

MINUTES  
March 24-25, 2016  
Hefner Park Community Center  
42 Oswego Ave, Takoma Park, MD

*LGAC Members Present:* Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Jim Barnhart, Diane Davis, Malcolm Derk, Sheila Finlayson, Larry Land, Earnest Lehmann, Leo Lutz, Brianne Nadeau, Philip Pannell, Kelly Porter, Ann Simonetti, John Thomas, Bruce Williams and LGAC Staff - Mary Gattis and Jennifer Starr

*Speakers/Guests Present:* Carin Bisland (CBPO), Jessica Blackburn (CAC Staff, Alliance), Andy Fellows (UMD Environmental Finance Center), Rachel Felver (EPA CBPO/Alliance), Amy Guise (US Army Corps of Engineers), Elizabeth Nellums (NFWF), Reggie Parrish (CBPO), Matthew Pennington (WV DEP), Lea Rubin (Izaak Walton League), Joan Salvati (VA DEQ), Philip Stafford (MD DNR), Al Todd (Alliance), Corinne Stephens (Alliance)

**Meeting presentations and materials:**

**<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23475/>**

**Thursday, March 24, 2016**

**Call to Order, Introductions**

Vice Chair Ruby Brabo called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The members and guests introduced themselves and new LGAC members Jim Barnhart (WV) and Philip Pannell (DC) were welcomed and shared a bit about themselves.

**Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**

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

Carin provided an update of CBPO activities. There was general discussion of the role of local government in setting state's two-year milestones, an issue raised in LGAC's 2015 Report to the Executive Council (EC). Members agreed that this issue should be addressed again in the 2016 report to the EC.

Carin announced the *Chesapeake Progress* website is now live and invited members to take a look and provide feedback. Also in development is another website, *Chesapeake Decisions*, which will be a new tool to gain public input. Several members have been invited to provide input during the development of *Chesapeake Decisions*. Carin encouraged members who received invitations to participate if they're able. Several new reports are available including the STAC Report on Roadside Ditches, the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment, and the Harris Creek Oyster Report. There will be a meeting of the Environmental Literacy State Cabinet on April 20. The Bay Barometer 2014-2015 report was handed out along with a condensed one-sheet summary of the findings.

During presentation of the 2016 EPA CBP Budget highlights, members asked for clarification on how local government can get funding for projects. Members expressed disconnect from the federal budget to State budgets and what ultimately trickles to local government projects. Specific questions were raised about States use of annual Chesapeake Bay Implementation

Grants (CBIG) and Chesapeake Bay Reporting and Accountability Grant (CBRAP) funds. Members agreed to address this during meetings with their jurisdiction's Principals Staff Committee (PSC) representatives.

Rachel Felver, the new CBP Communications Director, reported that the CBP Communications program is developing a strategic communications plan. She will follow up with Sheila about engaging LGAC's communications committee.

Amy Guise, Chief of the Planning Division at the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provided a brief overview of Army Corps planning programs (see Serving Local Communities brochure) and offered to return to provide a more in-depth presentation on services available through the USACE. Members agreed to include on a future agenda.

Lea Rubin provided a brief overview of the CBP's non-traditional monitoring cooperative. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance), Izaak Walton League of America (League), Dickinson College's Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM), and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Integration and Application Network (UMCES IAN) are partnering to provide technical, logistical, and outreach support for the integration of citizen-based and non-traditional (i.e., non-agency) monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership. The integration of these data into the CBP monitoring networks will provide additional cost-effective data and information that supports shared decision-making and adaptive management by the CBP partners focused on restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. A survey to collect data from groups conducting monitoring across the watershed will be released in April 2016. Lea asked members to help get the word out and encourage those conducting monitoring to respond to the survey. A link will be available on the Alliance's web page.

Mary provided an update on the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium on behalf of Penny Gross, LGAC's liaison to the Steering Committee. The event is being held on April 25-26 in College Park, MD. LGAC's concerns regarding local involvement in the Symposium appear to have been addressed. LGAC's Chair and Vice Chairs should have received invitations, along with other local leaders identified by LGAC members. LGAC officers who are unable to attend should designate another representative from their jurisdiction to attend. Anyone needing overnight accommodations should notify Mary.

