



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY-DRAFT

May 17, 2019

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/5/17/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee-meeting/>

DECISIONS & ACTIONS

- The FY 2020 Regional Water Fund Work Program and Budget was approved by members.
- Members supported a CBPC letter to the Bay Program's Principal Staff's Committee with generalized comments on the Phase III WIPs. Cindy Dyballa, Jon Stehle, Karen Pallansch, and Matt Reis have agreed to review the letter.
- Members supported the proposed COG regional next steps on road salts, including a letter from the CBPC to the Chesapeake Bay Program requesting monitoring for chlorides be added to their monitoring program.

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Chair Dyballa called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

- She commented that this is National Infrastructure Week and the National League of Cities has been posting related information.
- It is Bike to Work Day; several committee members biked to work.
- Cindy thanked Vice Chair Stehle for his presentation of the Potomac Report to the COG Board and stated that Mr. Stehle reported positive reception from the Board. Cindy noted that the Potomac Conservancy has a bottlenose dolphin naming contest underway. Members asked for more details about bottlenose dolphins in the Potomac.

2. CBPC MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

The Summary from the March CBPC Meeting was approved.

3. 2020 REGIONAL WATER FUND WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET APPROVAL

Mr. Bieber gave brief remarks regarding the FY '20 Regional Water Fund (RWF) Work Program & Budget (WP & B), before opening for comment and approval. He said:

- The draft Work Program & Budget was presented to the CBPC at their March meeting, along with its abbreviated level of effort document.
- Since that time, the Work Program & Budget has had a few comments incorporated and it was reviewed by the WRTC at their May meeting.
- The RWF program funding is consistent with the funding approved by the COG Board.

After a few comments (below), the FY '20 Work Program and Budget was approved by the CBPC committee.

Member comments:

- Could COG staff provide a CBPC briefing on the ICPRB water co-op, water security, water forecasting and drought linkages? Yes, COG would be glad to provide water and wastewater capacity projections and details of regional coordination efforts at a future CBPC meeting.
- The pie charts of programs (pg. 9) were helpful. However, in the future could staff separate the water security and outreach pie pieces? Mr. Bieber replied that yes, we can make those distinctions in next year's Work Program and Budget.

- What are the Work Program's performance measures? Mr. Bieber replied that the Anacostia Partnership has developed a dashboard of metrics for measuring Anacostia progress. Similarly, COG would like to work with members to develop a set of metrics or indicators to track for Potomac water quality.
- In future work plans could COG articulate the value and activities of the CBPC? Ms. Garvey replied that the CBPC serves as a forum for meeting with other members and for receiving information about policy issues. The CBPC tracks legislative issues and comments on federal and state water quality issues. Mr. Bieber replied that COG wants to serve in a capacity that members believe to be most important.

4. BAY WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (DRAFT PHASE III WIPS) REVIEW AND COMMENT

Mr. Berger presented highlights of draft Maryland and Virginia Phase III WIPs and provided an overview of drafted comments on behalf of the CBPC. He said that:

- Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia are projected to meet their nutrient reduction targets for 2025 due to wastewater plant upgrades and related nutrient load reductions that are expected to allow each jurisdiction to achieve the 2025 cap loads. Currently, the COG region is 4 M lbs. below the cap for nitrogen, due to wastewater performance. That margin is expected to shrink as population grows.
- The Maryland WIP is heavily reliant on the agricultural sector making nutrient reductions, via cover crops.
- Mr. Berger cautioned that the agricultural best management practices (BMPs) are voluntary and incentive-based. Maryland has a cost-share program via the Bay Restoration Fund.
- Stormwater's most significant nutrient impacts are phosphorus and sediments.
- In Virginia, the draft WIP has quantified climate change impacts (meaning that there will be 1.7 M lb. nitrogen reduction goal versus the 1.1 M lb. reduction needed without factoring in climate change).
- A big challenge in Virginia will be installing stormwater BMPs on unregulated developed land, which will need state funding support.
- Virginia's agricultural sector is focused on fertilizers, forest buffers, and living shorelines.

Member comments:

- Members recommended adding an opening section to the drafted comments to explain why we care about local water quality and its economic value.
- Members advised adding an agricultural comment: It's good that the WIPs are planning for agricultural reductions, but there needs to be funding and other incentives for them to succeed.
- Members recommended an addition to the stormwater comment: Bay requirements should not be the sole driver, given that the stormwater permits must also address local water quality issues (i.e., trash, flooding, bacteria, climate change).
- Climate change: While we know that climate change will compound flooding and other stormwater issues, there is uncertainty in the Bay model's added nutrient pounds.
- We need to project beyond 2025: Prepare for population growth and make wise growth decisions

5. PREPARATIONS FOR CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK (JUNE 1-9)

Jon Stehle, City of Fairfax

- “All Hands” is the theme this year and details are in the Outreach Plan (provided).
- Main ways CBPC members can participate:
 - Add events to the events calendar
 - Share videos and photos
 - Proclamations
 - Activity on social media, particularly on June 5 (Local government focus)

