



CHESAPEAKE BAY & WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY- Draft
July 28, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, & OPENING REMARKS

A. Chair Sze called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., and:

- Welcomed CBPC and WRTC members participating in the water-climate discussion
- Welcomed Joel Caudill (phone) who is a new CBPC member (representing WSSC since J. L. Hearn's retirement).
- Emphasized the importance of understanding complex climate issues, and thanked Ms. Johnson for coming today to share what the CBP is doing to assess climate impacts to the Bay.
- Mentioned the June COG Board Resolution and CBPC letter in support of continued CBP funding, noting that other large watersheds also depend on Federal help to coordinate and assist; we could support one another. For example, besides the Chesapeake Bay, there are the Great Lakes, the Mississippi Delta, and the San Francisco Bay area.
- Announced that there are Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) boat tours scheduled for August 8 and 9 from Alexandria, and that Ms. Bonnaffon would share the details. He said that he went on the CBF Potomac boat ride last year, and it is a good opportunity to see first-hand the types of water resource issues that the CBPC addresses

B. Ms. Spano:

- Reviewed the status of the CBP Midpoint Assessment Calendar (handout), namely that the key decisions include allocating the Conowingo Dam loads, accounting for growth, and accounting for climate change impacts. There will be opportunity to provide CBPC input to the Bay Partnership in September on when and how to incorporate this new information and loadings.
- Referenced the FY '18 EPA/CBP Federal Appropriations' status handout, noting there is some optimism that the House is proposing \$60 M in appropriations for the CBP,
- Announced the Army Corps Study/press release where COG will be working with the Army Corps to plan for climate and flood control, and
- Noted that COG's Tree Canopy Management Strategy draft report is out for public review, so please submit comments to Brian LeCouteur by Aug. 25 (see General Updates for details).

Member discussion:

- Mr. Karimi said it would be helpful if COG staff could analyze the technical information on the Conowingo Dam and how it may be translated into policy, and share the information with members.
- Chair Sze and Ms. Spano agreed that COG staff would hold a webinar briefing for members prior to the September 15th Forum to inform them of those technical and policy issues.

2. APPROVAL OF DRAFT SUMMARY FROM NOVEMBER 18TH CBPC MEETING

The draft summary of the May 19, 2017 meeting was approved as submitted.

3. CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM: WATER-CLIMATE IMPACTS

Ms. Johnson provided highlights of the Chesapeake Bay Program climate modeling efforts and initial water quality findings, and work being done on BMP co-benefits siting and design considerations.

- The 2014 Bay Agreement was the first-time climate goals were established, along with two outcomes: A Monitoring and Assessment Outcome, and an Adaptation Outcome.
- Ms. Johnson said that NOAA and the CBP are modeling an increase in annual precipitation, an increase in sea level rise and land subsidence, and an increase in temperature. It is a complex picture, to measure impacts to water quality standards (via nutrient and sediment loads), and to analyze how can we adaptively manage to protect the Bay.
- The Bay's Watershed and Water Quality models are being used to assess climate impacts to the Bay's water quality standards - by 2025, and by 2050. In these early model runs, climate results appear to be negligible by 2025, but the impacts intensify by 2050.
- At this time, there are two policy options for handling potential climate impacts by 2025 in the Phase III WIPs:
 - Quantitative: Factoring in climate change load impacts by 2025 by adding new loads that the jurisdictions would be required to address in their Phase III WIPs planning targets. This would increase the level of effort for local jurisdictions.
 - Qualitative: During Phase III WIP development, jurisdictions would provide a narrative in their Phase III WIPs that would describe their commitments to address climate change, such as prioritizing BMPs that are more resilient to climate impacts.
- Areas for future CBPC engagement on these matters includes:
 - Policy dialogues about the Midpoint assessment and development of the Phase III WIPs
 - Identifying technical assistance needs.
 - Member participation in an invitation-only CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) workshop on September 7-8th in Annapolis to further understand the impacts of climate changes on BMP effectiveness. CBPC members expressed a desire to participate in that workshop, and Ms. Johnson agreed to coordinate with COG staff to invite COG members

See Ms. Johnson's PowerPoint for more details.

Member discussion:

- Mr. Ortiz asked whether, in future presentations, the projected change in temperature could be converted to Fahrenheit versus Celsius.
- Mr. Ortiz asked whether, for sea level rise and precipitation, the CBP uses historical data and trends to make projections. He also asked whether the change in sea level rise is expected to be a steady increase, or if there could be episodic increases.
- Ms. Johnson replied that:
 - She can present temperature information in degrees Fahrenheit;
 - The CBP uses a suite of climate change indicators, and
 - Precipitation is stochastic-based on pulse events such as *el Niño's*, *la Ninjas*, etc., and
 - Sea level rise is not steady state.
- Mr. Ortiz asked if there are only modest changes in loadings by 2025, what is the push back on the quantitative addition of climate by 2025?
- Ms. Johnson replied that the climate modeling and the projections have uncertainty and that the Conowingo Dam loadings are already expected to significantly increase the level of effort for local jurisdictions.
- Mr. Karimi asked whether, besides addressing combined sewer overflows, what else can wastewater treatment plants do to prepare for climate change? What is the CBP recommending in preparation for urban conditions (e.g., flooding, etc.)?

