

## CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE WEBINAR SUMMARY-DRAFT

November 20, 2020

### LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2020/11/20/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

### 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLE CALL

- Chair Stehle begin the meeting by saying it was privilege to chair the CBPC this year-- it went fast--and that the committee will be in good hands with incoming chair Councilmember Sayles.
- He pointed to the committee's accomplishments via this year's CBPC Annual Report. Accomplishments include the first paper competition, the watershed map and map of past chairs, and the COG logo wear site, which is set up with future field trips in mind. The annual report is posted on the CBPC webpage along with the videos that he and Supervisor Gross produced this year, emphasizing COG's role in elevating the voice of local governments even during the pandemic. One example is the creation of the FARM committee out of the CBPC Agricultural Task Force initiative.
- Chair Stehle gave the floor to Steve Walz, DEP director, to make his announcement that he is retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Walz stated that he plans to volunteer and that Steve Bieber, in his role as Water Resources Program Director, and DEP staff will continue the department's work.

### 2. CBPC MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Members approved the draft summary of September 2020 CBPC webinar.

### 3. OPTIMIZING WINTER SALT MANAGEMENT

Mr. Berger described COG's new salts monitoring program, and the invited speakers from MDE, DEQ, and DOEE shared their efforts to maximize salting efficiency and reduce salt's impacts to area water bodies.

#### A. Karl Berger, COG, Freshwater Salinization Syndrome Monitoring Project

- Mr. Berger said the salts monitoring project is replacing COG's long-time Chain Bridge Monitoring project, since that work had become replicative of the USGS monitoring.
- In the new monitoring project, the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Lab, USGS, and University of Maryland are combining efforts to monitor long-term chloride trends relative to BMP efforts.
- High stream salinity is being called "Freshwater Salinization Syndrome." Sodium chloride dissolves in water, and its ions interact with other ions in the water which can have a variety of impacts.
- Salt levels are a human health issue when they exceed 20mg/L for drinking water and are particularly an issue for groundwater and reservoirs. Salt is also harmful to the benthic organisms in streams.
- Chloride has been on a steady rise since 1990 in local waterways such as the Patuxent and is of growing concern for our governments.

**B. Sarah Sivers, DEQ, Northern Virginia's Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) Toolkit**

- The Accotink chloride TMDL is a harbinger of the salt issue on a wider scale. The SaMS is a voluntary effort to reduce salt impacts while maintaining public safety, and its stakeholder group is a broad northern Virginia coalition which includes four counties, three cities, and VDOT. ICPRB has been a partner in developing the toolkit.
- SaMS uses the term “winter salts” because salting encompasses more than roads; it includes sidewalks and parking lots. While SaMS has attempted to engage with private property managers they are a diffuse group, many of whom are landscapers turned snow removal operators in the winter.
- SaMS has been a 3-year effort from January 2018-January 2021, The SaMS toolkit is a compilation of resources and recommendations, with fifty core pages and over 350 pages of resources in the appendices.
  - The resources include sample outreach materials with turnkey information graphics and a logo so that SaMS partners can speak in one voice.
  - Not everything could be implemented immediately, so a section with future recommendations is included in the toolkit.
- DEQ is transitioning the SaMS continuation to NVRC. NVRC will be developing a website and may be coordinating efforts such as voluntary tracking of operational savings, monitoring, and MS4 permits.

**C. Gregorio Sandi, MDE, Maryland's Salt Management Plans**

- Maryland has 28 streams with chloride impairments, particularly urban streams such as Cabin John.
- The Maryland General Assembly called for the development of Salt Management Plan in 2010 and it was updated in 2019 to account for changing storms and changing treatment techniques.
- MDE has studied Minnesota's salt applicator certification program and plans to tailor it for Maryland's public and private applicators. Under consideration are financial incentives for property managers to reduce costs by being salt wise.
- MDE plans to partner with:
  - universities to promote the certification program and to do research
  - Emergency Management Services, WSSC Water and Baltimore reservoirs.
- The next generation of Maryland MS4 permits include a requirement to address chlorides—not each storm but overall reductions.
- Mr. Sandi speculated perhaps there will be a paradigm shift after the pandemic about the expected levels of snow removal service now that more of the workforce has established teleworking capabilities.

**D. Jeff Seltzer, DOEE, Alternative salt product pilot**

- Mr. Seltzer agreed with the other speakers that winter salts impacts to water quality is a tough issue and DOEE would like to continue to collaborate with Maryland and Virginia in addressing salts.
- DOEE has conducted road crew trainings in the past. This year DOEE will be piloting three different road treatments: A control, a pre-wetted brine, and calcium magnesium acetate. DOEE will be assessing the cost-benefit, since calcium magnesium acetate is significantly more expensive (Jonathan Champion, DOEE, roughly estimated that it is 7-10 times more costly than traditional chlorides), but they want to assess the acceptance of the different methods by both the road crews and the public.