*Follow-up:*

- *Delegations (with assistance from staff as needed): Investigate CBRAP/CBIG funding as it relates to local implementation*
  - *Delegations: Discuss CBRAP/CBIG funding with jurisdictions.*
  - *Staff: Schedule USACE presentation at future LGAC meeting.*
- *Members: respond to invitation to participate in Chesapeake Decisions interviews.*
  - *Officers: respond to Finance Symposium invitations.*

## **Working Lunch-Member Updates and Group Discussion**

LGAC members shared news from their respective regions including the following;  
Brienne Nadeau (DC) has been working on a student education program and tree-planting program;  
Ann Simonetti (PA) has been facilitating quarterly stormwater training;

John Thomas (PA) said there has been few complaints over the new stormwater fee assessed to customers thanks to a strong education effort; only three entities have failed to pay stormwater fee (Navy, PennDOT, and Norfolk Southern).

James Wheeler (PA) reported that the upcoming PSATS annual conference will feature six (or eight?) sessions on stormwater, including the one being coordinated by LGAC which is geared towards newly elected officials.

Ruby Brabo (VA) talked about attempts to protect forest land by purchasing buffers with US DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program funds.

Larry Land (VA) mentioned that stormwater fees continue to be controversial in Virginia.

Sixteen (16) cities and two (2) counties have established fees.

### **Takoma Park, MD - A Chesapeake Bay Watershed Community**

*The Honorable Bruce Williams, Former Mayor*

*The Honorable Kate Stewart, Mayor*

*Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director*

Bruce discussed the comprehensive Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) within the city of Takoma Park and introduced Takoma Park representatives in attendance, including Councilman Jarrett Smith and Mayor Kate Stewart. Mayor Stewart shared how DC residents in the 1800's would come to Takoma Park for healthy conditions. Daryl then provided a comprehensive and enlightening overview of Takoma Park Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit projects for the six minimum control measures. Takoma Park created a stormwater utility fee in 1996 to create a dependable source of funding and a fair and equitable way to generate revenue. See presentation and handouts for additional details.

LGAC members were then given a tour of Takoma Park projects.

### **Local Government Forum Planning**

*Mary Gattis, Director of Local Government Programs, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*

*Matt Pennington, Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator, WV Region 9 PDC*

Mary reported that the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay received funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for a forum to address challenges facing local government. LGAC's guidance is being sought in developing the agenda for the forum which will be held in late spring. The topic of the forum, previously identified by LGAC, is streamlining capital project implementation. Members agreed with the Problem Statement as presented, which reads as follows:

*Historically, stormwater facilities (pipes, inlets, basins, etc.) have not been considered part of the municipal infrastructure system, e.g. roads, water lines, sewer, utilities (gas, electric), etc. However, as communities across the watershed face the challenge of complying with NPDES permits and protecting communities from the effects of climate change (increased storm frequency and intensity, sea level rise, etc.), significant capital investments in stormwater infrastructure will be required. By addressing pollutant reduction requirements as part of other capital projects, e.g. green streets, park rehabilitation, etc. costs may be minimized. However, systems will need to be adapted to optimize the process.*

Members agreed that many communities have not inventoried their stormwater assets, and that inter-departmental cooperation and information sharing are big challenges for local governments.

Matt Pennington presented information about the co-benefits associated with green infrastructure for stormwater management. His TREE presentation described trees as green filters for managing flood risks, minimizing excessive stormwater, improving air quality, reducing utility and sewage treatment costs. There was general discussion of agency process and culture as obstacles to stormwater innovation. State departments of transportation were specifically cited.

Mary asked members to share their experience with capital project planning and budgeting and asked if this was something that should be addressed at the forum. Several members shared their Capital Improvement Plans (CIP), while others admitted to not having a CIP. Malcolm mentioned the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan as another opportunity for aligning priorities. Philip mentioned a project in Maryland to account for co-benefits in the CIP. He will send information for dissemination to the committee. Members indicated that this should be addressed at the forum.

