IN ATTENDANCE:
E-mail attachment of scanned sign in sheets so the team has everyone’s contact information.

CALL to ORDER/WELCOME
Chairman E.J. Chalabala called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Meeting participants were asked to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Action items highlighted in Red

July Meeting Minutes
• Approved – Chris
• Second – Sally

Economic Benefits
• Introduction
  o EJ Chalabala
  o Asked for Comments on economic and environmental benefits two pager
• Rick Cole
  o Concerns
    ▪ Not Complete
      • Does not cover conflicts over lease bottom
      • Make public more aware
    ▪ Stress conflicts are being evaluated with meetings (give the date)
    ▪ Funding
      • Who do we plan to fund the management of aquaculture
  o Document only positive, seems like marketing tool
• Chris Bason
  o Agree
    ▪ Need to show work of team
• Intent of document was outline benefits
  • Make new document on user conflicts and how they are resolved
  • Also outline funding

• Rick Cole
  o Show public that we are going over all data to make best decision

• Josh Thompson
  o Make another document on purpose of group and address issues
  o Keep benefits document as is

• Mike Bott
  o Constraints document is a good idea
    • Show what effects it could have on other commercial and recreational

• Julie Wheatley
  o Cautioned that if you push or outline things that could slow economic
devolution that may hang up progress
  o “caution” signal on outreach could impede progress as it will dominate
discussion

• Bob Dorman
  o Aquaculture will take away clam bottom, and reduce his income
    • Clams set differently every year

• Mike Bott
  o Write up half page document on process

• Debbie Rouse
  o What are the problems for project to proceed?
    • What are leasing issues?
    • Funding
  o Do we need to be educated on what problems were encountered from other
states before we proceed?
    • Don’t make same mistakes other states did.

• Gary Wolf (FDA)
  o Clam aquaculture (1970’s-) saved industry in south NJ
    • No real productive natural clam bottom left (except sandy hook bay)
    • Learn from neighbors (especially NJ)

• Julie Wheatley
  o Better to learn from and outline neighbor’s success rather than our past failures
    (30 years ago).

• Mike Bott
  o Need document on process and challenges to show unbiased nature of process
  o Have material for all interest and bias

• GIS Presentation by Bart Wilson
• Outreach Presentation by Sally Boswell
  o Update on progress

• Bart Wilson makes motion to have a vote on buffers
  o 50 feet from MLW for shoreline
  o 150 feet from Navigational channels
  o Discussion
    ▪ If you have landowner permission you may get closer than 50 feet
    ▪ State property should have no setbacks, with permission
    ▪ Make sure no deed issues on private landowners
  o Motion Bart Wilson
  o Second Julie Wheatley

• Rick Cole
  o Is it just planning or will it be adopted?
    ▪ Concern on how this will be written up in policy
      • Are there going to be legal issues that are unknown

• EJ
  o Motion to Adopt buffers
  o All Approve

• Motion by Bart Wilson
  o Motion to accept clam density of 2 clams/meter or less as the classification of barren bottom
    ▪ For proposed lease areas in Inland Bays
  o Excludes area of densities of 2 clam/meters or greater
  o All approved

• Timeline discussion
  o EJ Chalabala Presentation
    ▪ Asked Rick Cole for a fiscal note follow up
  o Julie Wheatley
    ▪ Include DEDO in timeline discussion
    ▪ Include Sec of Ag and DNREC in discussion’

• Clamming Aquaculture
  o Rick Cole
    ▪ Only Support Little Assawoman for clamming aquaculture
    ▪ Concern with wild stock and on bottom issues
    ▪ Reduction of harvest area an issue as well
  o Mike Bott
    ▪ Would be in areas not supporting clams so would enhance natural stock
  o Rick Cole
    ▪ Density of clams is variable and changes over time
  o Steve Friend
- Massey’s clam aquaculture operation helped clam population in southern areas of Massey’s.
  - Natural sets since then have not been dense like that in those areas
- Bob Dorman
  - Clams are in those areas
  - But variable in distribution
- Steve Friend
  - Discussed with Bob, if he thought densities are what they were in the 70’s in the Inland Bays
    - Bob agreed that the densities are lower than they were in the 1970’s
- Julie Wheatley
  - Put Timeline on a bar type representation
- Terry
  - Question: Why can clams aquaculture only be in Assawoman but no other bays?
- Rick Cole
  - DNREC supports clams in Assawoman only
  - Support Oysters in all three bays
- Terry
  - Why not let clam aquaculture in all three bays?
    - Clammers only take out clams from Rehoboth and Indian River Bays, and nothing is being put back.
- Steve Friend
  - Clamming aquaculture is a win/win for re-seeding the population of the bays
    - Bays not like they used to be with clam densities
- Gary Wolf
  - NJ has been doing both (natural harvest and aquaculture) for 40 years
  - Bring in industry to discuss the success of aquaculture
- Josh Thompson
  - Support clam and oyster aquaculture in all bays
  - Mitigation
    - Doesn’t necessarily support mitigation but could alleviate issues of taking up bottom.
- EJ Chalabala
  - What information does DNREC need to further understand the issue?
- Rick Cole
  - Nothing more is needed
    - All info has been weighted
• Marie
  ▪ DNREC has not been at all meetings
  ▪ What data have the used to make decision?
• Steve Friend
  ▪ Does not see logic of DNRECs decision
• Chris Bason
  ▪ Let’s move forward together in process
  ▪ Table the debate for future discussion
• Political
  ▪ Chris Bason
    ▪ Politicians more aware
    ▪ Need to do better to keep them aware of the issues
• Bill Sponsorship
  ▪ Chris Bason
    ▪ What work do we have to do?
    ▪ Need Consensus of Team
  ▪ Julie Wheatley
    ▪ Who do we get to sponsor it in election cycle?
    ▪ They may not be there in January.
• EJ Chalabala
  ▪ Next meeting
    ▪ September 6th (Thursday) at 1 pm
    ▪ At Department of Agriculture in Camden
• Julie Wheatley
  ▪ Do we want NJ clammers to come and present at our next meeting?
    ▪ Show benefits
  ▪ Chris Bason
    ▪ We will have to see where it fits
• Motion to adjourn
  ▪ EJ motion to Adjourn
  ▪ Julie Wheatley Second
  ▪ Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Bart Wilson, GIS/Spatial planning sub-committee chair