

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee

Date: Friday, May 20, 2005

Time: 9:45 a.m. – 11:30 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. Barbara Favola
Vice Chair, Arlington County
- COG Board action on trash (*Att. 1*)
- 9:55 **2. Approval of Meeting Summary
for March 18, 2005** Vice Chair Favola
- Recommended action:** Approve DRAFT Meeting Summary (*Att. 2*).
- 10:00 **3. Summary of State Legislative Sessions**..... Pat Stuntz, MD Director
Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Update on Federal Developments** Steve Bieber, COG staff
- Ms. Stuntz will brief the committee on Bay-related legislation that emerged from the recently concluded general assembly sessions in Maryland and Virginia. Mr. Bieber will note the status of water quality funding in the legislative package for reauthorizing federal transportation funding.
- Recommended Action:** Receive briefing
- 10:30 **4. Update on Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority** Hon. Penelope Gross,
Fairfax County;
Hon. Andy Fellows, College Park

Under COG Board Resolution R11-05, Ms. Gross and Mr. Fellows were appointed by COG Board Chair J. Davis to represent COG on the Bay Program committee charged with developing the details of the regional financing authority recommended by the Blue Ribbon Finance Panel. COG has submitted an extensive set of comments from its members and raised several issues that it would like the committee to address. They will brief the members on the committee's discussions to date.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

11:00 **5. Approval of Fiscal Year 2006
Regional Water Fund Work Program and Budget**Ted Graham,
COG Water Resources Director

At its May 11, 2005, meeting, the COG Board charged the committee with oversight of the Regional Water Fund budget (formerly conducted by the Environment and Public Works Directors Committee). The Board's action (*Att. 5a*) also included expanding membership on the committee to include representatives from the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Mr. Graham will highlight elements from the work program and budget description (*Att. 5b -e*) and discuss the review of these documents by COG's Water Resources Technical Committee.

Recommended action: Adopt the FY 2006 Regional Water Fund work program and budget as presented. Account for the changed membership within the bylaws of the committee.

11:20 **6. Updates on Committee Initiatives**COG staff

- Frederick County Agricultural Forum and Tour June 10 (*Att. 6a*)
- Chesapeake Bay video
- Stormwater outreach efforts (*Att. 6b*)

Staff will provide status reports on the noted committee initiatives.

Recommended action: Receive briefing.

11:25 **7. New Business**Members

11:30 **8. Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2005, 9:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

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

Enclosures:

- | | | |
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| Item | 1 | COG Board Resolution R16-05 |
| Item | 2 | DRAFT Meeting Summary of March 18, 2005 |
| Item | 5a | COG Board Resolution R17-05 |
| | 5b | COG staff transmittal memo on budget process |
| | 5c | Proposed Final Water Resources FY 2006 Work Program and Budget |
| | 5d | Water Resources Budget spreadsheet |
| | 5e | Schedule of local government Regional Water Fund contributions for FY 2006 |
| Item | 6a | Flier for Frederick County Agricultural Forum and Tour |
| | 6b | Stormwater letter and fact sheet |

CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY COMMITTEE
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

DRAFT MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2005, MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

Members and alternates:

John Lovell, Frederick County, Chair
Barbara Favola, Arlington County, Vice Chair
Hamid Karimi, District of Columbia, Vice Chair
Penelope Gross, Fairfax County
Martin Nohe, Prince William County
Andy Fellows, College Park
Beverly Warfield, Prince George's County,
Andrew Macdonald, City of Alexandria
William Skrabak, City of Alexandria

Interested parties:

J.L. Hearn, WSSC

Guests:

Pat Stuntz, EPA Chesapeake Bay Commission

Staff:

Stuart Freudberg, DEP
Ted Graham, DEP
Steve Bieber, DEP
Brian Rustia, DEP
Tanya Spano, DEP
Karl Berger, DEP

1. Opening Remarks, Introductions

Chair John Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary for Jan. 21, 2005

Chair Lovell noted that the starting time listed in the minutes was in error. He asked staff to correct the starting time to 9:45 a.m.