*Follow Up: Mary will continue planning the Local Government Forum, consulting with LGAC as needed.*

*Philip Stafford will send information on accounting for co-benefits in capital plans.*

## **Friday, March 24, 2016**

### **Breakfast-Jurisdiction Meetings**

#### **Call to Order**

Ruby Brabo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Business Meeting**

December 2015 meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Bruce Williams and seconded by Ernie Lehmann.

#### **Coordinator's Report (Mary Gattis)**

Mary updated members on recent staff activity, including:

- Maps of the Bay Program's non-tidal monitoring stations, from the recently released USGS Trends Report, were sent following the December meeting. Hard copies are included in meeting packets along with a Healthy Streams map.
- Setting up a lunchtime webinar presentation on the USGS Trends and Bay Model in response to a request by the Pa delegation. Members expressed support for this and suggested that it be scheduled over the lunch hour sometime before the next quarterly meeting.
- Mary attended a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee sponsored workshop on Optimization for TMDL compliance cost effectiveness. LGAC input is needed to determine which co-benefits should be included in the Optimization tool. Mary will follow up with members to solicit their input once she receives additional guidance from STAC.
- A written update on the Forest Retention Study is included in the meeting packets. Mary suggested that Virginia and Pennsylvania members review and get back to her if they want to be included in upcoming meetings.
- Provided feedback on the Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) center website. Mary noted that Andy Fellows is present and will solicit member feedback later in the meeting.

*Follow Up: Set up a lunchtime webinar regarding USGS water quality monitoring trends and Bay model*  
*Members should notify Mary if they want to be included in upcoming Forest Retention Study meetings.*

### **Election of Chair (DC) and Vice Chairs (one per jurisdiction)**

Diane Davis nominated Brianne Nadeau to the Chair position and Philip Pennell seconded.

Ann Simonetti nominated Leo Lutz as PA vice-chair and John Thomas seconded.

Richard Baugh nominated Ruby Brabo as VA vice-chair and Larry Land seconded.

Sheila Finlayson nominated Bruce Williams and Kelly Porter seconded.

Philip Pannell nominated Diane Davis and Brianne Nadeau seconded.

All nominations were unanimously confirmed by the Committee.

### **Strategic Plan Review/Update**

LGAC's Chair Elect, Brianne Nadeau, referred to the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan, citing LGAC's mission, which is "to share the views and insights of local elected officials with state and federal decision-makers and to enhance the flow of information among local governments about the health and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed." She believes the Strategic Plan is still relevant and it is her goal as Chair to ensure that LGAC never misses an opportunity to advise. Jim requested a copy of the Mission Statement.

Follow-up: Send copy of Mission Statement to new members.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Pennsylvania Report-efforts are being made to meet with the Governor to discuss

Pennsylvania's Reboot and the use of EPA grant funds (CBRAP and CBIG).

District of Columbia Report-The Mayor has been invited to the Finance Symposium but no word yet if the Mayor will attend.

Maryland and Virginia did not have reports to present.

### **Communications Committee Report (Chair, Sheila Finlayson)**

No report.

### **MOST Center Update**

*Andy Fellows, Program Manager, Environmental Finance Center*

The Municipal Online Stormwater Training Center website [www.MOSTCenter.org](http://www.MOSTCenter.org) was recently launched after a year in development. Andy reminded members that the vision of the MOST Center is to expand and enhance the stormwater training experience by providing innovative, easily accessible, online training and resources. While it has been designed for the Chesapeake Bay, it is a free resource globally. Classes will be added over time and in the future there are plans to offer accreditation and continuing education courses. Andy thanked Mary for the input she provided during development of the site and asked that members visit the site and provide feedback on its effectiveness. Bruce suggested getting the word out through association conferences. Elizabeth Nellums suggested including a film featuring the work that's been done in Takoma Park. The committee raised concern about use of the term "municipal" in the title since some interpret this to exclude counties. Andy thanked members for their input.

and asked that they continue to offer suggestions about content that would be useful to their peers.