6. SALTS: COG’S ROLES AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Ms. Bonnaffon presented the highlights and proposed next steps from COG’s salts workshop held on April 1. Her highlights included:

- The workshop had excellent turnout, with an attendance of 85 people.
- The keynote speakers pointed out that salt use is up 40x nationally since the 1940s and has doubled since the 1980s.
- Chlorides are toxic to aquatic life, and sodium levels are creeping up in drinking water as well. Salts also cause corrosion of bridges and vehicles and are harmful to trees and other vegetation.
- The next round of stormwater MS4 permits in Maryland will require salts monitoring.
- Next steps for COG include:
 - Work with the northern Virginia Salt Management Strategy work group to develop a public survey (northern Virginia jurisdictions) to gauge knowledge and behaviors about salts. This is a first step for developing education and outreach materials, which ultimately could be applied regionally.
 - Write a CBPC letter to the Chesapeake Bay Program requesting that the Bay Program add chloride monitoring to their monitoring suite.
 - Work with state partners to develop a regional salts management training program for salt applicators, similar to the Maryland State Highway Administration’s snow college.

Member discussion:

- A member recommended that COG could work with the HOAs via the Community Association Institute, as a means to engage with the applicators for private parking lots and sidewalks.
- Another member recommended that COG should hold a salt summit to focus before the first snow fall.
- A member asked how other states are managing public expectations. Ms. Bonnaffon said she would need to research.
- A member stated that high salt concentrations are being found in some private wells and Maryland is investigating whether there is a correlation with salt applications on nearby roads.

7. AG TASK FORCE REPORT OUT

Councilmember Rice, Montgomery County, one of the CBPC Ag Task Force members, updated the full committee on the Task Force’s assessment of regional interest, capacity, and resources to implement the recommendations in COG’s *What Our Region Grows Report*. The Task Force anticipates a report and recommendations for moving forward in July.

Mr. Rice emphasized:

- The critical timing for the ag report, given the recent April ag census data showing regional ag land has dropped below the targeted agricultural land preservation goal. Agricultural land is pitted against developers for housing and other workforce development issues.

- Agriculture is important to the metropolitan Washington economy; the agricultural sector accounts for \$5.5 B in the District of Columbia alone.
- COG has a role to serve at the forefront to share regional agricultural best practices
 - Urban ag opportunities
 - Workforce development, particularly young, immigrant populations
 - Ag water quality BMPs, such as cover crops

Member discussion:

- Members are intrigued by the recent rise of distilleries as an agricultural offshoot.
- Per the April ag census data, they also said they are interested in keeping ag local:
 - As climate changes affect California, the mid-West, and other primary national produce suppliers, it is in our region's interest to be self-sustaining.
 - There are job benefits of sustaining agriculture locally. There are agricultural jobs, especially for diverse and immigrant populations; but also restaurant jobs (farm to table)
- Members discussed supporting funding for ag (state and fed) cost share programs
- Members discussed the irony of vacant office buildings while meanwhile fertile crop land is being developed. Two things out of that: Urban ag is happening in courtyards and vacant offices (Arlington Co. is an example of that), and there is a need to make sure zoning encourages ag land preservation.
- Ms. Pallansch shared that wastewater treatment plant grey water could be reused to water ag lands, particularly urban agriculture.

8. MEMBER AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Matt Reis announced that DC Water is having a public open house of its new LEED headquarters building on May 30 from 3-7 p.m.
- Craig Rice said that the "safe grow" court case was ruled in favor of Montgomery County's pesticide ban. There may be an appeal, and the ban could be strengthened by other member jurisdictions also putting pesticide bans into effect.
- Steve Bieber shared that Steve Walz's family experienced a tragic loss of their son Eric Walz. Cindy Dyballa will be sending a condolence card on behalf of the CBPC members.

9. WRAP UP & ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Dyballa wrapped up the meeting by saying that the CBPC has meet the deliverables in the task list developed out of the September 2018 Forum with EPA and the states. The July 26th meeting will be a joint meeting with CEEPC, and Chair Dyballa encouraged members to stay for lunch as a chance to talk with other members. She adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates:

Cindy Dyballa, Chair, Takoma Park
Craig Rice, Montgomery County
Dan Sze, Falls Church
J. Davis, Greenbelt
Karen Gooden, Prince George's County
Jon Stehle, City of Fairfax
Libby Garvey, Arlington County
Mark Charles, Rockville (phone)
Shannon Moore, Frederick County (phone)
Steve Shofar, Montgomery County
Joel Caudill, WSSC

Karen Pallansch Alexandria Renew
Jeffrey Seltzer, DOEE
Matt Ries, DC Water
Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
Tiffany Wright, Bowie (phone)

Guests:

Stephen Allen, Laurel

COG Staff:

Brian LeCouteur
Christine Howard
Heidi Bonnaffon
Karl Berger
Steve Bieber