
CAC Members Present: Paul Bruder, John Dawes, Andrew Der, Matt Ehrhart, Greg Evans, Christy Everett, Bill Fink, Dale Gardner, Verna Harrison, Jeff Holland, Paula Jasinski, Jennifer Reed-Harry, Charlie Stek (CAC Chair), Nikki Tinsley, Victor Ukpolo, Bob Wayland (CAC Vice Chair), and Neil Wilkie

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Staff Present: Mary Gattis (LGAC Coordinator), Jessica Blackburn (CAC Coordinator), Erin Jenkins (Alliance Intern), and Amy Robins (CAC/LGAC Staff)

LGAC Members Present (Thursday): Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Janine Burns, Diane Davis, Malcom Derk (Wed.), Dave Dunmyer, Shelia Finlayson, Rick Gray, Larry Land, Ernie Lehman (Thurs.), Leo Lutz, Kelly Porter, Ann Simonetti, John Thomas, James Wheeler (Thurs.), and Bruce Williams.

Speakers/Guests Present: Russ Baxter (VA Office of Natural Resources), Peter Claggett (USGS), , Olivia Devereux (Devereux Environmental Consulting), Nick DiPasquale (CBPO), Jim Edward (CBPO), Allison Fox (Alliance), Patricia Gleason (EPA), Marel King (PA CBC), Rhonda Manning (PA DEP), Peter Marx (CCWC), Brian O'Leary (Montgomery County PA Planning Commission), Lisa Schaefer (County Commissioners Association PA), Suzanne Trevena (EPA), and Andy Zemba (PA DEP)

Meeting presentations and materials are located:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22435/>

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Call to Order Joint Meeting of the Citizens and Local Government Advisory Committees

The LGAC Chair Janine Burns and the CAC Chair Charlie Stek called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves. New CAC member Bill Fink was welcomed. CAC member John Dawes was congratulated for receiving the Leadership Award with the Choose Clean Water Coalition.

Virginia Updates

Russ Baxter, VA Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources for the Chesapeake Bay

Russ reported that Governor McAuliffe issued an Executive Order on Environmental Literacy. The Governor is continuing to focus on Virginia's TMDL related to Chesapeake Bay issues. Russ highlighted the need for local government being part of the solution. Russ stressed that we are facing a societal problem and will need the collective will of citizens to step-in in order to meet our goal of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay.

Russ encouraged both committees to keep communication open and flowing with the PSC Chair by calling anytime.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Nick DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

- 2014 Interim Milestone Highlights – The reports have been delayed and will be released around the first week of June 2015. Jurisdictions can expect to see adjustments made to current plans to ensure they are on track for the 2017 Mid-point Assessment.
- Revisions to BMP Expert Panel Protocol – Nick reported comments have been received from LGAC, STAC, CAC, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and VA DEQ. The issues raised included more explicit language on what constitutes a conflict of interest and disclosing conflicts of interest; consideration of local practitioners as potential panel members; and the importance of panels functioning in accordance with the National Academy of Science practice standards. Leadership will meet at the PSC on June 2, 2015 to discuss comments and reach consensus on a path forward. The revised Protocol is expected to be submitted to the WQGIT for final approval during their July 13, 2015 conference call.
- BMP Verification Update - The Review Panel and Verification Committee is working on jurisdictional evaluation form. Jurisdictions proposed BMP verification programs documentation are due June 30, 2015.
- High Resolution Land Cover Initiative – The Partnership is funding the watershed-wide acquisition of high resolution land cover data. The data will be available for application in the Partnership's Phase 6 watershed model by May 2016.
- FY 2015 Goal Team Funding – An RFP was issued on April 6, 2015 seeking a grant manager for \$700-900K per year for up to 5 years (contingent on availability of funds) for the GIT projects that support the Agreement outcomes.
- CBP Climate Change Coordinator - NOAA and EPA have recently completed the interview process for the Partnership's Climate Change Coordinator position. The position has been offered.
- Citizens and Non-Traditional Monitoring – The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay was awarded a multiple year cooperative agreement for the *Integrations of Citizen and Non-traditional Monitoring* data. The purpose is to provide technical, logistical, and outreach support for the integration of citizen-based and non-traditional monitoring networks into the Chesapeake Bay Programs partnership.
- Independent Evaluator- Nick reminded everyone that the Warner-Wittman Bill passed and an Independent Evaluator position will be created to report to Congress on watershed activities.
- Management Strategies – A total of 333 comments were submitted during the public input period. A majority addressed Climate Resiliency.
- Shad Abundance Indicator – A recent press release provided some positive news on Shad abundance in the Rappahannock, Potomac, and York Rivers.

