

CHESAPEAKE BAY and WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

MINUTES OF May 18, 2012 MEETING & TOUR

ATTENDANCE:

Members and alternates:

Chair Penny Gross, Fairfax County
Andrew Fellows, City of College Park
Cathy Drzyzgula, City of Gaithersburg
JL Hearn, WSSC
Johannah Barry, City of Falls Church
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Sanitation Authority
Mark Peterson, Loudoun Water

Karl Berger, DEP
Lana Sindler, DEP
Stuart Freudberg, DEP Director
Tanya Spano, DEP

Visitors:

Jeff Corbin, EPA
Katherine Antos, EPA
Ning Zhou, EPA
Walid Saffouri, MDE

COG Staff:

Heidi Bonnaffon, DEP

1. Introductions and Announcements

Chair Gross called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. and welcomed committee members to Fairfax County's Noman Cole Pollution Control Plant, where an abbreviated business meeting was held prior to a plant tour.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary for March 12, 2012

Acting as a committee of the whole, the members present approved the draft summary.

3. Committee Business

A. Regional Water Fund draft FY 2013 Work Program and Budget Overview

Ms. Spano highlighted FY 2012 accomplishments and the key assumptions and areas of focus for the proposed RWF FY 2013 Work Program and Budget. She also noted the proposed schedule for review and approval.

B. Region Forward Baseline Progress Report

Ms. Spano reviewed the water quality aspects of the Baseline Progress Report for COG's Region Forward initiative, which was subsequently approved by the COG Board in June.

C. Discussion of COG Response to the American River's Report on the Potomac.

Chair Penny Gross discussed the May Washington Post article about the American River's report labeling the Potomac as "*the nation's most endangered river*" and committee response.

Action Item: The committee decided that COG staff would work with Chair Gross to draft a Local Opinion piece for the Washington Post on behalf of the CBPC that would focus on the region's stormwater and wastewater accomplishments, recognize the region's major investments and funding

challenges, and note the resulting improvements in local and Potomac River water quality. The Local Opinion piece was intended to have a positive focus rather than trying to counter the American Rivers' report, and made a distinction between generalizations about the state of the entire 382 river miles of the Potomac River, and the approximately 140 miles that actually lie within the COG region.

The COG article did not get printed in the Post, but COG staff posted it on the Region Forward blog in June.

4. Staff Updates

COG staff did not have any additional updates to share with the committee.

5. New Business

Ms. Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer, noted that the Alexandria Sanitation Authority has been renamed Alexandria Renew Enterprises.

6. Presentation and Tour of Noman Cole Pollution Control Plant, Lorton VA

Michael McGrath, plant manager for the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, presented an overview of plant initiatives, including the enhanced nutrient removal upgrades and water reuse systems.

After the presentation, Noman Cole staff took committee members and guests on a guided tour of the facility.

7. Adjourn

Chair Gross adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:50 p.m.