



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary-DRAFT

May 19, 2023

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/5/19/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS:

- Members approved the summary of the March 17, 2023 meeting.
- Members received materials for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.

1. WELCOME

Chair Mackie welcomed members and provided highlights from the Loudoun County farm tour.

2. MEETING SUMMARY APPROVED

Members approved the draft summary of the March 2023 CBPC meeting.

3. CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY OUTCOME, AND BEYOND 2025 GOALS

Martha Shimkin, Chesapeake Bay Program's Deputy Director, provided background and progress of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, which outlines goals and outcomes for achieving a healthy Bay and was signed in 2014 by the seven Bay states and partners.

Anna Killius, Chesapeake Bay Commission Executive Director, provided details of the Bay Program's ongoing assessment of progress towards the Bay TMDL by 2025 and what is being considered for Bay restoration beyond 2025.

- The recently released Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) Report cited dense agriculture as one of the challenges in attaining Bay water quality standards. The needle has barely moved on water quality standards; Currently at 29% achievement compared to 26% in 1987. The CESR report questions whether counting BMPs is an effective way to measure progress. However, there are other measures of progress such as wetland health, climate resiliency, and broader stakeholder engagement.

Member Discussion:

- Supervisor Gross recapped the role of COG in 1998 to ensure local government involvement in the C2K agreement, and to initiate inclusion of local government officials on the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC). She reiterated the importance of convening local officials to make sure plans are feasible and relevant.
- Councilmember Garvey noted that agriculture is posing a Bay water quality challenge and asked about the strategy to address agriculture. Ms. Shimkin responded that the agricultural sector is making progress, but it is slower than wastewater. The Bay Program is targeting efforts in the most effective basins, primarily in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania directed \$220 million of ARPA money towards clean streams.



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- Supervisor Gross asked about the *Bay Journal* article which showed a graph of fluctuation in underwater grasses about every five years and inquired whether this a natural process or is something impeding their success? Ms. Shimpkin answered that the Chesapeake Bay Program is monitoring underwater grasses, and is updating [intensity, duration, and frequency \(IDF\) curves](#) to better understand changing precipitation. Some submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) species are sensitive to warmer water temperatures causing other species to move in. Cyclical growth could correlate with cyclical weather patterns, but Ms. Shimpkin suggested a CBP SAV expert could provide a future presentation to the CBPC. Supervisor Gross also mentioned that sometimes state stormwater permit issuance gets delayed, impacting local governments. Ms. Killus said that EPA Region 3 and state secretariates are working to ensure sufficient staffing so permits may be updated and reissued more quickly.
- Supervisor Boddy said trees are key to many of the Bay goals and help with climate resiliency but noted competing interests negatively impact trees, such as increasing housing to accommodate population growth. He asked about incentivizing tree preservation and planting, including on ag lands. Ms. Killius said the Bay Program is funding tree planting programs and forest buffers, particularly on ag lands, and sharing lessons learned which are making their way into agency practices and the Farm Bill. Ms. Shimpkin added that Chesapeake Bay Program funds \$140 million on infrastructure projects, including green infrastructure which contributes to urban tree canopies. She mentioned that the CBP partners are looking at tree nursery stock to make there are enough trees available.

Shannon Sprague, NOAA's Environmental Literacy and Partnerships Manager provided an overview the environmental education as part of the Bay Agreement's stewardship goal; touched on our states' progress towards meeting the goal; and highlighted a few environmental literacy programs in our region.

- The goal is to achieve equitable access to meaningful, local watershed experiences at each grade level of schools
- She provided a link to [Arlington County's green school video](#).
- She said the Prince George's County schools are tying school curriculum to the county's climate action plan, including low-carbon transportation, and addressing food waste.
- The greatest needs for educational literacy programs are transportation funding and professional development programs.

4. CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK & ARTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms. Bonnaffon provided information and social media resources for celebrating the upcoming Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (CBAW) (June 3-11) .

Chair Mackie pointed out that storm drain painting is an excellent form of education in time for CBAW or any time, and shared examples of storm drain paintings from College Park's resident artist, Janet McCaslin.

Dr. Michael Weyand provided inspiring examples of Gaithersburg's Arts in the Environment program, which includes duct tape decorated trash grabbers for litter collection, a storm drain art contest, and snowplow painting. These art projects are hooks to bring community members



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together and engage in source water protection.

5. MEMBER & STAFF UPDATES

- Alexandria Renew Enterprises’ Myles Cooper, Regulatory and Legislative Analyst, and Justin Karl, new General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, introduced themselves and agreed that the CBPC members could tour their RiverRenew tunnel project to correct for combined sewer overflows (CSOs).
- Ms. Bonnaffon mentioned that COG’s utilities and the CBPC will be submitting a comment letter to EPA regarding the draft PFAS drinking water rule. *COG submitted the comment letter in early June.*

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mackie provided the dates of the CBPC July 21 webinar and September 15 Annual Forum. She adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.

PARTICIPANTS

Members and Alternates:

Cara Honzak, City of Takoma Park Council
 Justin Karl, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
 Kenny Boddye (Vice Chair), Prince William County Supervisor
 Khandikile Mvunga Sokoni, Montgomery County Council
 Libby Garvey, Arlington County Council
 Maria Mackie (Chair), College Park Council
 MC Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County Council
 Penny Gross, Fairfax County Supervisor
 Allison Deines, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
 Andrea Crooms, Prince George’s County
 Jennifer Starr, Alliance for the Bay
 Jessie Maines, City of Alexandria
 Matt Ries, DC Water
 Michael Weyand, City of Gaithersburg
 Nasser Kamazani, Montgomery County

Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
 Shannon Moore, Frederick County
 Steve Shofar, Montgomery County
 Sylvia Tognetti, Montgomery County
 Tiffany Wright, City of Bowie
 Zach Kershner, City of Frederick Public Works

Guests:

Anna Killius, Chesapeake Bay Commission
 Martha Shimkin, Chesapeake Bay Program
 Myles Cooper, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
 Shannon Sprague, NOAA

COG Staff:

Ata Adeel
 Christine Howard
 Clark Mercer
 Heidi Bonnaffon
 Katie Dyer
 Lisa Reynolds

Wyetha Lipford