

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

Date: Friday, Nov. 18, 2005

Time: 9:45 a.m.– 11:45 a.m. *

Place: Third Floor Board Room

777 North Capitol Street, NE

Washington, DC 20002

**Lunch will be available for committee members and alternates after the meeting.*

Meeting Agenda

9:45 **1. Introductions and Announcements**Hon. John R. Lovell
Chair, Frederick County

- Chesapeake Executive Council meeting
- Washington Aqueduct decision on residuals management

9:50 **2. Approval of Meeting Summary
for Sept. 28, 2005**.....Chair Lovell

Recommended action: Approve DRAFT Meeting Summary (*Att. 2*).

9:55 **3. Review of Federal Legislation**.....Peter Marx , Senior
Fellow, Northeast-Midwest Institute

.....Karl Berger, COG staff

Mr. Marx will review proposed legislation that could affect the Bay restoration effort, including the reauthorization of the federal farm bill. Mr. Marx also will focus on two bills to reauthorize the federal role in the restoration effort: HR 4126, a bill introduced by MD Rep. Wayne Gilchrest and S. 1490, introduced by MD Sen. Paul Sarbanes (*Att. 3*). Both bills would increase federal financial support to the Bay Program and create new opportunities and responsibilities for local governments. Mr. Berger will identify issues of concern on which COG may wish to comment.

Recommended Action: Determine process for developing a set of recommended comments on H.R. 4126 and S. 1490 to be considered by the COG Board at its January 11, 2006, meeting.

10:30 4. **Recommendations on Potomac Trash Summit Actions** ... Hon. Penelope Gross
Fairfax County

Ted Graham, COG
Water Resources Dir.

In March 2005, under the leadership of the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), six jurisdictions in the Potomac Watershed (including four in the COG region) signed a "Trash Treaty" pledging to work toward a trash-free Potomac River by 2013. In May 2005, Tracy Bowen, AFF Executive Director, briefed the COG Board on the project vision and the Board adopted Resolution R16-05 directing COG staff to work closely with AFF in this effort. Since then, Arlington County has signed the treaty and several other COG members have also expressed a strong interest in becoming a signatory. COG is now partnering with the AFF, including participation on the project's Advisory Council and supporting "action committees" to develop a trash-free strategy and implementation plan that will be considered at a regional Trash Summit scheduled for March 2006. COG recently received a grant to assist in this work. Supervisor Gross and Mr. Graham will provide an update on progress to date including Ms. Bowen's presentation to the COG Board on November 9 and the subsequent action by the Board regarding continued COG participation in the development of the trash-free strategy (*Att. 4*).

Recommended Action: The committee should provide guidance to COG's representatives on the Trash Treaty Advisory Council regarding the proposed action agenda for the Potomac Trash Summit. Feedback on potential recruitment of additional signatories is also requested.

10:55 5. **Update on Educational Outreach Initiatives**Katherine Mull, Northern
Virginia Regional Commission
.....COG staff

In a letter issued in May 2005, the Bay Policy Committee encouraged COG's member governments to consider participation in regional education and outreach efforts. Ms. Mull will report on one such effort sponsored this past summer by local governments in northern Virginia and discuss plans for continuing the effort in 2006 and potentially expanding sponsorship to other local governments in the region. COG staff will note the status of several related Chesapeake Bay outreach and education efforts and distribute copies of the educational videotape made by COG.

Recommended action: Further encourage participation by COG members in 2006 outreach efforts. Consider coordination with education and outreach efforts on trash issues.

11:20 6. **Briefing on Water Quality Monitoring Data and Trends**Heidi Bonnaffon, COG staff

Ms. Bonnaffon will provide an update on the Bay Program's measurements of key water quality indicators, such as dissolved oxygen levels, during the summer of 2005. She also will present some of the most recent data on trends in nutrient and sediment levels in the Potomac River.

Recommended action: Receive briefing

11:35 **7. Update on Bay Program Developments**.....COG staff

COG staff will note recent developments concerning the state tributary strategies and plans for the Bay Program's 2007 re-evaluation of its key nutrient and sediment reduction goals.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing

11:40 **8. New Business**Members

11:45 **9. Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20, 2006, 9:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

(Remember: COG will reimburse members and alternates for Metro fares.)

Enclosures:

- Item 2 DRAFT Meeting Summary of Sept. 28, 2005
- Item 3 Text of H.R. 4126, the "Chesapeake Bay Restoration Enhancement Act of 2005," and S. 1490, a bill to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Item 4 COG Board Resolution R43-05