**Member discussion**

- A member inquired whether the SaMS toolkit will be available regionally. Ms. Sivers answered that it was developed by and for the northern Virginia stakeholders.
- A member asked Mr. Sandi for clarification on the manganese issue he mentioned. Mr.

Sandi referenced a 2015 article by Dr. Kaushal, University of Maryland, that demonstrated chloride can affect ions in the water, resulting in color and taste issues. In high concentrations manganese can be toxic. MDE would like to expand research to include other universities.

- Councilmember Sayles responded that the CBPC Paper Competition could focus on winter salts and could reach a wide student body.
- A member likened the winter salts to a fertilizer campaign. Years ago, the CBPC partnered with Scotts Miracle Grow to reduce phosphorus in their fertilizers. Perhaps a similar approach could be used with salt manufactures.

#### **4. CONOWINGO DRAFT WIP OVERVIEW**

- The Chesapeake Bay Program released the Conowingo Draft WIP for public comment through December 21, 2020.
- Mr. Berger briefly referenced the COG Conowingo WIP handout, saying that COG staff are not recommending comments at this time, but that COG may wish to weigh in when the forthcoming financing strategy is drafted.

#### **5. STAFF UPDATES**

- A. Water Resources Tech Committee (WRTC) Meeting report  
Mr. Berger and Mr. Papacosma, WRTC chair, shared that the WRTC is focusing on climate resiliency and has formed a stream restoration subcommittee to address some of the recent criticisms of stream restoration. Both of these topics will be brought to the CBPC for further discussion in 2021.
- B. Ms. Bonnaffon will ask members for any proposed revisions to the 2020 Legislative Priorities. She noted that COG will overall examine the 2020 Priorities to update them for Covid-19 and equity considerations. The first legislative committee call will be December 4, and incoming chair Sayles will be the CBPC representative.

#### **6. EQUITY DISCUSSION**

Members held a discussion about equity and resources that they are finding helpful for their jurisdictions and what types of resources could be helpful from COG.

- Gaithersburg and Arlington County members have found the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) training program to be beneficial. Councilmember Sayles said that their training focused on data and leveraging data to make better decisions. Councilmember Garvey said that GARE facilitated a call with 500 people—it was a healing discussion. Arlington County is facilitating community conversations and is creating a toolbox for getting people talking across their bubbles.
- Councilmember Garvey shared Arlington County's Equity Resolution and the resolution's construct that she has found to be beneficial for decisions: By an action, who benefits? Who is burdened? Who is missing? How do we know? What do we do?
- Shannon Moore said this is a priority for all of the organizations that she works with, including the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Leadership Work Group. The Bay Program has created some outstanding materials in their Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) program that other organizations could utilize. These include a work program, cultural humility trainings, and metrics for measuring progress, both internally and externally.
- Councilmember Dyballa said it would be beneficial to be briefed about tools and how to build them into the decisions that we make—how do we capture and use the data to make decisions, including areas of focus.

- Councilmember Boddy said the Prince William County has formed a citizen-run racial and social justice commission to examine county practices and are services being delivered equitably. The Prince William County board has passed a resolution for carbon neutrality and a public advisory body for how to reach the goals while looking through an environmental justice lens. This includes examining land use, utilities, parks and open space, etc.
- Councilmember Sayles said it would be helpful if COG could keep an inventory or resources such as the Bay Programs DEIJ strategy.
- Steve Walz said that staff are interested in hearing from its members. After the CBPC meeting, COG's DEP staff will be holding a racial equity listening session for needs internally and with committees. Also, COG plans to hire a consultant to work with committees to build their capacity.

## 7. WEBINAR ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Sayles adjourned the webinar at 11:55 a.m.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members and Alternates:

Amy Jackson, Alexandria  
Cindy Dyballa, Takoma Park  
John Boland, DC Council  
Jon Stehle, Chair, City of Fairfax  
Kenny Boddye, Prince William County  
Laurie-Anne Sayles, City of Gaithersburg  
Libby Garvey, Arlington County  
Maria Mackie, College Park  
M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County  
Penny Gross, Fairfax County  
Alison Deines, Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
Heather Gewandter, Rockville DEP  
Jeff Seltzer, DOEE  
Joel Caudill, WSSC Water  
Jonathan Champion, DOEE  
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
Matt Reis, DC Water

Nasser Kamazani, Montgomery County DEP  
Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water  
Shannon Moore, Frederick County DEP

#### Guests:

Gregorio Sandi, MDE  
Jason Mathias  
Jason Papacosma, Arlington County  
Matt Gallagher, DOEE  
Sarah Sivers, DEQ

#### COG Staff:

Christine Howard  
Heidi Bonnaffon  
Karl Berger  
Steve Bieber  
Steve Walz  
Tom Gates  
Wyetha Lipford