



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

Date: Friday, May 15, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon\*

Place: Third Floor Board Room
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

- District of Columbia
Bladensburg\*
Bowie
College Park
Frederick
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Rockville
Takoma Park
Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County

\*Lunch will be available for committee members and alternates after the meeting.

Meeting Agenda

- 10:00 1. Introductions and Announcements..... Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula, Chair
City of Gaithersburg
10:10 2. Approval of Meeting Summary for March 20, 2009 ..... Chair Drzyzgula
Recommended action: Approve DRAFT Meeting Summary (Att. 2).
10:15 3. Update on Bay Hearing by Senate Environment
and Public Works Committee ..... Zack Fields, aide to Rep.
Gerald Connolly
..... COG staff

The Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a field hearing in Annapolis April 20. Subcommittee Chair Ben Cardin (D- MD) said it was the first in a series of hearings he intends to hold in preparation for reauthorizing EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program under Section 117 of the Clean Water Act. Four people testified at the hearing, including Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11). Mr. Fields will summarize that testimony (Att. 3a) as well as Rep. Connolly's thoughts on addressing stormwater management through federal legislation. COG staff will summarize the other testimony. (Att 3b)

Recommended Action; Work with Rep. Connolly and regional congressional delegation to help shape legislation on this issue, with input from the Water Resources Technical Committee. Advance advocacy positions to the COG Board of Directors.

- 10:40 4. Briefing on Potomac Water Quality Trends ..... Steve Bieber, COG staff

As part of COG's work on developing a comprehensive Potomac water quality report, Mr. Bieber will present data that illustrates how water quality conditions in the Potomac River estuary have changed over time. He also will highlight the contribution of different sources, such as wastewater treatment plants and agriculture, to overall nutrient pollution in the river. This information is relevant to issues raised by recent reports on Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay water quality.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

Telephone (202) 962-3200 Fax (202) 962-3201 TDD (202) 962-3213 Website: www.mwco.org

\*Adjunct member

11:00 5. **Response to Chesapeake Bay Program Developments and Potomac Water Quality Issues.....** Tanya Spano, Ted Graham, COG staff

At its annual meeting scheduled for May 12, the Chesapeake Executive Council will announce generalized two-year implementation milestones and an "end date" for achieving the levels of implementation that could attain water quality standards. However, the Bay Program has postponed major decisions on allocating nutrient and sediment loads, which is a key aspect in determining regional impacts. COG staff and the Water Resources Technical Committee continue to track these developments and Ms. Spano will provide an update on the revised schedule, highlight WRTC concerns about developments to date, and note how COG staff is working to provide input on behalf of COG members.

Dr. Graham will discuss several recent public reports (*Att. 5a-d*), including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's "State of the Bay" report and the report card of the Potomac River Conservancy that paint a gloomy picture of a Bay still in decline. Building on Mr. Bieber's presentation in Item #4, Dr. Graham will propose both a COG Board presentation and a public response to these reports that would present COG's view of progress to date and the need for local government input on how best to achieve a restored Bay.

**Recommended Action:** Direct staff to prepare a briefing on Bay Program developments and Potomac water quality trends for presentation to the COG Board; draft an advocacy piece to respond to recent public reports on Bay and Potomac water quality.

11:25 6. **Water Resources Community Engagement Campaign.....** Dr. Graham

Working with members of area water and wastewater utilities, COG staff is organizing a regional effort to educate the public on key topics, including wise water use, infrastructure funding source water protection and drinking water quality. Dr. Graham will highlight details of this new campaign.

**Recommended action:** Receive briefing.

11:35 7. **Decision on FY 10 Regional Water Fund Work Program and Budget.....** Dr. Graham

Pursuant to its bylaws, the committee is charged with approving the annual work program and budget allocations for COG's regional water resources program. Dr. Graham will summarize the proposed FY 2010 work program (*Att. 7a*), including key deliverables and expected outcomes. The Water Resources Technical Committee met on May 6, 2009, and recommended approval by the CBPC (*Att. 7b*).

**Recommended Action:** Approve FY 2010 work program and budget allocations.

11:45 8. **Staff Updates .....** various COG staff

- EC meeting/LGAC report
- Greater Washington 2050 Compact goals, metrics and targets (*Att. 8*)
- Federal stimulus funding
- Maryland legislative wrap-up

11:55 9. **New Business .....** Members

12:00 10. **Adjourn**

*(The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 17, 2009, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.)*

Enclosures/Handouts:

- Item 2 DRAFT meeting summary of March 20, 2009
- Item 3a Statement from Rep. Gerald Connolly
- Item 3b Field hearing testimony at:  
<http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Home>
- Item 4 (staff presentation to be distributed at meeting)
- Item 5 (staff presentation to be distributed at meeting)
- Item 5a CBF 2008 State of the Bay report
- Item 5b Potomac Conservancy Potomac 2008 report card
- Item 5c 5/4/09 Washington Post article, "Evaluation of Chesapeake Goals Killed" at:  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/03/AR2009050302063.html>
- Item 5d PBS Frontline documentary "Poisoned Waters" can be viewed at:  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poisonedwaters/>
- Item 7a FY 10 Regional Water Fund Work Program and Budget
- Item 7b Memo to CBPC from WRTC re Regional Water Fund
- Item 8 Greater Washington 2050 Compact Goals and selected Targets and Indicators