

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE WEBINAR SUMMARY-DRAFT

January 15, 2021

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/1/15/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

DECISIONS & ACTIONS:

- Members expressed interest in COG organizing informational webinar to learn more about the local application of the Chesapeake Bay Program's DEIJ data dashboard. COG staff are looking at various DEIJ data dashboards and will plan a future briefing webinar.
- CBPC Members were requested to share the CBPC Academic Paper Competition graphic and [webpage](#) with their academic connections, in particularly with Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Laurie-Anne Sayles, CBPC Chair, welcomed new members to the committee.

2. FRAMING FOR 2021

Chair Sayles outlined her vision for the year ahead, saying solutions to improve water quality also improve our economy and public health. After the pandemic's first wave we were able to identify gaps that could be addressed immediately while systemic racism and social injustice require longer term solutions. Just as in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the pandemic required local officials shift their attention to support immediate needs—such as food resources and rent payments to help people stay in their homes. Some other basic needs—air and water— have not gotten the attention they deserve, but we are pivoting back to them.

Chair Sayles invited members to consider how we can recognize Earth Day on April 22. She also invited seasoned members and new members to the CBPC's March 5 informal orientation webinar.

3. CBPC MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

The draft summary of November 2020 CBPC Meeting was approved.

4. BAY PROGRAM'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE (DEIJ) FRAMEWORK

Tuana Phillips, Chesapeake Bay Program, and Ivan Hernandez, Chesapeake Research Consortium, presented an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program's DEIJ strategy, metrics, and tools, including the newly developed DEIJ data dashboard.

- The Diversity Outcome is a part of the 2014 Bay Agreement's Stewardship Goal, but it must be applied to all the conservation goals.
 - The Diversity Work Group found that funding, organizational culture, and workforce (recruitment and retention) are three CBP barriers to achieving the diversity outcome.
 - They identified a need within the Chesapeake Bay Program for internal authorizing and external capacity building.
- Their presentation included numerous resource links available on the CBP's DEIJ Work Group's webpage, including
 - definitions of the DEIJ terms in the acronym.
 - anti-racism resources

- cultural humility training materials
- DEIJ data dashboard that overlays demographic data layers with other layers such as wetlands or tree canopy. The dashboard is in draft mode but is online, and the Bay Program welcomes user testing.
- The 2019 DEIJ Action Guide is a pathway forward for organizations in the Bay watershed.
- In August 2020 the Bay Program’s Executive Council (the six Bay state governors and mayor of DC) signed a DEIJ statement to embrace DEIJ in all areas of the Bay Program.
- The next steps include forming a DEIJ action team and forming a community advisory board and to hold focus groups to further develop relationships with organizations of underrepresented and diverse communities.

Member Discussion:

- Members expressed interest in learning more about the data dashboard visualization—how to navigate it, and any trends or findings that can be applied at the local government level.
- A member related to the inclusion piece, saying her county passed an inclusionary Resolution, and a few of its tenants are it’s important to note who is affected and who *wasn’t* in the room when decisions were made.
- A member said she was glad to see such a robust federal approach to DEIJ, and it’s important to reach young people for inclusion in the conversations to hear their perspectives. For example, when talking to Anacostia communities, CBPC members learned that the Chesapeake Bay issues were not as close to their communities as other more pressing needs.

5. LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

Ms. Bonnaffon provided a preliminary overview of some Maryland and Virginia top issues and legislation that the CBPC may wish to track. CBPC members interested in tracking state legislation and provide guidance on committee action were invited to the join the CBPC Legislative Tracking Subcommittee.

Member Discussion:

- Regarding MD HB 82/SB 151-Constitutional Amendment-Environmental Rights, and HB 76/SB 334-Intervention in Civil Actions, several CBPC members recommended that COG take no position on these bills that are contentious but unlikely to pass, so as not alienate environmental organizations.
- Ms. Dyer, COG’s Resiliency Planner and legislative staff member, said that while the Virginia general assembly is a very short session, Maryland’s is longer and a greater number of bills is expected, with a focus on climate change and environmental justice.
- While MML is going to look at every environmental and climate change bill, they will largely be focused on police accountability this session.

6. MEMBER & STAFF UPDATES

- Chair Sayles briefed members on the 2021 CBPC Paper Competition and ask members to share the notice. The application deadline was extended to February 28 and papers are due in April. The top candidate(s) will be invited to present to the CBPC.
- Supervisor Gross announced a day of service on Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. There is a northern Virginia Potomac River trash clean up at John’s Point Park, City of Alexandria.
- Councilmember Umstatted shared her dilemma over centralized and affordable water and wastewater in older, mostly minority communities in Loudoun County, given Virginia’s restrictions. She is interested in information about affordability and grant programs.
 - Chair Sayles referenced the [Chesapeake Bay Trust’s DEIJ in Action](#) Guide “Chapter 5 advancing DEIJ outcomes through grant making”

- Adam Ortiz said Montgomery County DEP is applying a DEI lens for its MS4 permit projects, such as stream restoration. Montgomery County has had other sustainability successes including working with Councilmember Rice to pass a ban on plastic straws and number 6 plastics and more will come to get plastics out of our watersheds. Montgomery County is also working on ensuring functioning septic systems, and tracking state legislation.
- Councilmember Ross said the City of Fairfax has established a “Fairfax City for All” stakeholder group to address past wrongs and look at issues of equity. There was broad interest with over eighty applicants and Councilmember Stehle is a council representative. He said he can share the authorizing resolution for forming the stakeholder group.
- Councilmember Dyballa said Takoma Park is reconsidering a new stormwater graduated fee structure, to base single-family rates on impervious area. She would welcome feedback from others who have been through the process of developing a graduated fee structure.
- Councilmember Stehle provided an update on COG’s new FARM Ad Hoc committee. FARM is chaired by Councilmember Cheh and vice chaired by Councilmember Rice and himself. They have met three times and have been primarily focused on food security. As a region we want to enrolling residents in federal emergency programs and need to scale the support on a local level. An excellent example is Montgomery County’s food security task force that has been collaborating on food assistance.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sayles adjourned the webinar at 11:50 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates:

Amy Jackson, Alexandria
Cindy Dyballa, Takoma Park
Debbie Hiscott, City of Falls Church
J. Davis, City of Greenbelt
Jon Stehle, City of Fairfax
Keith Levchenko, Montgomery County
Kenny Boddy, Prince William County
Kristen Umstattd, Loudoun County
Laurie-Anne Sayles, Chair, City of Gaithersburg
Libby Garvey, Arlington County
Maria Mackie, College Park
Mary Cheh, DC Council
M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County
Penny Gross, Fairfax County
Thomas Ross, City of Fairfax
Adam Ortiz, Montgomery County DEP
Heather Gewandter, Rockville DEP
Jeff Seltzer, DOEE
Joel Caudill, WSSC Water
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew

Enterprises

Mark Peterson, Loudoun Water
Matt Reis, DC Water
Michelle Russell, Prince George’s County DEP
Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
Rachel Clark, DC Council
Shannon Moore, Frederick County DEP
Steve Shofar, Montgomery County DEP
Tiffany Wright, City of Bowie

Guests:

Amy Hoffman, VDEM
Ivan Hernandez, Chesapeake Bay Program
Tuana Phillips, Chesapeake Bay Program

COG Staff:

Christine Howard
Heidi Bonnaffon
Steve Bieber
Tom Gates
Wyetha Lipford