3. "Chesapeake Club" Media Campaign

Chris Conner, Director of Communications for the Chesapeake Bay Program, described the media advertising campaign the Bay Program recently launched in the Washington metropolitan region. The campaign, which includes television commercials, print ads and a related Bay Program web site, is being funded by \$625,000 contributed by EPA, the District of Columbia and Virginia. Its goal is not just public awareness, Conner said, but

actually motivating people to change their behavior. The campaign's message is focused on changing the way people care for their lawns and thereby reduce fertilizer runoff that the Bay Program estimates amounts to 4.7 million pounds of nitrogen from the region's 530,000 acres of lawn. The overall effort includes a set of lawn service companies that have agreed to use the Bay Program's lawn care practices.

Ms. Gross noted that the campaign's public messages, which are in English, may need to be created in other languages, such as Spanish, as many of the lawn care workers do not speak English. She also later requested that the Bay Program provide a presentation on this campaign to the Potomac Watershed Roundtable.

Mr. Nohe noted that the Bay Program also must find a way to work with the major retail companies that sell lawn care products, so that they will have something else to market if they de-emphasize fertilizer sales.

Chair Lovell complimented the Bay Program on this effort, noting that it targets someone other than farmers for the nonpoint contribution of nutrients to the Bay.

Mr. Macdonald also praised the initiative as a way to encourage voluntary actions to help clean up the Bay. However, he added, there are occasions when mandatory measures must be taken as well.

Mr. Conner noted that the Bay Program would like to continue the campaign in the Washington area next spring, if funding for it can be found. In response, Ms. Favola noted that local governments would be interested in airing the television commercials on their local government access channels.

Action Item: COG staff will seek DVD copies of the commercials to distribute to interested local governments.

4. Report on PIOs Media Outreach Initiative

Ted Graham of COG staff reported on a recent meeting of COG's Public Information officers to discuss ways to improve public outreach of local governments' Bay-related efforts. Although no concrete initiatives have yet emerged from the group, it did recommend that COG's local governments work with existing public outreach campaigns being conducted by the Bay Program and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

After brief discussion by the committee, Ms. Favola moved that the Bay Policy Committee send a letter to COG's elected officials alerting them to the existence of these regional outreach efforts and the opportunity to continue to fund them in future years. During the discussion of this motion, Ms. Gross noted that the Blue Ribbon Finance Panel on which she served has recommended that a surcharge on fertilizer sales to home owners be imposed as a means of raising money for such outreach efforts. The panel estimated such a tax could provide \$6 million a year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Macdonald and eventually approved by the committee.

Mr. Skrabak noted that Alexandria was preparing to issue a watershed awareness month proclamation in May as a means of encouraging public involvement in clean-up efforts. He suggested that other governments in the region may want to do so as well. This item was deferred until later in the meeting.

Action Item: COG staff will work with Ms. Favola to craft a letter to the region's elected officials alerting them to the existence of regional outreach campaigns and encouraging further involvement in future years.

5. **Blue Ribbon Panel Report Recommendation**

Steve Bieber of COG staff summarized COG's involvement to date in the effort to find new funding sources for Bay restoration work and, in particular, in the work of the Blue Ribbon panel. He reminded the committee that a letter was sent under the signature of previous chair Vincent Orange requesting representation on the committee the Bay Program was forming to implement the Blue Ribbon Panel's main recommendation – the establishment of a regional financing authority. He said COG had received a favorable response to this request from the Bay Program inviting it to send several representatives.

Ms. Gross, noting COG's history of seeking local government representation in Bay Program forums, moved that COG appoint at least two members to this new committee, one from Maryland and one from Virginia. (Mr. Bieber had noted that the District will be represented as a Bay Program partner jurisdiction.) This motion was seconded by Mr. Macdonald. The motion was approved.

Staff noted that COG Board Chair J Davis will likely make the appointments at the COG Board meeting of April 13, after several scheduled activities of the new committee. Staff suggested that potential candidates for these slots participate in these activities in expectation of official appointment by COG.

Action Item: Chair Lovell asked that any committee member interested in participating on this new Bay Program committee contact staff.

The second part of the discussion on this item focused on the member comments COG had solicited on the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations. Staff had distributed a summary of those comments received to date from seven members indicating that most comments focused on the regional authority recommendation and further that all of the comments supported the establishment of such an authority, albeit with several caveats.

Chair Lovell and Mr. Macdonald, respectively, noted that Frederick County and the City of Alexandria were still preparing comments for submission to COG.

Mr. Karimi noted that the regional authority recommendation assumes that the major share of its funding would come from the federal government but that lobbying efforts to date by members of the Chesapeake Executive Council has been unsuccessful. Mr. Bieber noted that a parallel effort is underway to lobby congressional official and suggested that COG support those efforts.

