

LGAC Members Present: Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Phil Briddell, Ed Bustin, Daniel Chao, Sheila Finlayson, Penelope Gross, Chip Jones, Brianne Nadeau, Kelly Porter, Don Phillips, Ann Simonetti, Danene Sorache, James Wheeler, Bruce Williams and LGAC Staff - Ola-Imani Davis, Mary Gattis, Jennifer Starr

Speakers/Guests Present: Katherine Antos (DOEE), Carin Bisland (CBPO), Karl Blankenship (Bay Journal), Heidi Bonnaffon (MWCOG), Josh Burch (DC DOEE), Cindy Dyballa (City Council, Takoma Park), Andy Fellows (UMD), Rachel Felver (Alliance), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Robert Green (Montgomery County Prison), Amy Handen (National Park Service/CBPO), Les Knapp (MACo), Scott Kratz (11th Street Bridge Park), Danny Lapin (Otsego County Conservation Association), Tom Leigh (CBF), Holly May (Alliance), Bill Mahoney (Howard County ECOWorks/READY), Jacob Newman (River Corps/Montgomery County Conservation Corps), Matthew Pennington (WV), Queen Richardson (RiverSmart Homes/Alliance), Laurie-Anne Sayles (City Council, Gaithersburg), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC)

Call to Order

Chair Bruce Williams called the meeting to order at 11:14 am. He welcomed Members and guests. He gave a welcome to Danene Sorache, who recently became Mayor of Lancaster, PA succeeding Rick Gray, and prospective LGAC member, Danny Lapin, a circuit rider and planner out of Otsego County, New York.

Business Meeting

Approval of September 2018 Minutes - Bruce moved to approve the LGAC September 2018 meeting minutes and Ruby seconded. Members approved LGAC meeting locations in 2019 along with the next meeting scheduled in March 2019 in Laurel, DE.

Coordinator's Report: Mary notified members of staffing changes within the committee. Jennifer is now the coordinator of the Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG). Mary introduced Ola-Imani Davis, the newest member to Annapolis office, and Monica Billig. Ola and Monica will continue to uphold specific job duties on behalf of LGAC. Into 2019, Mary announced she will work half-time, decreasing her work schedule to every other week.

Executive Committee Report: Bruce discussed Connowingo WIP. Carin Bisland reported that the Bay Program will hold a Strategy Review System biennial meeting in Richmond, VA, on March 13-14, 2019. Les Knapp reported on the MACo Newly Elected Officials Winter Conference which will be held in Cambridge, MD on January 2nd-3rd. Mary and Bruce are invited to talk about technical assistance recommendations made by LGAC.

Chesapeake Network for Education of Municipal Officials Program (NEMO)

Amy Handen

Amy Handen introduced Chesapeake NEMO. The vision for NEMO was to help communities' foster well planned growth, preserve water quality, and protect natural areas. This vision was made by pulling

together three components: education, technical assistance, and associated financial assistance. Local governments were the prime recipients of the services, however all in the collaborative effort were included to receive assistance. All assistance was tailored to each individual community.

Amy noted a few accomplishments by NEMO:

- NEMO surveyed local government officials as well as technical assistance providers to ensure that their program would be successful. The development of these educational modules proved to be very effective.
- The program spent time developing inspiring graphics, rather than lengthy presentations, in order to largely convey material during educational presentations.
- The establishment of a network-based approach benefited in assistance delivery. This allowed communities to access a pool of technical service providers, versus one single circuit rider, based on their need.
- NEMO succeeded in leveraging partners. They worked with existing partners to make the most out of their money.

Amy then shared a few lessons learned by NEMO:

- Local need was very high and there was constant turnover, so providing education about technical assistance was very challenging. NEMO, however, was very flexible and not a “one size fits all” service.
- Service providers under NEMO promoted their own brands thus making it challenging for NEMO to market properly. The lesson was learned to provide clear-direction on branding.
- It was important to understand local need, develop criteria for project selection, and identify the local providers that can help deliver assistance.
- Assumptions were made early on as to who the “best” providers were, so the lesson was learned to always remain open and inclusive.
- Resources needed to support this effort was huge. NEMO’s budget was only a few hundred thousand to support the core staffing team which barely scratched the surface to address the needs of communities around the watershed. Another couple hundred thousand was used per year to support 25-50 projects. The lesson learned was to thoroughly understand resources available.

Members were highly receptive to NEMO. The idea that NEMO was designed to be a pilot urges the team to focus on longevity of the proposed circuit rider program. LGAC also believes that NEMO provided good bones for developing recommendations, however, in order for LGAC to accomplish their goal of longevity with a circuit rider program, it is important to know the already available resources.

Action: Provide NEMO lessons learned to LGAC Staff.

