

**CHESAPEAKE BAY and WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF MEETING & TOUR
September 18, 2015**

ATTENDANCE:

Members and alternates:

Andy Fellows, College Park

Bruce Williams, Takoma Park

Craig Rice, Chair, Montgomery County

Dan Sze, Falls Church

Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew Enterprises

Libby Garvey, Arlington County

Mark Peterson, Loudoun Water

Penelope Gross, Fairfax County

Tim Lovain, Alexandria

COG Staff:

Christine Howard, DEP

Heidi Bonnaffon, DEP

Lana Sindler, DEP

Steve Bieber, DEP

Steve Walz, DEP Director

Tanya Spano, DEP

Guests:

Tim Stevens, Sierra Club

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Size called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m.

Mr. Williams announced he was not running again for reelection, so this was his last CBPC meeting. Mr. Fellows, and Ms. Drzyzgula also are not seeking reelection this November. CBPC members and COG staff thanked them for their time on the committee and COG will work on filling the vacancies in 2016.

BUSINESS MEETING

A. Approval of draft July 2015 Meeting Summary

Lacking a quorum, the draft meeting summary could not be approved. Members present did not have any comments, and the draft meeting summary will be open to approval at the November meeting.

B. Approval of FY 2016 Regional Water Quality Management Work Program & Budget

Without a quorum the Work Program and Budget could not be approved during the meeting. However those present at the meeting gave their approval. The meeting was held open, so that Ms. Spano could seek approval from the remaining committee members via email. Ms. Spano noted that there were questions from some WRTC members about the increased level of effort and funding allocated to address stormwater and the associated work; which COG staff has addressed.

Member Comments:

- Ms. Gross mentioned that she met with the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Commission's recommendation that local governments quantify specifics of their funding needs for the Chesapeake Program. Several members agreed on the importance of working more closely with the Commission again, and with COG staff's recommendation to contact Ann Swanson, the Commission's Executive Director, and invite their participation in the forum and/or other upcoming CBPC meetings.
- Mr. Williams inquired why Bowie does not contribute to the Environmental Fund. Ms. Spano explained that COG jurisdictions are not required to contribute to these special funds, but that COG staff would be working over the coming year with Bowie and other COG members to explain the benefits of their participation and work to expand the funding sources for these programs.

C. Plans for November 5th Annual Water Quality Forum

Ms. Spano reported that COG staff are recommending two key changes to this year's Forum – to begin with noting accomplishments, and by including drinking water stakeholders in the discussion so that water issues are discussed holistically.

Member Comments:

- Mr. Fellows and other CBPC members agreed with the inclusion of drinking water and COG staff's proposed approach.

D. General Updates & Upcoming Events

Ms. Spano and Mr. Walz highlighted the Aspen Institute workforce development training for the stormwater sector as a first avenue for advancing workforce development. Mr. Walz mentioned that COG will be coordinating workforce efforts with the Board of Trade, and community colleges, and that the Water Environment Federation and the Chesapeake Landscaping Professionals are also pursuing certification programs.

3. Alexandria Renew Enterprises Tour

Alexandria Renew staff and consultants provided a guided tour of the state-of-the-art water recovery facility, including the LEED Platinum administration center, the future environmental center, multipurpose field, and the new Nutrient Management Facility. Alexandria Renew treats about 54 MGD, with a 3 MGD allocation in Arlington. While that is not as large as the Blue Plains plant that the CBPC last toured, this plant is one of the larger ones in the COG region. A few notable highlights from the tour included:

- Alexandria Renew's new administration building is LEED Platinum certified, complete with solar panels, and water reuse for the decorative fountains. It also has a 6th floor Board Room which doubles as a community meeting space.
- Alex Renew has a new Nutrient Management Facility which helps the plant treatment process to reduce Nitrogen to very low concentrations of 3 mg/l. Its underground holding tanks are a critical part of the new system as they help to level out ammonia peaks and provide a steady concentration which improves the nutrient removal process and overall performance. It also has a public multipurpose field and stadium seating that sits above the holding tanks of its new below-round facility
- Alex Renew will have reclaimed water in its outside fountains, and landscapers will be able to fill up their trucks with reclaimed water at a reduced cost compared to using tap water.
- Alexandria Renew uses UV disinfection (versus chemical).
- Alexandria Renew produces Class A biosolids which are used by Virginia farms.
- In 2016 Alex Renew will open its Environmental Center. It will have interactive displays about the Potomac watershed; the wastewater cycle from households to Alex Renew and back into the Potomac River; household water usage and conservation; the anaerobic bacteria; UV radiation disinfection, and other concepts that are key to understanding the important roles of Alexandria Renew's role in the community.

Please see Alexandria Renew Enterprises' Fact Sheet for additional information about Alexandria Renew.