The committee discussion then focused on how to translate the member comments into a recommendation to the COG Board, given the need to do so by the April 13 Board meeting. The committee provided a general endorsement of the regional authority recommendation, pending any further comments from the member. COG staff was instructed to prepare several letters to this effect for further review by the committee.

Action Item: COG staff will draft a letter transmitting COG's support for the creation of a regional financing authority, a letter to Congress supporting the approval of federal funds for such an authority and a letter appointing COG representatives to the new Bay Program committee charged with developing the details of the authority. These letters shall be reviewed by the Bay Policy executive committee members and then by the full committee before transmittal to the Board.

6. **Update on Plans for Agricultural Forum**

Karl Berger of COG staff distributed a concept proposal for a farm forum in Frederick County as was discussed at the January meeting. He said the forum would be designed to encourage a dialogue between committee members and the farm community and would include a morning meeting and an afternoon tour.

Mr. Karimi suggested that representatives of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Association of Conservation District be invited to participate. Mr. Lovell said that the main idea of the event is to meet with the farmers who are faced with actual installation of water quality best management practices.

Ms. Gross praised the initiative, noting that she has long advocated getting together with counterparts in the rural community to discuss how to work together on Bay clean-up measures.

7. Regional Water Fund Budget and Committee Membership

Mr. Graham distributed a memo on behalf of COG's Water Resources Technical Committee asking the committee to recommend to the COG Board that oversight for COG's Regional Water Fund work program and budget be shifted from the Environment and Public Works Directors Committee to the Bay Policy Committee. The committee approved this recommendation.

Chair Lovell asked that staff provide a presentation on the budget process to the committee at the May meeting.

Action Item: Pending COG Board approval of this change, staff will provide a presentation on the Regional Water Fund budget process at the May meeting of the committee.

8. Old Business

Mr. Graham noted that the implementation plans that the states are supposed to provide as an accompaniment to their tributary strategies have not yet been issued.

9. New Business

The committee reconsidered the suggestion of Mr. Skrabak that it encourage member jurisdictions to join Alexandria in adopting May as "watershed awareness month." Ms. Favola recommended that mention be made of this initiative in the stormwater outreach letter agreed to as an action item under agenda item #4.

Mr. Macdonald noted that he currently serves as chair of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin and noted several upcoming initiatives in which committee members may be interested. In July, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Commission will sponsor a "sojourn" on the Potomac to highlight water quality issues. On Aug. 12, 2005, the Commission will hold a technical conference on the Potomac at the George Mason University campus in Prince William County.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4239

**RESOLUTION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION TO
REDUCE TRASH IN THE POTOMAC RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Potomac River and its many tributaries are a vital recreational resource for the region and a key contributor to the region's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, this resource is severely degraded by the many forms of trash that float on the surface and collect on the shorelines of these rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, the Alice Ferguson Foundation (the Foundation), located in Accokeek, Maryland on the shores of the Potomac River, is a non-profit organization with a mission to "provide experiences that encourage connections between people, the natural environment, farming and the cultural heritage of the Potomac River Watershed, which lead to personal environmental responsibility;" and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has sponsored watershed cleanups throughout the Potomac watershed for 17 years; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation sponsored the signing of the "Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty" on March 28, 2005, by elected officials of six jurisdictions in the Potomac watershed; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board at its meeting of April 13, 2005 indicated its interest in the goals of the trash Treaty and directed the COG staff to initiate a dialog with the Foundation to explore opportunities for assist with their efforts to reduce trash; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the Foundation presented a history of their involvement with their efforts to reduce trash and their vision for a "Trash Free Potomac by 2013;" and

WHEREAS, the COG Board wishes to provide regional support in pursuit of this vision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Chair of the Board transmit a letter to the Alice Ferguson Foundation commending them for their ongoing efforts to reduce trash on the Potomac River and indicating a desire to support their efforts in the future, including expanding the list of signatory jurisdictions to the Trash Treaty;
2. The Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, with support from the COG staff and the Water Resources Technical Committee, develop a set of recommendations for consideration by the COG Board on how to work most effectively with the Foundation in pursuit of their vision; and
3. Bring these recommendations back to the COG Board for consideration as soon as possible but no later than September, 2005.