Jim Edward, Deputy Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Jim reviewed the Chesapeake Bay Program Funding from 2006-present, CBIG, CBRAP, and Local Implementation Funding from 2008-2015. A Virginia LGAC member asked where the \$5 million in local government funds went. Russ Baxter stated it was offered to local governments to clean up the historic BMP listings. Workplans will be developed to implement Management Strategies. Public input will be invited. He highlighted that the Land and Water Conservation Funding (LWCF) monies are up from \$7 million to \$33 million for the Rivers of the Chesapeake.

Working Lunch

Marel King with PA Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) provided a history of the Chesapeake Bay partnership and watershed agreements. LGAC Members Dave Dunmyer and Bruce Williams and CAC members Charlie Stek and Verna Harrison provided some perspective and insights on the role of advisory committees.

Land Use and Accounting for Growth in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Peter Claggett, USGS

Peter presented on trends and forecasts related to population growth in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. By 2050 population could rise by 30% (as much as 5 million people). EPA expects new or increased loadings of nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment to be offset by reductions and credits generated by other sources. Implementation of actions to restore the Bay are planned to take 10 more years (2015 – 2025). An LGAC member questioned the forecasts based on the assumption that baby boomers are moving to water front property on the Chesapeake Bay. Peter stressed that land use planning, while not listed as a BMP, is the most cost effective BMP out there.

Patricia Gleason, Region III, EPA and Olivia Devereux, Devereux Environmental Consulting

Patricia provided a timeline for sector growth planning and information on when the sectors need to provide BMP implementation information. Pennsylvania is analyzing the 2014 progress and while they are ahead of the game with wastewater that puts more pressure on other sources to do more because they did not have the same capacity.. EPA and Pennsylvania will be assessing the gap for achieving 60% of the 2025 target by 2017 based on projected land use and animal manure loads. There will be meetings in early June between EPA and the jurisdictions to provide jurisdictions with the necessary information about sector growth in advance of the 2016-17 Milestone planning deadline.

Brian O'Leary, Montgomery County (PA) Planning Commission

Brian described a few of the major issues facing Montgomery County (PA) and explained the county's 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Sustainable Places, Connected Communities, and a Vibrant Economy). He gave projections about where Montgomery County will be in 2040 and issues the county can plan for with their Land Use Vision. Brian stated Montgomery County's focus is on re-development, reinvigorate tree canopy, and investing in green BMPs. He stressed that multi-municipal cooperation is key to managing growth in accordance with the County's comprehensive plan. He suggests working closely with schools and to rally around controversial issues. Growth management tools such as infrastructure investment, preservation tools, and growth area zoning are used in Montgomery County. Preservation tools include farm preservation programs, large lot zoning, historical site preservation, growth area zoning, green infrastructure, natural features preservation, open space purchasing, etc. By planning for growth area zoning localities can create compact, walkable, mixed use development focusing more about form rather than use.

CAC and LGAC Discussion

LGAC member pointed out that business campuses now want to be in diverse walkable communities instead of being isolated. Overall, the CAC & LGAC members agreed that infill or redevelopment with green infrastructure practices is better than urban sprawl. CAC member suggested seeing open land as a possible community value to help alleviate food scarcity issues. Zoning ordinances 50+ years ago saw a shift away from urban gardens and residential zoning and in some cases prohibits the selling of locally grown food.

Charlie Stek asked the entire group how the Bay Program could support elected officials, planners, and watershed advocates in their efforts to manage land use. Initial suggestions included the collective impact collaboration, sharing the Advisory Committees' common agendas before going into the Executive Council, encouraging the Governors to advocate for federal funding for land conservation, adding public access to waterways, promoting technical assistance for climate adaptation to state and local agencies.

The CAC and LGAC members agreed that it was important to create a collective impact based on comprehensive local visions for regional watersheds that include counties, communities, nonprofits and farmers.

The committees were asked which land use topics CAC and LGAC should raise to the Chesapeake Executive Council. Initial suggestions included funding resources, communication flow, and advocacy. The CAC and LGAC coordinators will work on seeing how the committees can support each other with some of the Executive Council recommendations.

