



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY-DRAFT

January 17, 2020

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2020/1/17/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

DECISIONS & ACTIONS:

The CBPC members resolved:

- To share the CBPC Paper Competition Flyer with their academic affiliates.
- Members will notify COG staff of their interest in participating on the CBPC Legislative Tracking Work Group, which would hold weekly calls, and to keep COG staff informed of pertinent emerging legislation.
- RSVP for the March 6th Orientation Luncheon for current and new members to get acquainted with one another and with the CBPC.
- To contact COG staff to confirm support for COG's Regional Food and Agriculture Economy Commission via FY '21 and beyond contributions.

1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Jon Stehle, Chair, City of Fairfax

Chair Stehle welcomed members and introduced Co-Vice Chair Laurie-Anne Sayles.

2. FRAMING FOR 2020 MEETINGS

Jon Stehle, CBPC Chair

Chair Stehle laid out CBPC focus areas and goals for 2020 meetings. He used the term "intentionality" to say that the meetings will have intentional actions that members can take over the coming weeks and months, building towards success metrics (per the CBPC 1-pager). He directed members towards the 2020 calendar of meeting topics and requested member ideas for future topics to address.

3. CBPC MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

The CBPC members approved the Summary from the November 2019 CBPC meeting.

4. AG TASK FORCE UPDATE

Craig Rice, Montgomery County Councilmember

Councilmember Rice presented the Ag Task Force's efforts to-date, saying that agricultural preservation is vital for our region's environment, both water quality and climate change. Food security is important to our economy, for immigrant populations, and local farms that give us a sense of cultural appreciation, whether it's apple picking, participating in fall festivals, or visiting a lavender farm.

He led a discussion on initial fundraising to support its vision for a Regional Food and Agricultural Economy Commission housed at COG, asking small jurisdictions to contribute \$10,000 and larger jurisdictions to contribute \$25,000. The funds will be used to leverage outside funders (grants, USDA, etc.) to support our ag community.

Member discussion

- Members stated that agriculture is an important piece of a diversified economy and we need to conserve ag lands which are being converted for development.
- Members said local agriculture ties with Restaurant Weeks and several said with Healthy Schools and urban agricultural initiatives.
- Members raised food waste as an area of interest.

5. APPLIED RESEARCH CBPC/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Jon Stehle, CBPC Chair

Chair Stehle provided his vision and plans for a new initiative for the CBPC to partner with regional universities on applied research.

Member discussion

- Members suggested expanding the Paper Competition to include high school students and community colleges and to soften the use of the term “research.”
- Members suggested in future years topics could include jobs with water utilities and climate change.
- A member suggested that agricultural topics could be a future Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE) topic.

Based on the member discussion Ms. Bonnaffon agreed to update the Flyer text to expand the target audience beyond university students and would post the Flyer online and share the link with the CBPC.

6. LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

Heidi Bonnaffon, COG staff

Ms. Bonnaffon said that the COG Board-approved 2020 Legislative Priorities are a guide for CBPC’s advocacy positions. She provided a preliminary overview of the state budgets and legislation as they pertain to the Bay and water resources.

Ms. Bonnaffon introduced COG’s new Resiliency Planner, Katie Dyer, who is assisting with legislation and correspondence.

7. PREPARATIONS FOR CBPC MARCH FORUM WITH EPA & STATES

Ms. Bonnaffon announced that staff are working on preparations for the CBPC’s March 20th Forum and would work with the WRTC members to develop talking points. She expected discussion to focus on climate change, accountability among the Bay Partners, and COG’s Ag Commission development.

Member discussion

- CBPC members would like more guidance and materials for messaging about water quality to diverse communities. For example, stormwater outreach to interfaith communities with large parking lots.

8. STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Bonnaffon highlighted these General Updates:

- The Potomac watershed is three times saltier than 25 years ago; northern Virginia just completed a survey of residents about salt knowledge and behaviors; Montgomery County and WSSC Water have kicked off their Salt Wise campaign. The CBPC will focus on salts at its September meeting.
- Maryland Governor Hogan is seeking to sue EPA and PA over lagging Bay efforts.

Member discussion

- Salts are a long-term issue and not just road salts.

9. MEMBER UPDATES

- Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew, offered to share background resources about PFAS, which Ms. Bonnaffon subsequently shared with the CBPC via email.

10. WRAP UP & ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Stehle adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates:

Amy Jackson, Alexandria
Cindy Dyballa, Takoma Park
Craig Rice, Montgomery County
Ross Litkenhous, Falls Church
Elissa Silverman, District of Columbia
Frank Dawson, Montgomery County
J. Davis, Greenbelt (phone)
Joe Gill (phone)
Joel Caudill (phone)
Jon Stehle, Chair, City of Fairfax
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew
Keith Levchenko, Montgomery County (phone)
Kristen Umstattd, Loudoun County
Laurie-Anne Sayles, City of Gaithersburg

Libby Garvey, Arlington County
Mary Cheh, District of Columbia (phone)
Matt Ries, DC Water
Mike Leszcz, Town of Laurel
Penny Gross, Fairfax County
Sam Rosen-Amy, District of Columbia
Steve Shofar, Montgomery County

COG Staff:

Heidi Bonnaffon
Karl Berger
Lindsay Smith (phone)
Lisa Ragain
Lisa Reynolds
Steve Bieber
Steve Walz