

**CHESAPEAKE BAY and WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE  
SUMMARY OF BUSINESS MEETING - DRAFT  
November 20, 2015**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**1. Call to order and Introductions**

Vice Chair Sze called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. and asked for introductions of CBPC members and invited guests.

**2. Approval of draft July and September 2015 Meeting Summaries**

Chair Rice moved the July and September CBPC draft meeting summaries for approval, and they were approved by a quorum.

**3. Legislative Priorities for 2016**

Ms. Bonnaffon summarized the revisions proposed refinements staff had proposed from the 2015 Legislative Priorities to address potential priorities for 2016.

The changes proposed in the draft version were as follows:

- Added a sentence to the “Stormwater Regulatory Flexibility” Priority, saying “ensure reporting requirements are reasonable.”
- Strengthened the “Support Climate Initiatives” Priority to say “Support funding for robust climate change analysis, technical support, adaptation and resiliency planning, and local implementation.”
- Under the “Support Affordability & Regulatory Flexibility” Priority, added language in support of permit streamlining, “Support cost-effective approaches for pacing and financing of water programs, including efforts to streamline and prioritize permit reviews.”
- Added resiliency to the “Support for Water Security” Priority as follows: Support water security “and resiliency” research, planning, and programmatic support.
- Under the “Support Energy Innovation” Priority, added the sentence “Work with other sectors, such as water and wastewater utilities, to support their use of energy efficient technologies, and to recognize those cross-cutting benefits.”
- Under the “Support Workforce Development at the Local Level” Priority, added the sentence “Support efforts to develop regional and national credentialing and jobs skills programs for job sectors experiencing growth in the COG region.”

Member Comments:

- Ms. Gross supported a strong emphasis placed on water security in light of the recent terrorist activities.
- Other members echoed that the “Support for Water Security and Resiliency” priority should be worded to emphasize the importance of source water protection and drinking water protection

- Under the “Support Workforce Development at the Local Level” priority the members stated “green jobs” should be considered a priority area.

Action: CBPC members approved transmittal of the draft 2016 Legislative Priorities to the COG Board’s Legislative Subcommittee, with only minor edits. COG staff refined the Priorities to reflect the comments.

#### 4. General Updates

Ms. Spano highlighted the General Updates, noting its new two-part format. One part highlights issues and events that will broadly address water resources, and a second section highlights activities related to the Chesapeake Bay Program. Ms. Spano noted that the Chesapeake Bay Program is in the process of revising its watershed model and other models, and that WRTC members are exploring options for providing additional technical support to COG staff, in preparation for the Chesapeake Bay Program’s 2017 Mid-point Assessment. This support would be similar to the technical support that was provided during the Bay TMDL development process.

Mr. Walz shared an overview of the COG’s *Communities That Work* initiative’s progress on stormwater workforce credentialing. COG is addressing the gap in training and credentialing of on-the-ground stormwater workers through its *Communities That Work* initiative. Working with the Aspen Institute and federal Economic Development Administration, COG has created a team representing Prince George’s County, the Anacostia Trust of the Federal Cities Council, the Board of Trade, and COG - to create a robust system for training and credentialing stormwater workers to help meet the workforce needs of the industry.

Mr. Walz mentioned that the COG team is exploring the numerous certification modules and state level certification programs already in existence; including tracking DC Water’s work to define its credentialing requirements and dovetail with national certification programs such as the Water Environment Federation’s. COG’s role will be to coordinate the stormwater workforce training and credentialing efforts across the region to result in a common system that will meet the needs of local governments and private businesses. Ms. Spano mentioned that COG will also be working to identify and coordinate common core skills with other water sector job/training needs.

#### Member Comments:

Chair Rice said that the water resources sector is an excellent one for addressing workforce development, since water utility jobs also offer upward mobility.

#### 5. Adjournment

The business portion of the CBPC meeting concluded at 10:30 a.m. to transition to the Bay & Water Quality Forum with the EPA and states.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Members and alternates:

Andy Fellows, College Park  
Bruce Williams, Takoma Park  
Craig Rice, Chair, Montgomery County  
Dan Sze, Falls Church  
Hamid Karimi, DOEE  
J Davis, Greenbelt  
JL Hearn, WSSC  
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew  
Enterprises  
Libby Garvey, Arlington County  
Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County  
Mark Peterson, Loudoun Water  
Mark Charles, Rockville

Maureen Holman, DC Water  
Penelope Gross, Fairfax County  
Shannon Moore, Frederick County  
Tim Lovain, Alexandria

Guests:

*Refer to the list of guests from the Bay &  
Water Quality Forum Highlights*

COG Staff:

Christine Howard, DEP  
Heidi Bonnaffon, DEP  
Lana Sindler, DEP  
Steve Walz, DEP Director  
Tanya Spano, DEP