

*LGAC Members Present:* Richard Baugh, Patty Bubar, Ed Bustin, Jake Day, Ron Fithian, Jasmine Gore, Michael Helfrich, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Kelly Porter, Ann Simonetti, Don Phillips, James Wheeler, Bruce Williams and staff – Laura Cattell Noll, Ola-Imani Davis, and Jennifer Starr

*Speakers/Guests Present:* Dana Aunkst (EPA), Carin Bisland (EPA), Jessica Blackburn (CAC), Liz Feinberg (NFWF), Rachel Felver (CBP), Kate Fritz (Alliance), John Kennedy (VA DEQ), Deb Klenotic (PA DEP), Matt Pennington (WV), Phil Stafford (MD DNR), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DE DNREC)

### **Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

Chair Ann Simonetti called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

She welcomed Members and guests to the annual one-day Local Government Forum. The Local Government Forum is a problem solving-strategic planning event hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in collaboration with LGAC and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Through facilitated group discussion, participants identify issues that hinder or help advance local implementation of watershed protection and restoration initiatives. Findings and recommendations, developed during the forum, are documented and next steps identified.

This year the Forum considered stormwater and green infrastructure workforce development and problem-solved around the problem statement *“Many local governments have not identified their community needs around the operations and maintenance of stormwater and green infrastructure BMPs. Determining these needs will help a community to develop the best process to efficiently and effectively maintain municipal BMPs and develop a robust green collar workforce. Several excellent workforce development models exist throughout the region and could be adapted and replicated to other parts of the region in order to facilitate growth in the local green economy.”*

### **Thursday, September 12, 2019**

Jurisdiction meetings convened over breakfast.

#### **Jurisdiction Breakfast Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates**

Chair Ann Simonetti introduced new LGAC members, Mayor Michael Helfrich, York County, PA, and Mark Dobbins of the North East Maryland Planning Commission.

*Maryland* is in support of a 2020 Peer to Peer Learning Exchange Bus Tour and the December 2020 joint LGAC/CAC meeting.

*Virginia* will meet with Secretary Strickler October 3, 2019 to share priorities. VA will also host the inaugural Peer to Peer Learning Exchange Bus Tour on October 24-25, 2019.

*Pennsylvania* agreed to the idea of a Peer to Peer Learning Exchange and suggested inviting tidal representatives to come to the Lancaster area.

*The District of Columbia* will host a city-specific Workforce Development Forum end of October. DC is also looking forward to hosting LGAC's quarterly meeting in March 2020 and recommends visiting the Blue Water Plains Water Treatment Facility.

*West Virginia* reported that they have made their WIP reduction standards and will offer to help others who have not yet made theirs.

*Delaware* is in support of the March 2020 LGAC/CAC meeting in December 2020.

### **Local Government Forum Wrap Up**

#### **Jennifer Starr**

Jennifer solicited member and guest feedback on the 2019 Local Government Forum. She explained a report of the forum will be drafted by Neely Law, Center for Watershed Protection, assisted by local government staff, and will be available by January 2020. Members were impressed by the overall conversation and appreciated hearing the case studies of workforce development practices around the watershed.

*Action: Staff to send the six case study PowerPoint presentations to members.*

### **Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Updates**

#### **Dana Aunkst**

Dana provided the following CBP updates

- State Phase III WIPS – Teams of subject matter experts each led by jurisdictional specialists will review each WIP. Jurisdictional senior managers will receive briefings of these reviews in late September 2019.
- Local Engagement Strategies - The timeline for WIP strategies have not yet been established.
- Conowingo WIP - Notifications of three grant awards will be released by late September 2019.
- Local Government Funding Opportunities – NFWF is set to release an announcement on PA funding opportunities.

Dana presented additional Chesapeake Bay Program priorities including focusing on local engagement within the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

### **Business Meeting**

- Approval of June 2019 Minutes – Bruce Williams moved to approve the June 2019 minutes and was seconded by Richard Baugh, all in favor.
- Maryland Vice-Chair Election – Ron Fithian motioned to elect Jake Day as the new Maryland Vice-Chair of LGAC and Kelly Porter seconded, all in favor
- Emeritus Member Consideration – Kelly Porter motioned to elect Bruce Williams as an emeritus member of LGAC and was seconded by Ron Fithian, all in favor
- Members agreed upon the LGAC meeting dates for 2020.
- Executive Committee Report (Chair) – Ann described the meetings/events she has been involved in since the last LGAC meeting in June 2019.
- Environmental Literacy Report – Jasmine reported the summit was attended by many members of the educational sector to discuss resources for teachers, and curriculums surrounding environmental fundamentals. LGAC is interested in integrating a conversation around environmental literacy into future

LGAC meetings, possibly sharing each state's strategies or inviting specialists to speak. Members proposed this topic would be a good one for a joint CAC/LGAC meeting in 2020.

*Action: Staff to solicit information from members and trusted sources regarding environmental literacy strategies within their localities.*

- Coordinator's Report (Coordinator) – Jennifer shared staff updates including Laura's shift to Alliance's the Lancaster office starting September 30, 2019, Ola's adding communications activities for LGAC, Monica's contractual end as Program Manager as of September 25, 2019, and the hiring of additional administrative support by November 2019. The local government team is also working with trusted sources on learning opportunities. Staff will continue pulling together Peer to Peer Bus Tours beginning with the VA trial, and MD next. Finally, Jennifer expressed interest in inviting Karl Blankenship of the Bay Journal to the December 2019 meeting to discuss its local government edition.
- Local Leadership Workgroup Report (Chair) – Laura reported that the Local Leadership Workgroup is working to enhance the knowledge capacity of local officials specifically on the outcome of tree canopy. The LLWG intends to understand what works best for each state's municipalities, build relationships with trusted sources to ensure best delivery methods of information and celebrate successes to ensure all 28 local engagement outcomes are fulfilled in the long-run while retaining recommendations established by the Ecologix report.

*Action: Local Government staff to create jurisdictional-specific message template that LGAC may forward to introduce potential trusted sources to the LLWG.*

### **Non-Environmental Benefits Tool-Kit**

#### **Deb Klenotic and Rachel Felver**

Deb introduced LGAC to the Non-Environmental Benefits Toolkit designed by CBP in conjunction with PA DEP's Communications Department. The toolkit intends to communicate the co-benefits of nutrients and sediment reduction (i.e. tree canopy), explain why the community and economic benefits are crucial to understand, and spotlight relevant local success stories. There are 4 components of this tool-kit including a composed 1-pager, conservation of success stories, talking points for local leaders, and a resource database of case studies. LGAC believed these components needed to be edited to be more digestible by local elected officials.

### **Watershed Education Opportunities for Local Elected Officials**

#### **Laura Cattell Noll**

Laura identified the Watershed Education plan for 2019-2020. The first step is to identify trusted sources that will aid in the delivery of opportunities and then work with CBP Goal Implementation Teams (GIT) to group the 28 outcomes that request local engagement into modules that will easily translate to elected officials while also including resources focused on local content. LGAC offered multiple ideas for module topics.

*Action: Laura to share a draft copy of the CBP's 31 outcomes, a compiled list of module topics and overall reception from the GITs.*

### **New Business/ Future Agenda Items**

Members were receptive to discussing environmental literacy and having Turkey Hill/ Hershey join the conversation at future meetings.

*Action: Staff to solicit additional final thoughts and ideas*

Meeting adjourned at 11:52am