Local Government Forum - Recommendations for Filling Gaps

Tom Leigh, Matt Pennington, Danny Lapin, Holly May, Mary Gattis

Mary updated Members on draft recommendations from the September Local Government Forum on filling gaps. The draft recommendation is that circuit riders are an adjunct staff of generalists who will assist a discrete set of clients with securing specialists. These circuit riders should be funded through federal state and local contributions. Local contribution will not be limited to monetary means however. Other forms of contribution could consist of donation of public space or service. Mary suggested a

portion of the \$5M in funding awarded to jurisdictions go towards the circuit rider and a dollar-per-dollar match be awarded from the state according to the Local Government Implementation Fund. This state match will come from either the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG), or the Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program (CBRAP). The dollars-per-year will differ by state and need.

Mary then asked if these grant-makers should have a long-term role in funding a circuit rider program. This was met with mixed reviews varying from the fact that the grant makers should start thinking long-term, and the fact that there is not enough money to fund everyone equally forever. Members believed scaling back the amount of funding by a percentage each year is possible and a mentoring process could be applied in order to understand environmental challenges, and how to translate those into a competitive grant application. Members also believed having a network of circuit riders was beneficial because it will help them progress and learn new areas of expertise. Also networks should be state-specific with an opportunity for interstate. Finally, Members discussed the pool of technical assistance providers that could be needed.

Action: Staff to compile and share circuit rider recommendations in a draft report.

Workforce Development: 2018 Recommendations to the Executive Council

Robert Green, Bill Mahoney, Queen Richardson, Josh Burch, Jacob Newman

Montgomery County Prison: Director Robert Greene shared the Montgomery County prison system practice of alternative sentencing referred to as restorative justice. Restorative justice is a system used to rehabilitate offenders through community-driven projects in order to create a sustainable workforce. Offenders contribute to making healthier communities and habitats, all the while gaining the necessary education and experience to reenter the workforce. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is a federal workforce program where funding is passed down from state to local jurisdictions to implement a workforce plan. Correctional facilities are working to create the next evolution of workforce and skill building community projects in order to create sustainable jobs, a supported community and hope.

Members are highly receptive to Robert's presentation. The idea of restorative justice is to give individuals more of a connection to employment thus being more likely to succeed and not return to the prison system. Jobs are not being taken away from those not within the system, rather, jobs that no one else wants to do are being filled thus supplementing the workforce.

Conservation Corps: Bill Mahoney spoke about the Howard County, Maryland Conservation Corps model, READY, how it was established, and lessons learned. Once developed, \$600,000 in funding was granted to the READY program in order to establish jobs mostly focused on building rain gardens. Community feedback and engagement was positive because this program proved to be a more educational experience, thus gaining a contagious amount of excitement towards the projects.

Josh Burch discussed the challenge of a stream health workforce in DC where streams are minimal. DOEE expanded funding which allowed for those inducted into the job program to work around the district and not just with the Anacostia River specifically.

Queen Richardson is an alumna of the River Corps program. She now works with RiverSmart homes and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Her River Corps program lasted five months and she gained necessary skills from photo-monitoring to RiverSmart homes inspections. She also developed numerous

licenses such as: Sediment Control Certification, Erosion Certification, Pesticides Applicator License and Green Infrastructure Certification.

Jacob Newman works with the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, DC. The Center tries to meet the needs of the youth on every base from housing, workforce development, mental health, clinical health, education etc. Connections with Conservation Corps across Prince George County, Montgomery County, and alike, encourage the exploratory pathway of workforce development. The Center strives to connect those who are disconnected from the workforce and schools, promote entrepreneurial spirit, and including aspects of public policy in the educational aspect.

Mary introduced the LGAC Executive Council recommendation on workforce development. The recommendation is:

- Support programs to train targeted groups, including offenders, veterans and other disadvantaged populations, to perform such functions as installing and maintaining green infrastructure. Such programs could be designed to address challenging local issues such as the opioid epidemic, reducing recidivism, and lack of staff to perform maintenance functions on public infrastructure.
- Create a student loan forgiveness program for people who choose to work in the public sector.

Members suggested this recommendation needs to be refined to more positive language. Members also agreed that certifications, if possible, should be a part of the infrastructure of the recommendation. Mary added that the Governors should support programs to train targeted groups such as those incarcerated. She also believed it would be worthy to add success stories to the recommendations.

