

MINUTES
December 14-15, 2017
Cork Factory Hotel
Lancaster. PA

LGAC Members Present: Markus Batchelor, Jim Barnhart, Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Phil Briddell, Ed Bustin, Daniel Chao, Sheila Finlayson, Jasmine Gore, Richard Gray, Charles Jones, Leo Lutz, Don Phillips, Kelly Porter, Ann Simonetti, John Thomas, James Wheeler, Bruce Williams and LGAC Staff - Mary Gattis and Jennifer Starr

Speakers/Guests Present: Carin Bisland (CBPO), Liz Chudoba (Alliance), Luke Cole (DOEE), Ryan Davis (Alliance), Nicholas DiPasquale (CBPO), Andy Fellows (UMD), Laura Free (CBPO), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Kelly Gutshall (Land Studies), Christian Leinbach (NACo), Jenna Mackley (Alliance), Jenna Mitchell (Alliance), Donna Morelli (Bay Journal), Joan Salvati (VA DEQ), Philip Stafford (MDE), Kathy Stecker (MD DEP), James Sullivan (DNREC), Leslie Weller (Alliance)

Meeting presentations and materials: [December 2017 LGAC Meeting](#)

Thursday, December 14, 2017

Call to Order

Chair Bruce Williams called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

New Member Jasmine Gore was welcomed and invited to introduce herself. Other members and guests were also welcomed and introduced themselves.

Overview on Stream Restoration

Kate Fritz, Executive Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Kate introduces the topic of stream restoration practices with a focus on looking at the multiple benefits of economy, environment and societal considerations. She presented an overview of practices upland, at the edge of stream and in-stream with examples of each. Considerations for practices include, financing mechanisms, long-term maintenance, permitting challenges, partnership opportunities, community willingness and the opportunity to install multiple practices.

Members discussed permit concerns and Ed Bustin shared that Bradford County has created a review group of experts to expedite permits and the County has found this very successful and has sped the process up significantly.

Chip raised the question of who has jurisdiction in floodplains and said he would share a “white paper” regarding permitting issues. Alliance staffer Ryan Davis also shared Alliance efforts to connect locals to projects to bring communities together to meet conservation goals.

Action: Follow-up with Ed to work with PA DEP or the CBP Stream Health Workgroup to develop a case study of the Bradford County permit review group. Get the White Paper from Chip.

Introduction to Floodplain Restoration

Kelly Gutshall, Land Studies

Kelly provided an overview of floodplain restoration as a Best Management Practice and introduced the Healthy Watersheds Tour and Land Studies, LLC. She shared the goal of ensuring multiple benefits to each BMP and the effort to engage the local community with a watershed action plan and a list of priority considerations for the community. Kelly also familiarized Members of what they would see on the Tour.

Healthy Watershed Tour-Land Studies

LGAC Members and guests had the opportunity to visit and learn about Lancaster County local stream and floodplain restoration sites. Tour attendees visited Landis Homes Retirement Community (stream and floodplain restoration), Butterfly Acres (a critical aquifer recharge area restoration), Rock Lititz (floodplain restoration), an unrestored site in Manheim and Logan Park (floodplain restoration).

Local Leadership Outcome: Baseline Survey Methodology

Christine Brittle, Uncommon Insights, LLC

The Chesapeake Bay Program Partners have committed to continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is responsible for developing a methodology for establishing a baseline from which progress towards this Outcome can be measured. Alliance contractor, Christine Brittle of Uncommon Insights, LLC, shared the proposed survey methodology and tool and asked for feedback.

Members had a number of questions and suggestions about the actual survey and Mary explained that this is a CBP objective under the Stewardship Goal and LGAC is not responsible for doing the survey.

Business Meeting

October 2017 meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Ann and seconded by Kelly. Both Ruby and Jasmine abstained.

Coordinator's Report-Mary continues to participate in several CBP workgroups on behalf of LGAC. 2018 will be a busy year with a number of Pennsylvania and Virginia local elected officials roundtables, a planned local government forum, work on the baseline survey development and local leadership education. Mary shared 2018 LGAC meeting dates: March 21-22, 2018 – Laurel, DE, June 7-8, 2018 – Harrisonburg, VA, September 26-27, 2018 – TBD, November 29-30, 2018 - DC.

Executive Committee Report (Chair)-Bruce reported on the October 3 and 30 Principal Staff Committee meetings and the upcoming PSC meeting to make decisions on the adoption of Phase 6 modeling tools, gain approval of Bay's assimilative capacity (ability to absorb pollutants), approve the proposed process for Partnership's review of draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets and approve Water Quality Goal Team recommendations for accounting for growth, Conowingo and climate change. Bruce also reported on his involvement in the NFWF Evaluation Advisory Committee.

Friday, December 15, 2017

Jurisdiction meetings were convened over breakfast. See reports below.

Call to Order

Bruce called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Jurisdiction Breakfast Meeting Report Outs and Member Updates:

Maryland/Delaware - Bruce shared Delaware will be holding one meeting on Phase III WIP development, Maryland will hold five regional meetings between March and April. LGAC will host a Maryland/Delaware local elected officials and county representatives meeting in the Spring (May 2018).

Pennsylvania - Ann reported that Pennsylvania is making progress on addressing Local Area Planning Goals in the Phase III WIP. . John is on the Local Area Planning Goals workgroup and will keep members informed. Ed chairs the Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee of the County Commissioners Association of PA. Nicki Kasi with PA DEP is working with LGAC on hosting regional roundtables. Ann asked for comments on the draft Pay for Success paper and shared there is a draft report on pharmaceuticals in water that everyone is monitoring. Ann also encouraged all PA LGAC members to support an elected officials effort to promote watershed education in schools.

