

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

SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 21, 2014 MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

Members and alternates:

Andrew Fellows, City of College Park
Cathy Drzyzgula, City of Gaithersburg
Hamid Karimi, Vice Chair, District of Columbia
JL Hearn, WSSC
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Libby Garvey, Arlington County
Mark Charles, City of Rockville
Mark Peterson, Loudon Water
Meo Curtis, Montgomery County
Penny Gross, Chair, Fairfax County
Shannon Moore, Frederick County

COG Staff:

Heidi Bonnaffon, DEP
Karl Berger, DEP
Steve Walz, DEP Director
Tanya Spano, DEP

Guests:

Glynn Roundtree
Laura Rogers, MDOT
Tim Stevens, Sierra Club

1. Introductions

Chair Penelope A. Gross called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of 2015 Meeting Schedule and CBPC Meeting Summaries

A. 2015 Meeting Schedule Members reviewed the proposed 2015 meeting schedule (below), and did not note any conflicts. Barring any new conflicts, this meeting schedule will be confirmed at the January 16th CBPC meeting.

All meetings are the 3rd Friday of the month.

January 16	July 17
March 20	September 18
May 15	November 20

B. Draft meeting summaries

The draft July and September meeting summaries were approved by the committee, with one correction made to the September summary: The last bullet on page 3 was changed to say "DC Water is building a 500-year flood retaining wall. The approved summaries are posted to the CBPC website.

3. Bay Program and Water Quality Efforts and Potential Actions

PowerPoint Presentation by Tanya Spano: <http://bit.ly/1rX35Co>

A. COG Presentation on Bay Model Updates

Ms. Spano provided an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program's schedule and model updates/technical issues, including the potential implications of climate change (PowerPoint slides 3-11). Mr. Berger mentioned that the Bay Program is developing a new version of its watershed model, which serves as the means to account for nutrient and sediment reductions under the Bay TMDL. Compared to older versions, the new model will have somewhat different land use categories, more local input into the data used to

generate model land uses, a greater emphasis on accounting for nutrients and sediment from stream bank erosion and a greater emphasis on the impacts of urban tree canopy. Ms. Spano noted that climate change could impact the water temperature and water quality of the Bay (broad-scale implications), or due to heavier rain events it might impact the effectiveness of existing BMPs (which would create management implications).

Member comments:

- Ms. Gross said that ecosystems and species can take a long time—100 years—to show progress to restoration efforts. She also noted that climate change could result in shifting the type of trees that grow in the mid-Atlantic.
- Ms. Garvey had questions about the projected sea level rise for the Bay in the next 40 or 50 years, COG staff provides the following handout as a reference on sea level rise projections: [NASA DC Climate Handout](#).
- Ms. Garvey wanted clarification that toxics are not covered in the Bay TMDL. Ms. Spano said that is correct, the Bay TMDL defines only sediment and nutrient (phosphorus and nitrogen loads). However, as reported, the Bay Partnership is addressing Toxics under the new Bay Agreement; and while there are local stream toxics TMDLs, the Bay Agreement's focus on toxics (such as legacy PCBs) is aspirational.
- Mr. Fellows stated there is a risk of "Bay Fatigue" so it would help if the Bay Program [and local governments] could articulate and differentiate between short-term goals/expectations and long-term water quality goals.
- Mr. Walz mentioned that there is a document out on how to effectively communicate about climate change, and that there could be carry over lessons for water quality. The document is here: <http://bit.ly/1q2geJ5>
- Ms. Garvey shared that a stream restoration project in Arlington shows a degraded stream and a restored stream merging, which allows the public to see the different water quality side by side and therefore to observe the impact of restoration efforts.

B. 2014 Regional Water Quality Recap and upcoming efforts

Ms. Spano gave a recap of the 2014 Regional Water Quality Work Plan goals already accomplished and provided a look ahead at upcoming CBPC meeting topics, asking for member feedback on the proposed list (PowerPoint slides 13 & 14).

Member comments:

- Mr. Fellows agreed with a focus on climate change. The increased intensity rain events are increasing the amount of sediments and affecting streams.
- Mr. Karimi commented on the jobs initiative proposal, that there is a need to articulate gray versus green jobs benefits and that DC wants to start a green jobs credentialing program. It was suggested that this effort has the possible of being replicated elsewhere in the region.
- Ms. Garvey reinforced the statistic from the September CBPC meeting that 65% of the water utility workforce is close to retirement age.
- Ms. Garvey mentioned crowd sourcing as a potential way of getting innovation solutions to some issues the CBPC would like to confront.