With no additional business, the LGAC meeting adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Economics of Conservation: Partnering with Nature

John Rogers, Keystone Conservation Trust

John discussed how nature's financial benefits are generally not well-understood and are often undervalued in policy debates and investment decisions. There is a growing body of evidence that shows natural environments directly impact our economy, quality of life, health, and cost of living. The connection between the value of forests and bird habitats is rarely made to the economy and our personal health and wellbeing. Yet citizens expect clean air and water, natural beauty, and dry basements without understanding where they come from and what they are worth.

Beyond their intrinsic value, natural systems are productive assets that account for millions of dollars each year in savings, earnings, avoided costs, as well as attraction for economic development. Open space and healthy natural systems cost nothing and they positively affect everything including economic development, health, recreation, flood control, water supply, water and air pollution control, pollination and habitat. Once natural systems are lost they are costly and difficult to replace with human engineered systems that are less reliable. Estimating the financial return on a healthy environment should be included in all potential development planning and be encouraged by state and local policies.

CAC agreed to amend the agenda and begin the meeting the next day a half hour earlier.

Meeting recessed at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 22, 2015

Business Meeting

CAC Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The draft March 2015 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with a motion by Greg Evans and seconded by Matt Ehrhart. CAC members reviewed proposed subcommittee restructuring. CAC requested that Fisheries be added under Water Quality subcommittee. Paula requested to be added to the Water Quality, Agriculture and Fisheries subcommittee. Bill Fink asked to be

added to the same subcommittee. Each subcommittee will set up a conference call to self-select a chair. The new subcommittee chairs will constitute the Executive Committee of CAC.

CAC agreed that having at least one meeting a year with LGAC is useful.

Christy recommended that we consider sending a letter to help save the appropriations for the BWET educational programming funds in the federal budget.

Charlie Stek requested comments on the CAC bylaws. Christy pointed out that in Article II, Section 2.1.a needed to be updated to include all of the headwater states. Greg Evans suggested the listing of some Bay Program committees is redundant under Article II, Section 2.d. CAC agreed that the list in that section was duplicative and could be removed. No additional comments were provided and the committee approved the suggested changes be made to the bylaws.

CAC Staff, Amy Robins, provided a brief update on the Student Outreach Program. Alliance interns are collecting contact information for professors and CAC Staff will work on the development of written materials for professors and students over the next few months.

CAC Members provided jurisdictional updates. Members agreed that reviewing milestones, computer Bay model runs, and monitoring progress could be a future agenda item.

Chesapeake STAT

Doreen Vetter, Chesapeake STAT Project Manager, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

Doreen provided an introduction to the EPA's revised partner website, Chesapeake STAT. Using the STAT tool, users can interact with BMP trackers, Two-Year Milestones, TMDL Tracking, and more. The website tracks phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment levels watershed wide. CAC members found the timeline tool helpful and requested that monitoring data and human health indicators be added. CAC will follow-up with Doreen in a thank you letter with some suggested comments on how to continually improve Chesapeake STAT.

CAC Annual Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council

CAC members had an open discussion regarding the CAC annual recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. The members agreed to limit the recommendation to 3 points. Below reflects the flip chart notes and the discussion that will guide the first draft of the annual report. .

(1) Citizen Engagement –

- The Agreement Workplans should be written and reported on a local level, either by rivers or county level.
- The signatories should institutionalize outreach components to local community leaders, local governments, river commissions, etc. in order to fully engage locals in the workplans for long term results
- CAC supports local allocations in the Phase III WIPs

(2) Accountability – include verification as a part of implementation

(3) Take advantage of Federal Funding and Resources – (discuss the economic benefits of natural ecosystems)

- Power Plus – advocate for funding to this pot of money

- Land conservation – President budget for Chesapeake Rivers
- NRCS – support for Agricultural BMPs, technical assistance
- US Dept of Education grants and request that the State Secretaries of Education come to the CBP table

Other Ideas for Future Exploration and Discussion:

- Collective Impact
- Living Resource Restoration – Watermen leading environment education
- Resources – tap into the minority socio-economic agricultural support from NRCS

The CAC coordinator will create the draft recommendation letter for the CAC EC to review.

Meeting Wrap Up

CAC members agreed to write Doreen Vetter a letter requesting that water monitoring data and the EJ Screen tool be linked to Chesapeake STAT.

The next CAC Meeting will be in Havre de Grace, Maryland on Wednesday/Thursday September 16-17, 2015. Suggested topics include: a tour of the BMPs at the Aberdeen Proving Ground federal facility, Federal targets, milestone updates, waters of the U.S. Rule, Minority farmers. Please submit additional ideas to Jessica.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.