



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary-DRAFT

January 20, 2023

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/1/20/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS:

- Members were invited to be a part of the CBPC legislative tracking team.
- All members were invited to participate in the March 10th orientation for new members.

1. WELCOME

Chair Maria Mackie, City of College Park, introduced herself and Vice Chair Kenny Boddye, Prince William County Supervisor and welcomed everyone. She invited new members to participate in the March 10th Orientation. This was followed by a round of introductions, including from COG's new executive director, Clark Mercer.

2. MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Members approved the draft summary of the November 2022 CBPC meeting.

3. COG'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AND PREVIEW

A. U.S. Army Corps regional water resilience study

Mr. Bieber briefed members that the Army Corps alternative water supply study, to find alternative sources of water to make our water supply more resilient, was authorized in the Omnibus bill and the next step is to look into getting funding appropriated to carry out to the study.

Member discussion

- Councilmember Garvey asked what is being envisioned for localized water catchment (storage) under the water supply study. Mr. Bieber said COG has been reviewing alternatives since 2007, and off-river storage is likely going to be a study recommendation—in the form of a reservoir or other high storage capacity.
- Councilmember Ross asked about the Army Corps Study timing. Mr. Bieber responded that the three-year study would start sometime after October, followed by evaluations and design before any construction. It is a long-term process, probably ten-year, so it is better for the study to start.

B. COG's 2023 Legislative Priorities

The Legislative Priorities, approved by the COG Board, enable the CBPC to take advocacy actions while the General Assemblies are in session and in Congress. Ms. Bonnaffon invited interested members to take part in the CBPC legislative tracking team biweekly calls with COG staff and welcomed member input from other organizations.

C. General Assembly preview and legislative tracking process

- The Virginia Assembly convened on January 11 and will finish this short 45-day session on February 25th.
 - All the members of the Virginia General Assembly are up for election in 2023.



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- At risk are proposals for Virginia withdrawal from RGGI, which would remove RGGI funding for flood control. Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund is intended to replace the funding received through RGGI.
- SLAF funding for stormwater: \$25 M was allotted in 2022.
- Ms. Dyer went over other budget amendments but noted that COG does not comment on budgets.
- Susie Miller, Fairfax Water, provided information on a pair of bills, HB 2095 and SB 1149, that Fairfax Water is watching. These bills would help the Commonwealth develop drought evaluation and response for the Potomac watershed via a drought plan that would be consistent with COG's regional drought plan. Nothing in the bill would prevent a locality from declaring a drought emergency. It is expected that the CBPC will be tracking and supporting these bills (both bills passed).
- COG is tracking HB 1485 that would push back the deadline for agriculture to meet goals of the WIP plan effective date from 2025 to 2030. This bill has ongoing negotiations and stakeholders are working together, and HB 1721, calling for a microplastics study (it did not pass).
- The Maryland Assembly also convened on January 11, but crossover is not until March 20 and adjournment is April 10.
 - Governor Moore sworn in as Maryland's first Black governor on January 18th and has made many new appointments.
 - Governor Moore is interested in workforce development, so something to watch for water workforce.
 - Not a lot of water bills as of yet, but more will be released over the coming weeks.
 - Bills COG is watching for:
 - A Salt Applicator Certification program
 - Homeowner extreme weather preparedness and grant legislation.

Member discussion

- Councilmember Davis said there is a Maryland surplus, so via executive orders some of the funding is going to support understaffing in Maryland Department of Environment, and she mentioned there is a one-third turnover in General Assembly.
- Councilmember Dyballa asked whether the Homeowner Extreme Weather Preparedness bill has been edited since last year. Ms. Dyer responded that the type of dwellings has been made more specific, and the first hearing is later in January, so there will be more details then.
- Ms. Moore mentioned stormwater management bill that would require an impervious surface reduction requirement on top of existing stormwater regulations. MAMSA is tracking (this was withdrawn early).

4. WATER FUNDING UPDATES

Shannon Frede, Environmental Policy Counsel, Senator Benjamin Cardin

Counsel Shannon Frede provided updates about Chesapeake Bay Program funding and highlighted water funding in the recently passed Omnibus appropriations bill. Details are in her posted presentation. She said her office has advocated for federal funding for water and she is open to funding questions any time.



5. STAFF & MEMBER UPDATES

A. CBPC 2023

Ms. Bonnaffon reviewed the calendar of CBPC meeting dates and introduced COG's preliminary plans for a Water Summit that would focus on water quality, water quantity and resilience (flooding and drought), and water security. She mentioned February 15th COG is holding a webinar regarding water salinization research and there are plans for a PFAS Summit at DC Water in March. COG welcomes member ideas. Councilmember Dyballa recommended a session on water and climate.

B. Ms. Bonnaffon presented Chesapeake Bay Program updates and the presentation is posted.

C. General Updates: See document for updates, resources, and events

Member discussion

- Ms. Bonnaffon's presentation about agricultural manure and fertilizer contributions to the Bay stimulated a member discussion on renewable natural gas and methane, and powering fleets.
 - Councilmember Garvey mentioned the reuse of methane gas for buses; Mr. Bieber said regional utilities are using gas to power their plants and for school buses; there are probably examples of large agricultural producers using gases for energy.
 - Councilmember Davis said that methane has greater climate change impact than carbon dioxide, opening the way for buying electric vehicles versus natural gas.
 - Councilmember Garvey and Supervisor Boddye said hydrogen powered vehicles should possibly be considered in addition to electric gas.

Member Updates

- Karen Pallansch announced her retirement from Alexandria Renew Enterprises, saying it has been an honor to work with everyone, and her successor is Justin Carl, who has been consulting for Alexandria Renew.
- Vice Chair Boddye said that Prince William County has finished updating its comprehensive plan, which will allow for extension of sewer lines to more rural parts of the county, and an Occoquan reservoir protection overlay, similar to what Fairfax County has done.
- Councilmember Ross announced that the City of Fairfax has a new mayor and three new council members. Sustainability is going to be emphasized over the next two years. He mentioned Senator Cardin's plans to designate the Chesapeake Bay as a National Park Service National Recreational Area.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mackie adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.



PARTICIPANTS

Members and Alternates:

Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park Council
Ingrid Watson, Prince George's County Council
J. Davis, City of Greenbelt Council
Libby Garvey, Arlington County Council
Kenny Boddye, Prince William County Supervisor
Maria Mackie, Vice Chair, College Park Council
MC Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County Council
Penny Gross, Fairfax County Supervisor
Randy Gibson, City of Takoma Park Council
Susan Whitney, College Park Council
Tom Ross, City of Fairfax Council
Zach Kershner, City of Frederick Dir. of Public Works
Allison Deines, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Heather Gewandter, City of Rockville
Jessie Maines, City of Alexandria
Jonathan Champion, DOEE
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Michelle Blair, City of Laurel
Nasser Kamazani, Montgomery County

Shannon Moore, Frederick County
Steve Shofar, Montgomery County
Tiffany Wright, City of Bowie

Guests:

Jennifer Starr, Alliance for the Bay
Khandikile Sokoni, Montgomery County Council
Kyle Rodden, Charles County
Shannon Frede, Senator Cardin's office
Susie Miller, Fairfax Water
Sylvia Tognetti, Montgomery County

COG Staff:

Ata Adeel
Aubin Maynard
Christine Howard
Clark Mercer
Heidi Bonnaffon
Katie Dyer
Lisa Reynolds
Steve Bieber
Wyetha Lipford