C. Member Feedback on Proposed 2015 Legislative Priorities

COG staff presented the proposed 2015 legislative priorities for the COG Board, which included several changes to the structure and content of the water resources priorities as highlighted in PowerPoint slides 17-21. The draft bullets and the additions proposed by COG are shown below.

- Endorse Affordability Criteria - Endorse establishing for affordability criteria for financing water infrastructure projects.
- Ensure Regulatory Feasibility - Endorse legislation that supports a feasible pace for MS4 stormwater permits, and applies the “Maximum Extent Practicable” standard.
 - Proposed Addition Ensure that burden does not shift to local governments to compensate for delayed permits. Support mechanisms for generating local funding for stormwater management.
- Grant Regulatory Flexibility -Support streamlining and prioritization of permits, such as the Integrated Permitting approach.
- Support mechanisms for local governments to invest in water infrastructure, such as tax credits, infrastructure banking,
 - Proposed Addition: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), state revolving funds (SRFs), and maintaining tax exemption status of municipal bonds.

Proposed Additions: Possible Additional Priorities

- Water sector job training and local employment
- Water-energy nexus
- Climate Change: Funding, technical support and elimination of barriers for doing robust climate change analysis, adaptation planning and implementation.
- Water Security?
- Drinking Water?

Member comments:

- Ms. Gross recommended reordering priorities according to areas we expect we will be able to focus our attention.
- Ms. Moore mentioned that it is always worth emphasizing the longstanding COG Bay Policy Principle that local governments should be “given a seat at the table.” Ms. Gross supported this idea of asking for a local voice in Chesapeake Bay Program decision-making.
- The members supported a cyber-security addition for the water sector.

D. Member endorsement for Letters of Support for Water Infrastructure Initiatives

COG staff outlined the main asking points in letters that the Water Environment Federation and its national organization partners wrote to Congress in support of greater infrastructure funding. These included authorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA); that municipal bonds remain tax-exempt; and continued funding for the State Revolving Loans program. The WEF partnership letters were written in early November to the director of the federal Office of Management and Budget and to Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Member comments:

- Mr. Fellows and Ms. Gross supported consistently putting COG issues forward, whether it be to the current Congress or the new members once they are seated.
- Ms. Moore moved the notion of writing CBPC letters in support of WIFIA, SRF funding, and maintaining tax exempt status for municipal bonds. It was seconded by Mr. Fellows.

V. Member Updates

- After participating in a recent conference call to award Chesapeake Bay improvement grants under the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, Ms. Gross noted that this longstanding grant program

was making changes to better serve local governments, including the number of grant award periods during the year and increasing the maximum award amounts.

- Ms. Curtis said that Montgomery County has partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to announce a new grant program for non-profits to reduce stormwater runoff and pollutants through community-based restoration implementation as well as projects focused on public engagement through education, outreach, and stewardship. The county's Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program funds public outreach and stewardship projects, community-based stormwater runoff, and water quality improvement practices, and RainScapes neighborhood projects. Grant applications are due in December.
- Mr. Karimi announced that the District's Stormwater Retention Credits (SRC) program is up and running. District Department of the Environment officials hope this trading program will boost its efforts to provide more stormwater treatment in older developed areas of the city. He said he could update the committee on this pioneering program at a future meeting.
- Ms. Moore mentioned that, as a result of the November elections, Frederick County has its first chief executive, Jan Gardner. The impact on the county's appointments to COG policy committees has not yet been determined, she said.
- Ms. Gross provided updates from the Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee and the recent annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO). Other than her own reappointment, she said, there are all new appointees representing Virginia on the LGAC. At the VACO meeting, she noted that there were a lot of concerns expressed about pipelines and fracking, but relatively little about the Bay restoration effort.
- Ms. Gross suggested that the CBPC make a fieldtrip to Alexandria Renew in 2015, since this resource recovery facility is located on a tight urban footprint and is doing interesting projects in concert with its community. Ms. Pallansch agreed to work with COG staff to identify a date in 2015 for a potential CBPC meeting/plant tour.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00. The next CBPC meeting will be held January 16, 2015 at COG.