



Center for the Inland Bays, Citizen Advisory Committee, 4th Citizen Café

On October 8, 2026, the fourth in a series of four panels exploring resilience in the Inland Bays was held at the *Center for the Inland Bays*, Rehoboth, Delaware. The four panelists were David Edgell, Director of the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination; Brittany Haywood, Coastal Ecology Specialist with Delaware Sea Grant; Joe Pika, President of the Sussex Preservation Coalition; and, Chip Smith, Board Member of the Bethany Beach Landowners Association. The panelists were asked four questions in round-robin fashion, regarding “Adapting, Protecting and Surviving”, after which members of the audience had the opportunity to ask questions. The four questions were:

Q1: When it comes to building resilience in the Inland Bays watershed, how can nature-based solutions and community-based approaches help us adapt, protect our natural resources, and thrive in a changing environment?

Q2: What do we need to strengthen our collective efforts to build resilience in the Inland Bays watershed?

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Q4: As we think about our year-long theme of “Resilience in the Inland Bays Watershed: Adapting, Protecting, Thriving”, what gives you hope for the future, and what is one thing you would encourage to consider or do?

The panelists agreed that, given climate change and sea-level rise trends, education and engagement are key to preparing for, adapting to, and recovering from storms and floods. Individual actions and actions at town, county, state, and federal levels must be energized and coordinated.

To watch a video recording of this 2-hour event, please use this link [\[HERE\]](#). Please note: this is stored on Google Drive, so it may prompt you to download the video in order to view it (due to the large file size).