



## CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY-DRAFT

September 20, 2019

### LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/9/20/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee-meeting/>

### DECISIONS & ACTIONS:

The CBPC members resolved:

- To write a letter advocating for the U.S. Geological Survey to select the Potomac River Basin, competing nationally, for their new “next generation” monitoring program.
- For the CBPC continue to foster COG’s Ag Task Force work to support regional farming and food until a Regional Ag Commission can be established.
- To hold the CBPC’s Forum with EPA and the states in March 2020
- To form a subcommittee to plan for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week 2020

### 1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Chair Dyballa called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chair Dyballa announced that Vice Chair Stehle will be presenting the CBPC’s 2019 outcomes and 2020 plans to the COG Board on October 10. She announced that former CBPC member, Bruce Williams, has been designated an emeritus member of the Bay Program’s Local Government Advisory Committee.

### 2. CBPC MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

The Summary from the July CBPC-CEEPC meeting was approved.

### 3. USGS PRESENTATION ON PESTICIDES IN URBAN STREAMS & OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW POTOMAC MONITORING PROGRAM

A. Mr. Ator presented about USGS pesticide monitoring in Accotink Creek and Potomac River watersheds and provided context via national comparisons and trends over time.

- USGS has sampled for 200 pesticide compounds at 77 sites nationally. Accotink Creek in Fairfax County is 99% urbanized.
- In urban areas insecticides and fungicides are more common than agricultural compounds.
- Besides looking at chemical compounds it is also important to look at the mixture of compounds and degradants of pesticides: 50% of streams have 5-7 compounds, and 25% of streams have 10 or more compounds.
- Chemicals have differing rates of persistence and degradation. For example, Diazinon was phased out in 2002-2004 and there was a measurable decline in streams. DDT was phased out in the early 1970’s and while it is now generally below the human health benchmarks, it still exceeds aquatic life benchmarks.

#### Member discussion

- A member asked about the West Nile Virus insecticide. Is there any research on the persistence of those chemicals in ponds and streams? Mr. Ator said USGS is not currently monitoring Maryland streams apart from the Potomac, and he would need to know the name of the chemical being used.
- How will the chemicals interact with chlorine and other chemicals in drinking water? Ms. Ragain answered that chlorine, for the most part, oxidizes the compounds and ozonation processes remove even more.

- A member asked about the presence of Round Up in our streams, which is a trade name for glyphosate. Glyphosate has been detected in the Potomac River and also has had some non-detects.
- A member asked why chemical compounds differ in how long they persist in the environment. Mr. Ator said that if a compound is not water soluble, it tends to be very persistent.
- A member asked besides pesticides, what else is affecting Accotink Cree and what else is USGS monitoring for in Accotink Creek. Mr. Ator said nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and other ions including chloride (winter salts).

B. Ms. Foley presented about the USGS NGWOS (next generation) monitoring program. She said that USGS will be choosing up to ten watersheds nationally for the next generation monitoring program. It is a long shot for the Potomac watershed to be chosen, given its proximity to the Delaware River Basin, which was already selected as a pilot basin. However, the Chesapeake Bay Program lends strength to the Potomac, given the federal stakeholders and public relations expertise.

Ms. Foley explained that the USGS NGWOS program would not cost anything for local governments because the funding is appropriated through Congress, but USGS would still be seeking local input on monitoring needs.

#### **Member discussion**

- Members voiced full support for a CBPC letter to USGS nominating the Potomac River for the NGWOS program.

#### **4. AG TASK FORCE PLAN**

Councilmember Rice, Montgomery County, Chair of the CBPC Ag Task Force, updated the CBPC on the recommendations of the Ag Task Force.

Mr. Rice provided the following background points on the importance of protecting regional agriculture:

- He noted that agriculture has an important role in addressing the climate crisis: Healthy soils retain water and help to sequester carbon.
- The critical timing for the ag report, given the recent April ag census data showing regional ag land has dropped below the targeted Region Forward agricultural land preservation goal. Agricultural land is pitted against developers for housing and other workforce development issues.
- Agriculture has economic importance, especially for agrarian immigrant populations.
- Agricultural practices that are protective of healthy soils have water quality benefits and it is important to preserve soil integrity for its carbon sequestration in this time of climate crisis.

The Ag Task Force recommended the following:

- To form a 10-year Regional Commission to plan for agriculture
- COG is the natural choice as a Regional Commission convener, and support the CBPC as home for Ag Task Force Work while a Regional Commission can be staffed and established
- The Ag Task Force is developing partnerships and a funding strategy to support a full-time position.

#### **Member discussion**

- Members gave support for COG as the convener of a Regional Ag Commission, saying that COG is the right entity to convene members and that food security is a real issue.

- A member said that funding would be a challenge and that COG should reach its rural members to engage them.
- Members recommended extending the Ag Task Force outreach to include water resiliency, and the nexus of biosolids and healthy soils.
- Members recommended that the Ag Task Force present to the CEEPC committee.
- DOEE is starting an urban farming program so this is good timing and a universally relevant issue.

## 5. BAY WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (PHASE III WIPS)

Ms. Bonnaffon provided an overview of the Maryland and Virginia final WIPs, in comparison to the CBPC's and public comments. She said that the final WIPs addressed a number of the concerns that the CBPC expressed but noted there will be a need to track the Conowingo WIP, address climate change, and to ensure continued equity across the Bay partnership, given Pennsylvania's funding shortfall.

## 6. CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK 2019 & 2020

Ms. Bonnaffon provided an overview of the CBPC's Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (CBAW) outreach in June 2019 which included resolutions, videos, and social media. Ms. Bonnaffon said Vice Chair Stehle is proposing a CBPC Bay Awareness Week video in 2020, and she proposed that the CBPC form a CBAW subcommittee next meeting.

## 7. WRAP UP & ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Dyballa adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m., saying that the November meeting will focus on stormwater and flooding issues, as they tie to climate resiliency.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members and Alternates:

Amy Jackson, City of Alexandria

Cindy Dyballa, Chair, Takoma Park

Craig Rice, Montgomery County

Dan Sze, Falls Church

J. Davis, Greenbelt

Jon Stehle, City of Fairfax

Laurie-Anne Sayles, City of Gaithersburg  
(phone)

Libby Garvey, Arlington County

Penny Gross, Fairfax County

Joe Gill, Prince George's County

Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew

Katherine Antos, DOEE (phone)

Matt Ries, DC Water

Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water

Shannon Moore, Frederick County

Stephen Allen, Laurel (phone)

Steve Shofar, Montgomery County

Tiffany Wright, Bowie (phone)

#### Guests:

Laura Cattell Noll, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Jaime Barnhart, WMCCAI

Mary Kay Foley, USGS

Nasser Kamazani, Montgomery County

Scott Ator, USGS

#### COG Staff:

Brian LeCouteur

Christine Howard

Heidi Bonnaffon

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Karl Berger  
Lindsay Smith

Lisa Ragain  
Lisa Reynolds