

CAC Members Present: John Dawes, Greg Evans, Bill Fink, Dale Gardner, Verna Harrison, Jeff Holland, Paula Jasinski, Julie Lawson, Pat Levin, Bill Matuszeski, Charlie Stek (CAC Chair), Nikki Tinsley, Victor Ukpolo, Bob Wayland, Neil Wilkie and CAC Staff Jessica Blackburn and Jennifer Starr.

Speakers/Guests Present: Stephanie Alexander (UMCES), Brian Ambrette (Eastern Shore Land Conservancy), Mark Bennett (USGS), Don Boesch, (UMCES), Victoria Coles (UMCES), Jim Edward (Chesapeake Bay Program), Rob Etgen (ESLC), Elaine Hinrichs (STAC), Jeff Hortsman (Midshore Riverkeeper), Tom Ihde (NOAA), Zoe Johnson (NOAA), Renee Kelly (STAC), Dave Nemazie (UMCES), Michael Roman (UMCES), Al Todd (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)

Meeting presentations and materials are located at: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23299/>

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

The CAC Chair, Charlie Stek, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by introductions.

With no discussion of the September 2016 Meeting Minutes, John motioned for approval and Neil seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Charlie recognized Jeff Holland's service to CAC and relayed that Governor Hogan has named a new MD appointment to replace him.

Welcome and Insights

Mike Roman, Director, Horn Point Laboratory welcomed CAC. At 860 acres the Horn Point Lab is the largest of the four University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies facilities and operates the largest oyster hatchery in Maryland.

Dr. Don Boesch, President of UMCES, shared his thoughts on his time at UMCES pending his upcoming retirement. Universities have a unique role since they are not under regulation to meet Chesapeake Bay Program deadlines. They can focus on studies to address needs and be the voice of science at policy making bodies, like the Maryland Governor's Bay Cabinet. Don is working to bring climate change issues to public schools through the Made Clear program (Maryland and Delaware Climate Change Education Assessment and Research) and noted that climate change is not as political as it used to be. Overall, businesses seem to support climate change efforts. Regarding oysters, Don is on the Maryland Oyster Commission and supports protecting sanctuaries that allow time for growth and increased production.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Jim Edward, Deputy Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

Jim updated Members on the Diversity Profile results. The questions were sent to about 750 and 374 responded. The answers to the profile will create a baseline for increasing diversity in the Bay Program. Key challenges are inadequate outreach and communication, lack of employment opportunities, lack of community-based organizations, environmental justice issues, and lack of metrics and tracking tools. The Bay Program Diversity workgroup will decide how to set goals for 2025 and plan to track progress by repeating the profile every two years.

The Action Team for the Environmental Finance Symposium is seeking responses on priorities from the findings of the Symposium Report for approval by the Principal Staff Committee. CAC is asked to share their responses by Friday, Nov 18.

Lastly, at the October 2 Chesapeake Bay Executive Council meeting, funding was announced for a Joint State-Federal Agricultural Nutrients Strategy for Pennsylvania.

Working Lunch-Local Context, Water Quality, Culture and Community

Jeff Hortsman, Midshore Riverkeeper

Jeff talked about growing up in Dorchester County and realizing he could try to make a difference by becoming the Midshore Riverkeeper to bring all parties together to explore innovative options for Bay Program compliance. He shared frustrations in efforts to remove poultry litter waste and stresses the need for advocacy. He highlighted a program with a local dairy farmer to use innovation to protect water quality.

High Tide in Dorchester Movie Trailer

Dave Harp, Chesapeake Photos

Dave showed a trailer for a film on the impact of sea level rise from a very local perspective-Dorchester County, seen to many as ground zero for climate change in Maryland.

Predicting Climate Effects

Tom Ihde, ERT, Inc, NOAA

Tom presented the Chesapeake Atlantis Model: Visualizing the Effects of Expected Changes in the Chesapeake. This model captures the complex dynamics of the estuary by putting impacts in context with all the major changes a system is experiencing with the ability to capture multiple factors. These factors include the biological environment, physical environment, fisheries and nutrient cycling. Examples of the model scenarios showed how crabs, oysters, fish, SAV and other living resources respond to climate changes like increased temperature and changes in salinity.

Bay Program Climate Resiliency Workgroup

Zoe Johnson, Workgroup Coordinator and Mark Bennett, Co-Chair

Zoe and Mark co-presented via conference line an update on the CBP Climate Resiliency Management Strategy: from Development to Implementation. This strategy is unique to other Bay Agreement goals as it is very broad, has no numerical goals and no established indicators. Attainment requires research, monitoring, modeling, assessment, on-the-ground projects, policy and regulatory mechanisms, performance measurement and adaptive management. The workplan contains 108 actions. The workgroup is technically focused not working on the local level.

In planning for the TMDL Midpoint Assessment and the Phase III WIPs, the Bay Program will discuss a range of eight climate change policy options.

