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*LGAC Members Present:* James Barnhart, Markus Batchelor, Richard Baugh, Patty Bubar, Daniel Chao, Jake Day, Mark Dobbins, Jasmine Gore, Penny Gross, Josh Hastings, Michael Helfrich, Donna Iannone, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Don Phillips, Robin Rich-Coates, Lisa Schaefer, John Thomas, James Wheeler, Emeritus Member Ann Simonetti, Emeritus Member Bruce Williams, representing Sheila Finlayson, and LGAC Staff: Ola-Imani Davis and Jennifer Starr

*Speaker/Guests Present:* Carin Bisland (EPA CBPO), Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Patti Bohnsack (Alliance), Heidi Bonnaffon (Metro-Washington COG), Laura Cattell-Noll (Alliance), Peter Claggett (USGS), Meg Cole (CRC), Tom Damm (EPA), Megan Diehl (WV Region 9), Paul Emmart (MDE), Diana Esher (EPA), Liz Feinberg (NFWF), Rachel Felter (CBP), Katherine Filipino (Hampton Roads PDC), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Amy Handen (EPA), Annabelle Harvey (CRC), Megan Lehman (PA DEP), John Maleri (DC DOEE), Peter Marx (CCWC), Shannon Moore (Frederick County), Adam Ortiz (EPA), Michelle Price-Fay (CBP), Kathy Stecker (MDE), Phil Stafford (MD DNR), Jim Sullivan (DE DNREC), Justin Williams (VA DEQ)

### **Friday, December 3rd, 2021**

#### **Call to Order: Greetings and Introductions**

Chair Jasmine Gore, called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Jasmine provided opening remarks and welcomed LGAC Members and guests to the quarterly meeting.

#### **New Land Use Data and Local Governments**

*Presenter: Katherine (KC) Filipino, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission*

KC shared an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's land cover and land use data collection to date. Collected from across all 206 localities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, this data provides information on nutrient and sediment runoff and metrics that assess progress on land-use/cover change patterns over time to better inform local communities. Since the start of collection in 2016, new data sets will be developed every four years until 2030 with the goal of measuring any changes between the models. The next land use/cover data set will be available in 2022, and will be based on 2017-2018 data imagery.

LGAC Members asked about the accessibility of this information and were interested in the decisions made on behalf of the data sets. With some localities already having access to their own land-use/cover data, Members also suggested that this data remain inclusive enough to influence multi-municipal collaboration and inform best management practices as well as those who install them.

*Action: Staff to share the Chesapeake Conservancy's website detailing this effort and potential outcomes.*

#### **Welcome EPA Region 3 Administrator Adam Ortiz**

LGAC welcomed the newly-appointed EPA Region 3 Administrator, Adam Ortiz. Administrator Ortiz shared his priorities for the EPA and the Chesapeake Bay region including environmental justice, climate resilience, infrastructure, and connecting with communities on the ground.

Members welcomed the Administrator's local government expertise and background. Members also brought up concerns over "match" requirements for incoming federal funding and associated challenges, especially for under-resourced communities.

## **December 2nd Jurisdiction Meetings--Member thoughts and takeaways**

Meetings were arranged for LGAC jurisdiction representatives to meet with their respective Principals' Staff Committee member(s) to share LGAC's 2021 recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) (1. investing in workforce development and 2. addressing jurisdictional bottle-neck concerns relating to flooding), as well as any other local priorities, in time for the EC Meeting on December 15th, 2021:

*Delaware was not able to meet individually.*

*District of Columbia* met with Tommy Wells, Director of the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). In addition to the 2021 recommendations, DC discussed American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding and the DOEE's priorities for that funding.

*Maryland* met with Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Secretary Ben Grumbles, MD Department of the Environment (MDE), and additional representatives from Maryland Association of Counties, Maryland Municipal League, DNR, and MDE. In addition to the 2021 recommendations, MD discussed Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), state/regional climate commitments, local sewer system management, and food waste management.

