



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.

Executive Director

Advisory Committee on Climate Change

MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, 17 December 2020

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

MEETING ATTENDEES

Members and Alternates (18):

Delaware - Robert Scarborough, Ph.D.; DNREC

New Jersey - Nicholas A. Procopio, Ph.D., GISP; NJDEP

New York - Mark Lowery; NYSDEC; and Alternate Riobart Breen; NYSDEC

Pennsylvania - Scott R. Perry; PADEP

United States Government - Amanda L. Babson, Ph.D.; NPS

United States Government - Arthur DeGaetano, Ph.D.; NOAA NRCC

New York City - Alan Cohn, NYC DEP

City of Philadelphia - Julia Rockwell, PWD

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary - Danielle Kreeger, Ph.D.

William Brady III, P.E.; Exelon Corporation

Elizabeth Koniers Brown; Audubon Pennsylvania

John Callahan; Delaware Geological Survey, University of Delaware

James J. Chelius, P.E.; American Water, Inc.

Marjorie B. Kaplan, Dr.P.H.; Rutgers Climate Institute, Rutgers University

Upmanu Lall, Ph.D.; Columbia Water Center, Columbia University

Christopher Linn, AICP; Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Howard Neukrug, P.E.; The Water Center at Penn, University of Pennsylvania

David Velinsky, Ph.D.; Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Drexel University

DRBC Staff (7):

Pamela Bush, Peter Eschbach, Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Anthony Preucil, Amy Shallcross, Steve Tambini, John Yagecic

Other Attendees (25):

Alec Bernstein (Sage Services)

Francisco Aguirre

Justin Lyon (Kimley-Horn)

Louis Kleinman (NYC All Home Services)

Marty Levin (Tri-County Sustainability, NJ)

P. DeBarry

Abby Sullivan (PWD)

Eileen Murphy (NJ Audubon)

Meg McGuire (Delaware Currents)

Su Fanok (The Nature Conservancy)

Beatrice

Catherine Ellenberg

Colleen Walters

Dan Caprioli (USACE)

Donna Newell

Irina Marinov (U. Penn)

LeeAnn Haaf (PDE)

Michelle Moses (PADEP)

Rachel Tereska
Sandra Meola (CDRW)
Swati Hegde (Water Center at Penn)

WTS Central PA Chapter
Emily Bernzott (NTM Engineering)
Skelly Holmbeck (WRADRB)

Including one (1) additional participant was identified by phone number only.

MEETING SUMMARY

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 am by Howard Neukrug, The Water Center at Penn and Committee Chair, and held with remote attendance only using Zoom webinar and its call-in capabilities.

Member Roll Call – Roll call by Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, DRBC; all committee members in attendance.

Approve Meeting Minutes – Minutes of 8/4/20 unanimously approved without discussion.

Election of Committee Vice Chair –Marjorie Kaplan, Rutgers Climate Institute, unanimously elected to be committee Vice Chair without discussion.

2021 Climate Change Forum – Kristen Bowman Kavanagh announced Forum on Climate Change in the Delaware River Basin to be hosted by the ACCC on the second day (March 2, 2021) of PDE’s biannual Science Summit. Speaker agenda is under development and any ACCC members that are interested in moderating should let her know. Dr. Danielle Kreeger share the following link to the summit in the chat and indicated that registration is only \$25 for students: <https://www.delawareestuary.org/news-and-events/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>

Opening Comments – Steven J. Tambini, DRBC Executive Director, made opening remarks on the role and intended purpose of the ACCC. The presentation can be found on the DRBC website at: https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121720/opening-remarks_tambini.pdf

Presentations and Q&A – The following four presentations were given, and all presenters entertained questions:

1. Dr. Robert Kopp gave a presentation titled, “Sea Level Rise in the Delaware River Basin.” Dr. Kopp is a Professor at Rutgers U. and Director of the Institute of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences. The presentation can be found on the DRBC website at the following link.

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121720/DRB_sea-level-rise_Kopp.pdf

2. Chris Linn, AICP, gave a presentation titled, “Practical Applications of Sea Level Rise Estimates for the Delaware Estuary: The Pennsylvania Coastal Resilience Story Map.” Mr. Linn is Manager of the Office of Environmental Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. A link to the story map can be found at: <https://www.dvrpc.org/resiliency/coastal/>

3. John Callahan gave a presentation titled, “Determining Future Sea Level Rise Planning Scenarios for Delaware.” Mr. Callahan is an Associate Scientist at the Delaware Geological Survey, U. of Delaware. The presentation can be found on the DRBC website at:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121720/DE_SLR_Projections_Callahan.pdf

4. Amy Shallcross, P.E., gave a presentation titled, “Planning Scenarios for Sea Level Rise Impacts to Drought Management,” Ms. Shallcross is the Manager of Water Resource Operations at the Delaware River Basin Commission. The presentation can be found on the DRBC website at:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121720/sea-level-rise_shallcross.pdf

Closing Remarks – Committee Chair, Howard Neukrug, provided closing comments.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by Howard Neukrug at approximately 12:15 pm.

Summary of Selected Additional Information Provided in Chat

L. Kleinman asked that consideration be given to continuing the virtual option for meetings in future to allow remote attendance.

A. Shallcross provided the following link of a video of tidal range provided by John Yagecic, Manager of Water Quality Assessment at the DRBC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hY9qzVtCiN4>

M. Kaplan shared the following link for a report that Dr. Kopp mentioned during that presentation: <https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/resources/climate-change-and-new-jersey/nj-sea-level-rise-reports>

M. Kaplan shared the following link for the NJADAPT suite of mapping tools that addresses total water levels: <https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/nj-adapt/>

M. Kaplan also shared this link for municipal snapshots: <https://mosaic.njaes.rutgers.edu/~dfarnsworth/municipal-snapshots/>

A. Cohn provided the following link on NYC’s guidance on incorporating climate projections into design: https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/orr/pdf/NYC_Climate_Resiliency_Design_Guidelines_v4-0.pdf

M. Lowery provided the following link for four guidance documents released by new York State for flood-risk management on November 4, 2020, in compliance with the NYS Community Risk and Resiliency Act: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html>

J. Callahan provided the following link on the State of Delaware’s climate action plan: <https://declimateplan.org>

E. Brown provided the following links on the PA Auditor Generals’ report on the cost of inaction on climate change as well as the GAO report on managing risks to Superfund sites from climate change: https://www.paauditor.gov/Media/Default/Reports/RPT_Climate_crisis_111219_FINAL.pdf and <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-20-73>