Climate Resiliency: Local Approaches and Programs

Brian Ambrette, Coastal Resilience Manager, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Brian presented Local Approaches to Climate Resilience and Adaption on the Eastern Shore. This approach has the goals of providing leadership and capacity, focusing public support and political will, and creating products and services. Brian cited a recent example of the approach with a Kent County Climate and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Study that identified hazards, engaged stakeholders, communicated findings and trained a team. Regional collaboration continues to be a key component of successful projects. Counties are using grants for some of this work and have not yet collaborated together for municipal bonds for implementation.

CAC members toured the Horn Point Lab oyster hatchery. Meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Working Breakfast and Business Meeting

The CAC Chair called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Election of CAC Officers

Charlie thanked everyone for their support over his term as Chair of CAC. He offered several “lessons learned” over his time as Chair: It takes a fair amount of time to learn the details on Chesapeake Bay issues and understand who is who. It is important to have a CAC member present at the Management Board and PSC meetings. The real work happens *before* the Principal Staff Committee and Management Board meetings and it is based upon developing relationships. The Executive Council once-a-year meetings allow very limited time to talk (this year only five minutes) and should really be focused on only one or two issues. Charlie advised Paula to rely on all the CAC members as much as possible. The incoming Administration is a concern and she will need all the help possible.

John Dawes, as Chair of the Nominating Subcommittee, referred to the nominations memo for Paula Jasinski as Chair and Matt Ehrhart as Vice Chair. He opened the floor for discussion. Paula said she is honored to be considered. Bob made a motion to approve and Neil seconded. **The new CAC officers: Chair, Paula Jasinski and Vice-Chair, Matt Ehrhart were unanimously elected.**

Reflections and Discussion

Members discussed strategies to reach out to the new Administration to try to keep the Bay TMDL on track. Since the Bay Program has a strong history of support from both political parties, it makes sense to send a positive message about the progress and importance of the Bay clean-up effort to the incoming EPA Administrator, the EPA Region III Administrator and the Assistant Administrator of Water, as well as strengthening CAC’s relationship with PSC members.

Members discussed their views on environmental regulations; its impacts on low income and rural communities, jobs and the economy. **CAC decided to send a letter to President-Elect Trump linking clean air and water with a strong economy and underscoring the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and its long history as a non-partisan issue.** CAC will share the letter among Bay colleagues and encourage them to send similar letters in an effort to start a cascade of different voices supporting the watershed effort.

While the effects of climate change are important to address, there is consensus among members to recommend the TMDL not be changed to include climate change as a part of the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIPs. Members believe a change in the TMDL will cause a backlash from stakeholders, especially farmers.

CAC Member Updates

John provided an update on HR 4456, the RECLAIM ACT, an Act that would free up \$1 billion over the next five years from the Abandon Mine Lands Fund for the purpose of supporting displaced miners, help eradicate severe pollution and improve community health and livability in distressed communities. He welcomed Members to reach out individually to their local officials to gain their support for the Bill. He said the Act has bipartisan support and may be attached to a Continuing Resolution or Omnibus Bill and therefore could be acted on during this lame duck session.

BMAT updated Members on a December 7th Leadership Council on the Anacostia River meeting.

Charlie said efforts are moving along with the designation of a National Marine Sanctuary for Mallows Bay-a 14-square mile area of the tidal Potomac River, adjacent to Charles County. Nearly 200 vessels spanning from the

Revolutionary War through the present are found in the area, including the remains of the largest “Ghost Fleet” of World War I wooden steamships built for the U.S. Emergency Fleet. A public comment period will begin in January 2017 with the hope for designation in April.

Victor attended the November 2nd Diversity Workgroup session in Baltimore. He said it was a well-attended and productive meeting. The workplan goal he is participating in looks to engage and expose young people to see the wide range of career opportunities in the green market.

Julie announced that she has been elected to the incoming Baltimore Mayor’s transition team.

Staff Update

Jess asked for thoughts on identifying the top three priorities of the Environmental Finance Symposium Report recommendations to share at the upcoming December PSC meeting. Interested Members were asked to share their selections by Friday.

Jess reviewed the results of the CAC Member Evaluation. Overarching themes are that in general members are satisfied with their experience on CAC, but there is a need to allow for more communication in between meetings and more discussion during meetings so everyone’s voice can be heard.

Members discussed the structure of CAC subcommittees and were asked to provide feedback on how they can be improved. The Chair position for the CAC Subcommittee on Stewardship is vacant.

Jess shared a document on the last 10 years of CAC recommendations to the EC and the results of those recommendations.

The members agreed that meeting in Baltimore, MD for the Feb 22-23, 2017 meeting was a good location.

Final Thoughts

Members support sending a letter to the Executive Council and copying their appointment agencies to encourage them to diversify their appointments to CAC.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.