- Ms. Johnson replied that the Bay Partnership is looking at a suite of practices that could be included in the context of the WIPs, including the STAC workshop focused on designing for the future versus retrofitting BMPs, and considerations of green infrastructure, public safety, etc. in the context of WIPs.
- Mr. Maldonado inquired how will the change in climate impact (e.g., extreme rain) impact the efficiency of BMPs currently being planned and installed, and what will be the costs to retrofit these? He noted that there are a variety of BMPs being employed including ag, forest, bioretention ponds, and infiltration, but it will be very helpful to get the STAC and CBP guidance on which BMPs are expected to be most effective in the future.
- Ms. Garvey said it would be helpful if CBP could offer guidance on how to implement projects cheaper. For example, stream restoration projects in Arlington County are so expensive.
- Ms. Davis inquired whether the changing policy at the Federal level are impacting the CBP Administration.
- Ms. Johnson replied not yet. The focus may be more on hazards mitigation (a different approach and messaging than climate change per se), but many activities will achieve the same result.

4. GENERAL UPDATES

A. Featured Member Program/Activity Highlights

Kate Johnson, DOEE, provided highlights of the District of Columbia's Climate Resiliency Plan

- Ms. Johnson opened by explaining that the development of Climate Ready DC was a two year, 3-step process:
 - 1) Analyze climate change impacts based on projections of increased heat, temperature and precipitation,
 - 2) Develop planning scenarios for vulnerability and risk assessment,
 - 3) Identify the infrastructure, facilities, and populations most at risk, and
 - 4) Identify and prioritize solutions.
- One example she provided is how the District of Columbia is planning for resilience and was to plan installation of microgrids to increase reliability and resilience, but in addition also implemented the installation of light colored "cool roofs" and flood proof facilities.
- Also, that in June, Mayor Bowser adopted the Paris Climate Agreement.
See Ms. Johnson's Power Point for complete details.

Member discussion:

- Ms. Garvey asked for clarification about the "Resilience Officer" position established for the District of Columbia.
- Ms. Johnson explained that the District of Columbia was chosen as one of the cities for the Rockefeller Foundation's "100 Resilient Cities," focused on all hazard mitigation.
- Ms. Feldt asked what support went into development of the Plan?
- Ms. Johnson said DOEE was awarded \$250,000, from the Sustainable DC Innovation Fund, to assist with the Climate Ready DC plan development.

B. Member Updates

- Mr. Rice announced that Montgomery County wrote a letter to Governor Hogan advocating for a further 5% reduction in the Green House Gas Reduction Goal for the

state. Montgomery County is already on target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. Mr. Rice emphasized while we need to discuss adaptation, it is also important to continue initiatives to reduce/slow climate change.

- Mr. Ortiz announced that as of June he is the Chair for the Anacostia Watershed Partnership. A focus area includes a watershed wide dashboard map of stream health, and messaging about the Anacostia River. He also plans to bridge information sharing between these committees; and will work with COG staff on scheduling another Anacostia update to the CBPC.
- Chair Sze announced that the Virginia Municipal League will ask support for sponsorship for legislation pertaining to a ban on plastic bags and polystyrene, wipes labeling legislation, like Maryland's, and to request Dominion to develop a plan to address coal ash.

5. CBPC PLANNING: BAY AND WATER QUALITY FORUM & BAY ECONOMIC PANEL

A. EPA and Water Quality Forum

Ms. Spano said that the focus of the upcoming Forum will be to align EPA, state and local perspectives and priorities on the key topics of consideration (Conowingo Dam, growth and climate); for COG members to communication positions based on Policy Principles and holistic consideration of the issues; and to prepare for the Phase III WIPs development.

B. November Water Quality and Economic Panel

Ms. Bonnaffon provided context for the November 17th meeting on Economic Benefits of Local Waters and the Bay, by mentioning that COG staff is lining up a local restaurateur to share how the local seafood industry has benefited her and how she in turn has created jobs; Adam Ortiz will share information about Prince George's stormwater jobs creation; and staff are arranging for the Waterfront Business Improvement District, or the like, to provide details about how the Anacostia River waterfront is becoming a magnet for development.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

The next CBPC meeting will be on **Friday, September 15** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at COG.

ATTENDANCE:

Members and Alternates:

Adam Ortiz, Prince George's County
Craig Rice, Montgomery County
Dan Sze, Chair, Falls Church
Hamid Karimi, Vice Chair, DOEE
J. Davis, Greenbelt
Joel Caudill, WSSC (phone)
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew
Enterprises
Libby Garvey, Arlington County
Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County
Tim Lovain, Alexandria

Guests:

Darold Burdick, Fairfax County
Dipmani Kumar, Fairfax County
Jerry Maldonado, Prince George's County
Kate Johnson, DOEE
Lauren Pitts, Dept. of Justice
Zoe Johnson, NOAA
COG Staff:
Heidi Bonnaffon, DEP
Steve Walz, DEP Director
Tanya Spano, DEP

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