns from homeowners and homeowners associations (HOA's) from communities that surround the Inland Bays by gathering information at “listening” meetings.
3. Promote “Tree Triage” to HOA's, citizens, and businesses in the watershed to promote the planting of trees.

4. Hold an annual meeting with public officials-legislators and county council and planners to educate them about issues affecting the Inland Bays watershed.
5. Continue to follow the county's work on the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan through completion, implementation and enforcement. Especially, review drafts for ordinances and make recommendations.
6. Education and inform citizens and communities about the effect of impervious surfaces on water quality in the Inland Bays. Encourage adoption of regulations and ordinances that discourage the creation of impervious surfaces at the community and county level. Share the success of local regulations such as the one adopted by Fenwick Island with other communities in the watershed.
7. Create a County Council Watershed Liaison to communicate regularly with county officials and keep them informed about critical issues.
8. Have CAC do something FUN once every year...maybe at the James Farm
9. Increase and diversify CAC membership (geographic, age, stakeholder interest, etc.)
10. Encourage/educate/inform about green technology and practices
11. Have the entire CAC address Stakeholder Concerns rather than make it a committee.
12. Explore ways that CAC can get involved with schools and their students.

Old Business

Report from the Outreach Committee

Chair Valerie Cloutier reported on the work being done by the committee

1. The committee is working to identify community events in areas in the watershed where citizens less informed about Inland Bays issues might be reached and will work to plan for a CIB presence.
2. Planning to work with Sally Boswell to develop a power point that can be taken to HOA meetings throughout the watershed to inform and educate citizens about what their community can do to help improve water quality in the bays.
3. The committee is considering ways to play a role in the "education" of our elected officials about public policy affecting water quality in the bays. She commented that this fall there will be a sea change in government in Delaware with many newly elected officials taking office at the state and county level and that we need to meet with these newly elected representatives and inform them about issues affecting the Inland Bays.
4. Upcoming dates for community events were announced:
 - a. Coast Day, Sunday, October 5
 - b. Green Festival at Epworth United Methodist Church, November
 CAC members will receive an email inviting them to assist at these events.

The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 26 at 4 p.m. at the CIB. All CAC members are invited. The committee is still seeking additional members.

Secretary/Treasurer of CAC

The chair reported that only one person, Martha Keller, had been nominated for the open position of Secretary/Treasurer of CAC. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. Martha Keller was made Secretary/Treasurer by a unanimous vote of CAC members in attendance. The chair thanked her for her work as Acting Secretary/Treasurer.

PCS Update

No one could report on the current status of the PCS. The chair encouraged all CAC members to contact the DNREC Secretary to encourage DNREC to promulgate the PCS before leaving office this year.

Update on Sussex County Comprehensive Plan

Vice Chair, Carol Bason reported that the plan has not been certified by the State. In May, the State gave the County six months to complete it. A Livable Delaware meeting scheduled for August 14 has been postponed at the request of the County. The County is working on ordinances for Open Space and Green Communities. When it is completed, the State will either approve, deny, or approve with conditions.

New Business

Public Policy Committee

The Chair read a statement of purpose for the newly formed Public Policy Committee: Identifies and recommends to CAC, public policies that will limit pollution, preserve habitats, and promote environmentally sensitive development within the Inland Bays watershed.

He read the names of those CAC members who have said they would serve on the Public Policy Committee. They are: Muns Farestad, Barbara Sorgeler, Glen Urquhart, Barbara Lifflander, Helen Truitt, Carol Bason. He asked that anyone else interested in serving on that committee speak with him. He will be in touch with members to set a date for the first meeting within the next four weeks. It will be held at the CIB. The committee will elect a chair at that time.

Next Meeting

The date for next CAC meeting is set for Tuesday, October 14 from 4-6 p.m.

Adjournment

At 6:15 p.m. it was motioned and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously. The chair thanked CAC members for bringing guests and encouraged interested attendees to consider becoming a member of CAC.

There was an announcement of the CIB fundraiser, Paddlin' for the Bays that will be held this Saturday, August 16. More information is on the homepage of the website.

Respectfully reviewed and submitted,

Ron Wuslich, Chair
RW/sb