Virginia - Richard updated Members on local area planning goals now having a regional focus. In 2018 LGAC will be holding six regional roundtables and the VA LGAC delegation will each host one of them. Members plan to hold a meeting with the Governor and top officials to share LGAC priorities. He Also shared was a request for proposal for Phase III of the Forest Retention Study, which LGAC is involved with as an Advisor. Chip discussed an effort to approve a 30,000 acre solar panel farm that would create a very large impervious surface and raised concerns about the issuance of a permit.

District of Columbia - Daniel shared two issues of concern. First DC Water is building an 18 mile tunnel from the Anacostia River to the Chesapeake Bay that would introduce one million pounds of discharge to the Bay at a very large cost. Second there is controversy over a TransCanada natural gas pipeline that is being proposed to cross the Potomac River and community activists are fighting the approval of the permit to allow.

West Virginia-No Report.

Chesapeake Bay Program Director Remarks

Nick DiPasquale, EPA CBPO, Director

Nick reported that he is retiring at the end of December after more than six years leading the CBP. . He shared achieving Bay goals and milestones and highlighted 12 new grass species and a growing underwater density plus improved water quality standards indicators--all good news and a feeling the Bay is on the right track. Other good news includes improved high resolution land cover data, expansion of citizen monitoring and an engaged new regional EPA Administrator who wants to work closely with local officials. He remains concerned about increasing stormwater runoff from development and agriculture plus the defunding of the Bay Journal.

Nick is hopeful about the CBP budget and continued implementation of projects to improve the Bay. There are concerns though over shrinking staff at EPA, the departure of senior managers, the shift of program staff to grant management. CBP priorities in the coming year include developing socioeconomic indicators; diversity and stewardship and economic indicators to include co-benefits. Bruce noted that the Management Board agreed to prioritize getting local input on which co-benefits should be prioritized.

Nick thanked Members for their service and for being the “boots on the ground” for local improvement efforts.

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative

Liz Chudoba, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Liz shared information on the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC). CMC is a group of leading service providers that offer technical, programmatic, and outreach support for the integration of water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. CMC was launched shortly after the 2014 LGAC Local Government Forum on Monitoring.

Liz asked what are the needs for local governments and how can monitoring meet those needs. Members shared their thoughts including ensuring training for monitoring include a thorough quality assurance training and quality data interpretation, easy to read technical manuals, monitoring by watershed (not municipality but across jurisdictional boundaries).

Action: Staff to work with CMC on how to communicate data to elected officials.

Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center Project Update

Jen Cotting and Medessa Burian, Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland

Jen and Medessa shared the MOST Center website and explained the efforts on the NFWF-funded six-year project. The focus is financial in nature, audience is local officials and regional with a broader capacity than the Chesapeake Watershed. The grant was awarded in 2015 and for two years staff have held listening sessions and built the website based upon feedback. Some content has been developed but there is a concerted effort in 2018 to add significantly more content. Jen and Medessa asked for ideas for content and listed their priorities, which included . Members suggested including timelines of projects and capturing the priorities and passions of elected to tell the story. Members asked for a tutorial on how to use the MOST website, and maybe offer the tutorial at state association conferences in order to reach a broader audience. Members also suggested a Chesapeake Bay 101 course, a webinar on planning commissions and working with elected officials, and a tutorial on comprehensive development plans (including what the cost to a community is when decisions are waived).

Action: Staff to work with MOST staff to send a survey to Members of additional course suggestions.

National Association of Counties

Ruby introduced Christian Leinbach, a fellow Regional Representative with the National Association of Counties the LGAC meeting, who she invited to attend . Christian represents the Northeast region while Ruby represents the South region. Christian shared his thoughts on joint efforts with LGAC and offered to help identifying a New York member for LGAC.

Action: Staff to follow-up on offer to help with a NY LGAC Member.

Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Carin Bisland, Associate Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO)

Carin shared Bay 101 videos on the Chesapeake.net website as a helpful resource for Members. She also discussed the Bay program recent press release on water quality indicators and how streams and rivers are responding. The mid-term goal of 60% of practices in place by 2017 have found nitrogen behind by 33% but phosphorus goals ahead by 81% and sediment ahead by 57% with 40% attainment of dissolved oxygen.

Carin updated Members on the template outcomes that Nicki Casi shared at the October 2017 LGAC meeting. Based upon Member input from that meeting, changes were made to the template format. Carin also announced that there's a new EPA Region 3 Regional Administrator, Cosmo Servidio. He has a strong interest in bringing citizens, businesses and policymakers together to find innovative solutions.

Action: Staff to invite Emily Trentacoste, EPA Region 3, to explain trends at the next meeting. Staff will also share Comos' contact information to Members so they can invite him to their communities for local engagement.

LGAC Initiatives

Chesapeake Legal Alliance - Ann Simonetti

CLA submitted a final draft report to Alliance staff early in December; Alliance staff reviewed and then sent to LGAC members, Project Advisory Group (Marel King, Russ Baxter, John Brosious), and the Budget & Finance Workgroup for review. Reviews should be completed by December 29th. Alliance staff will compile reviews and work with CLA team to finalize the report early in 2018.

2018 Local Government Forum - The subject for the 2018 local government forum is still being considered. Potential topics include finance and/or technical assistance.

New Business / Future Agenda Items/Open Discussion

Future Agenda Items

- CBF/World Resources Institute Three-County Stormwater Nutrient Trading Project
 - Financing Stormwater Programs
 - Integrated Water Resource Management
 - Virginia Coastal Policy Center study on Stormwater management for rural areas
 - Advanced Alternative Sewage Systems (requested by Penny due to new VA regulations)
- Potential lost revenue over caps on real estate taxes-how can services be provided to communities if revenue streams are being cut (requested by Penny)

The meeting was adjourned at noon.