*Follow-up: Members to visit MOST Center website and provide feedback on effectiveness.*

## **2016 Annual Report to the Executive Council**

Ruby reviewed the 2015 Annual Report to the Executive Council. The committee discussed what should remain in the 2016 report and what has been accomplished and can be removed. The committee agreed to applaud the EC for hosting the Environmental Finance Symposium, which they called for in their 2015 Report. Items to be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Report are as follows:

- Enhanced communication,
- Strategic alignment of priorities,
- Uninterrupted long-term funding, including a carve-out for technical assistance, and
- Flexibility for options to earn credit for best management practices, including reiterating the necessity for federal facilities to willingly participate in stormwater fee payment.

*Follow Up: Mary will work with the Executive Committee on topics for the Annual Report and will draft the cover letter and Annual Report.*

## **Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan**

*Carin Bisland and Lucinda Power, EPA-CBPO, Water Quality GIT Coordinator*

Carin shared that the Principal Staff Committee will be focusing on local engagement at their May 26 meeting. She described the Bay Program's plan to conduct a "road show" to kick-off the Phase III WIP and asked for member feedback/input on the best way to engage local governments.

Bruce asked why the sudden interest in local governments. Carin responded that tools, such as CAST, now better support local initiatives. Members suggested that this needs to be part of the messaging. There was general agreement that EPA should focus on reaching local governments through existing meetings/forums, e.g. association conferences with EPA talking about the federal law, regulations, TMDL, and States covering WIPs. Also EPA involvement should have the flexibility that there might be different needs for different jurisdictions depending on the circumstances. States should focus on reaching local governments by convening special meetings/forums and finally EPA and the states should coordinate Communications and Outreach initiatives to address the unique characteristics and challenges facing local governments throughout the watershed.

Lucinda Power discussed the Local Area Targets Task Force. The following members were nominated to represent LGAC on the task force: James Wheeler (PA), Bruce Williams (MD), and Ruby Brabo (VA). The entire committee will provide input to the liaisons.

## **Businesses for the Bay**

*Corinne Stephens (B4B Business Partnerships Manager, Alliance) and Al Todd*

The Alliance has recently launched a new forum to provide Chesapeake Bay businesses the opportunity to make their voices heard, share best practices and facilitate volunteer opportunities for employees. Membership to B4B requires the business to be in compliance or

working towards compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and to commit to at least one Action tied to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. While B4B is very new there is already strong interest in membership and so far goals have been surpassed for signing on new members and meeting Actions. Corinne encouraged LGAC to spread the word within member communities and to become B4B Networking Partners..

#### **New Business/Announcements for the Good of the Committee/Future Agenda Items**

Elizabeth Nellums (NFWF) asked for LGAC members to assist with reviewing Chesapeake Stewardship Grant proposals. Volunteers included: Diane, Larry, Sheila, Richard. Rick Gray was also nominated to serve as a reviewer. Proposals are due May 10, 2016. The review process will begin within approximately one week. Members will have approximately one month to conduct reviews (2-3 per person). Mary will review all proposals.

*Follow-up: Confirm Rick's participation as a reviewer.*

#### **Member Reports/Announcements**

Maryland-Desire to get western Maryland representation on LGAC and to conduct flash sessions at MACO and MML conference.

DC-No report

Pennsylvania-Members are concerned about Pennsylvania's plan to use Conservation Districts to conduct compliance inspections. Delegation intends to set up a meeting to discuss with leaders in the Commonwealth..

Virginia-Delegation to schedule a meeting with Secretary of Natural Resources and Secretary of Transportation prior to the Executive Council meeting..

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

- Nutrient Trading Programs: Diane suggested Evan Branosky (DC) be considered as a presenter; consider for September 2016 meeting.
- US Army Corps of Engineers Programs

#### **Upcoming Events/Meetings:**

- April 25-26, 2016 Environmental Finance Symposium

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.