*Pennsylvania* met with Secretary Patrick McDonnell, PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and representatives from the DEP, County Commissioners Association of PA, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Municipal League, PA State Association of Township Supervisors, and US Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to the 2021 recommendations, PA shared concerns around localities competing for services and federal funding deadlines to complete local projects. PA also learned of technical services provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

*Action: Staff to share Army Corps of Engineers' fact sheets on funding opportunities.*

*Virginia* met with Governor Northam, Secretary Ann Jennings, VA Department of Natural and Historic Resources, and representatives from VA Association of Counties, VA Department of Environmental Quality, VA Municipal League, and VA Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition to the 2021 recommendations, VA also shared thoughts regarding the priorities of the incoming state administration and innovative workforce development efforts, as well as addressing flooding.

*West Virginia* met with Scott Mandirola, WV Department of Environmental Protection's Deputy Secretary of External Affairs. In addition to the 2021 recommendations, WV elaborated on local streams.

## **Federal Update**

*Peter Marx, Choose Clean Water Coalition*

Peter Marx shared ongoing decisions around the FY 2022 congressional appropriations including the FY22 EPA Chesapeake Bay Program allocations (\$90.5 million total passed by the House), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (\$1.2 trillion, including \$562 billion in new spending), and the Build Back Better reconciliation package (\$1.75 trillion passed by the House).

LGAC Members shared concerns for accessing federal funds amid federal, state, and local bureaucracies and expressed interest in the CCWC's ability to amplify the voices of the Chesapeake Bay community when communicating with Congress.

## **Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**

*Carin Bisland, Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability Branch, EPA CBPO*

Carin provided an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) funding structure using FY2021's budget analysis. She also discussed the partnership's outcomes alongside their projected targets and progress to date.

LGAC Members expressed interest in the CBP outcomes. In order to assist with meeting the goals of the outcomes, Members discussed recommendations for legislation that certifies those who perform green jobs, thus ensuring a workforce with a basic understanding of handling and the consequences of certain actions.

*Action: Staff to share 1-pagers and the Chesapeake Progress website with more information on CBP's outcome attainability.*

## **Business Meeting**

- *Approval of September 2021 Minutes* - Richard Baugh moved to approve the September 2021 minutes, seconded by Donna Iannone.
- *Executive Committee Report (Chair)* - Jasmine shared her involvement as LGAC Chair including attending Monthly CBP Management Board meetings, the November PSC meeting, and a meeting between the Executive Committees of CAC and STAC. She will be attending the EC meeting on December 15th, 2021 at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond, VA where she will present the 2021 LGAC Recommendations.
- *Coordinator's Report (Coordinator)* - Jennifer asked LGAC Members to consider topics for the 2022 Local Government Forum. She also reminded Members of the 2022 LGAC Quarterly Meetings and ongoing staff communications efforts including the continuation of the Watershed Currents Newsletter and contributing content to state association platforms. Finally, she asked Members to share their affiliations with staff to compile.

*Action: Staff to follow up on 2022 Local Government Forum topics, re-share 2022 LGAC Quarterly Meeting dates and share a form to collect Member affiliations.*

- *Local Leadership Workgroup Report (Chair)* - Chair Shannon Moore shared the LLWG's plans for 2022 including:
  - Spring 2022 rollout of "A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay" which includes the addition of 3-4 new modules, the introduction of an online database where the guide will be housed, and a "train the trainer" series.
  - The Local Government Planners Workshops where the workgroup will lead a series of webinars and conference sessions through 2023.
  - Peer to Peer Learning Exchange Bus Tours which have been scheduled in MD, PA, and VA through Spring 2022. Planning is underway for events in Fall 2022 and 2023.

Finally, Shannon announced that Heidi Bonnafon, Metro-Washington Council of Governments, has been elected Chair of the LLWG and will begin her term in 2022.

## **Final Thoughts/Actions from this Meeting**

- *New Business* - LGAC Members presented no new business.
- *Future Agenda Items* - LGAC Members suggested the following topics for future meetings:
  - Stormwater infrastructure Design for Climate Change Conditions for all Chesapeake Watershed Counties
  - IBF Curves
  - ARPA updates (from EPA, CBP, and LGAC delegation members)
  - Technical assistance/resources provided by FEMA or the Army Corps of Engineers
  - EPA study on equity alignment and the role local governments play
  - Solar arrays on ag lands (possible coordination between CAC/LGAC)
  - Obstacles to accessing federal funds
- *Action Items from this meeting* - Jennifer shared action items from this meeting.

**Adjourn at 12:43pm**