Action: Refine workforce development recommendation

Roundtable Metro-Washington Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee

Penny Gross; Bruce Williams; Heidi Bonnaffon, Cindy Dyballa, Andy Mackenzie Fellows, Laurie-Anne Sayles

Local leaders were introduced to the LGAC team. Members and guests raised several concerns regarding Chesapeake Bay issues including Conowingo, stormwater training, climate resiliency, and trading. Bruce updated information on the Conowingo WIP and funding. The conversation moved to impacts of climate changes. Conversations continued to what should be included in each state WIP. Members also reflected on the idea water trading amongst states. Information about sediment gaps, clearing upstream for the better quality of downstream, and the identification of the best BMP's to determine climate resiliency were also brief topics of conversation.

Action: Mary and Heidi to provide their respective members with detailed information on sediment loads, progresses, and gaps.

Friday, November 30, 2018

Jurisdiction meetings convened over breakfast.

Jurisdiction Breakfast Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates

Bruce called the meeting to order at 8:50 am. Each jurisdiction provided updates from their breakfast discussions:

Pennsylvania will work to develop a detailed job description of the circuit rider, and continue to discuss the Phase III WIP with colleagues.

Delaware discussed the disproportional contribution load towards the Conowingo. Delaware is concerned the idea of a generic circuit rider network is unattainable.

Maryland examined the flexibility in funding of circuit riders. Maryland wants to determine what works, lessons learned, and how local funds are distributed.

West Virginia shared their experience with circuit riders. Matt Pennington is a seven-year circuit rider to the regional council however, he is listed as a 1099 employee. A 1099 employee is a private contractor where, instead of getting a W-2, a 1099 is received. LGAC expressed mixed feedback. Members agree that this 1099 status can be beneficial as circuit riders may choose their own hours and methods.

District of Columbia expressed their happiness in hosting this quarter's LGAC meeting, welcomed Brienne back from maternity leave, and thanked Daniel for hosting members at his home. During breakfast, they focused on DC legislation. DC discussed the CleanEnergy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018. This act is focused on creating a 100% clean energy and renewal standard for buildings by 2032.

New York is finalizing the public outreach process of Phase III WIP by January 2019 and will have a draft August 2019. The two main entities governing New York's Phase III WIP is the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Danny explained the model of the circuit rider is currently being discussed with his neighboring county where they assign six municipalities to work with one circuit rider. He believed this is beneficial because, as a circuit rider, he does not have expertise in all areas so it is better to work within a network. He briefly explained his position as a New York circuit rider stating he is a full-time employee under a privately funded organization who matches 50% of their client's associated costs. Ruby urges LGAC to officially appoint Danny by formal request to both Governor Hogan and Governor Cuomo. Richard accepts this motion as Ruby seconded and all were in favor.

Action: Staff to craft an official letter of appointment to New York governor recommending Danny Lapin to begin LGAC membership.

Anacostia Restoration: Strategies for Avoiding Displacement

Scott Kratz, Director, 11th Street Bridge Park

Scott introduced the plans for the new Anacostia Bridge Park located over the Anacostia River near the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. This walking green bridge, constructed from a repurposed highway, will create community-driven programs such as play areas, performance spaces, and educational centers. Set to open in 2023, the goal of this bridge is to promote social, health-related, environmental, and economic growth. Scott presented some lessons learned.

- Engage and collaborate with existing agencies around the community by asset mapping to see who all is already doing the work you seek.
- Keep initiatives connected and intentional.
- Create the necessary paperwork to measure and identify outcomes.
- Set clear measurable goals.
- Focus on the equitable development strategies.

Members were extremely receptive and interested in the Anacostia Bridge Park and all of its developments and initiatives.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Carin Bisland, Jennifer Starr, Rachel Felver

Carin provided updates on staffing changes, and the relocation of the CBP office. She also explained the fiscal year 19 budget. Carin specifically explained the non-competitive grants: CBRAD, for implementation of TMDL and WIPs, and CBIG, used for any implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, and how their grant formulas will be adjusted by state according to the Phase 6 model. There is also a grant going out to the Chesapeake Bay conservancy in hopes to promote a collection of high-resolution data mapping. Finally, Carin formally introduced the Chesapeake Progress website, showing data, statistics, outcomes, and success stories, regarding the development of projects in regards to WIPs, wetlands, local engagement, wildlife, etc.

Rachel updated LGAC on the Bay Barometer which is set to come out in late January 2019.

Jennifer updated LGAC on the LLWG including Matt Pennington as LLWG Chair. She also discussed the Baseline Survey to determine base level of knowledge of local elected officials. Ruby moved to appoint Don Phillips to the LLWG, Richard seconded, all in favor.

New Business / Future Agenda Items / Open Discussion

Items for future discussion are:

- Financing Stormwater Programs
- Integrated Water Resource Management
- Federal agencies and their role in federal funding

Ruby added the topic of issues surrounding FEMA. Chip added the impact of energy usage and production on the Chesapeake Bay regional water quality. Penny added engineer education regarding asset mapping.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm