

## Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee

JOINT MEETING SUMMARY: JULY 27, 2016 – **DRAFT**

### CBPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Dan Sze, Falls Church (Vice Chair) ‡
- Judith Davis, City of Greenbelt
- Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County ‡
- Penny Gross, Fairfax County ‡
- J. L. Hearn, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
- Maureen Holman, DC Water ‡ o
- Hamid Karimi, DC Department of Energy and the Environment
- Jerry Maldonado, Prince George's County
- Christine Nagle, City of College Park
- Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew o
- Julie Palakovich Carr, City of Rockville ‡\*
- Mark Peterson, Loudoun Water

### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Penny Gross, Fairfax County (Chair) ‡
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Michael Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools \*
- Nick Bonard, National Capitol Planning Commission
- Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County ‡
- Konrad Herling, City of Greenbelt
- Maureen Holman, DC Water ‡
- George Nichols, DC Sustainable Energy Utility
- Julie Palakovich Carr, City of Rockville ‡\*
- Del Pepper, Alexandria \*
- Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Tim Stevens, Virginia Sierra Club
- Dan Sze, Falls Church ‡
- Ted Trabue, DC Sustainable Energy Utility
- Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair
- Colleen Turner, MD Department of Transportation \*
- Kathryn Zyla, Georgetown Climate Center

### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Alexis Blakely, DC Sustainable Energy Utility
- Allison Deines, Water Environment and Reuse Foundation (WE&RF) o
- Emily Dorrance, National Capitol Planning Commission
- Lauren Fillmore, Water Environment and Reuse Foundation (WE&RF) o
- Alexis Goggans, DC Department of Energy and the Environment
- Judson Grief, US Water Alliance

- Saul Kinter, DC Water
- Brenna Mannion, National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Shawn O'Neill, Fairfax Water
- Matt Ries, Water Environment Federation
- Kevin Selock, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
- Chris Somers, Arlington County
- Kristina Surfus, National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Beate Wright, Water Research Foundation
- Harry Zhang, Water Environment Research Foundation

**COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Steve Walz, Director, COG Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Environmental Programs
- Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Tanya Spano, COG Environmental Programs
- Madison Wagner, COG Environmental Programs
- Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs

(\*) Indicates participation by phone

(‡) Indicates member serving on both CBPC and CEEPC

(o) Indicates speakers or panel members

**1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS**

This meeting marks the second joint policy committee meeting of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC). CEEPC Chair Penny Gross and CBPC Vice Chair Dan Sze called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and facilitated introductions. Chair Gross noted that the first joint policy committee meeting, three years ago, successfully brought to light commonalities between the missions of the two committees. This meeting will further that conversation and showcase innovations, challenges, and opportunities within the water-energy nexus.

**2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. CEEPC Approval of Draft Meeting Summary from May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016** *(Penny Gross, Chair)*

**Action:** CEEPC Quorum present, draft Meeting Summary approved

**B. CBPC Approval of Draft Meeting Summary from March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016** *(Dan Sze, Vice Chair)*

**Action:** CBPC Quorum present, draft Meeting Summary approved

**3. INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, AND SHARED OBJECTIVES – SETTING THE STAGE**

*Penny Gross, CEEPC Chair*

*Dan Sze, CBPC Vice Chair*

*Steve Walz, COG DEP Director*

CEEPC Chair Gross reviewed the status of the Regional Climate and Energy Plan update. This short term action strategy identifies a menu of actions that local governments can implement to ultimately reach the long-term regional goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2050 (from the 2005 baseline levels). The third iteration of the Action Plan for 2017-2020 is currently being developed. The update is incorporating the work coming out of the Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Emission Work

Group as well as utilizing information from water utilities. Chair Gross noted today's presentations are timely to influence the Action Plan update.

CEEPC Chair Gross also reported on the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Forum, which was held at the University of Maryland on April 25-26, 2016. Speaking in her capacity as a member of the CBPC's Local Government Advisory Committee perspective, she emphasized that financing continues to be a critical element to ensure restoration of the Bay; and noted that the report from the Environmental Finance forum is being edited now, so is expected out soon.

CBPC Vice Chair Size reviewed the history and key objectives of the CBPC. CBPC's initial focus on was solely on Bay issues but has expanded its focus to cover a broader range of regional water issues, including those that have links to CEEPC's mission. One such nexus between the missions of the CBPC and CEEPC that he noted was a new Chesapeake Bay Program Policy Principle on flexibility and innovation that both committees will be asked to endorse later in the agenda.

CBPC Vice Chair Size noted that the CBPC's next meeting will be its sixth annual Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Forum held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and will include participants from the EPA and the states. As usual, this forum will address water resource and water sector issues of importance to the COG region, including the call for a holistic and equitable solution for policies and legislation.

DEP Director Steve Walz reviewed the recent COG Federal Lab-to-Market Forum for Water and Energy Infrastructure held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. The goal of the forum was to address the need for technology transfer to support the region's economy, sustainability, and resiliency. The Forum featured emergent research from seven federal labs and was designed to bridge the gap between research and local governments and private markets.

The COG region is home to a lot of research, which is often under estimated, and much of it is federally funded. Utilizing labs more frequently is important, as well as finding connections for localized venture. Next steps include exploring the possibility of a regional water technology innovation cluster forum (which could include cyber technologies), and investigation of further usage and facilitation of federal laboratory technology that could be used by businesses and other sectors in the COG region. Ms. Spano noted that the concept of such a cluster would be consistent with COG's early historical role as the designated EPA 208 water planning agency for the region.

### Discussion

- Mr. Karimi emphasized ongoing concerns regarding the District's reliance on the Potomac River as a single source of drinking water, and encouraged staff to coordinate with ICPRB on these matters.
- Mr. Walz confirmed that staff would do so, and noted that on August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Water Security Workgroup will be addressing alternate supply sources for the region – and that the results of that effort will be brought back to CBPC.
- Ms. Feldt reported that the Whitehouse Council of Environmental Quality and the Office of Management and Budget recently discussed innovative solutions to water and energy issues, and included many local and state representatives. She agreed to keep both COG committees apprised of developments from this process.
- Mr. Walz responded to Ms. Davis' question about whether the issue of proprietary information was raised during the Lab-to-Market Forum; noting that each lab addresses this issue, but treats the transfer of technology and intellectual property from federal labs and universities into the public sector differently.

#### 4. WATER, ENERGY, & CLIMATE – WATER SECTOR

##### A. TOWARDS 'ENERGY NEUTRALITY' – RESULTS AND FINDINGS OF RECENT RESEARCH

*Allison Deines - Director, Special Projects, Water Environment and Reuse Foundation (WE&RF)*

*Lauren Fillmore - Senior Program Director, WE&RF*

Ms. Deines provided an overview of WE&RF. WE&RF is a 501c national non-profit out of Alexandria that identifies, supports, and disseminates water research, averaging 40-50 innovative projects and 35-40 technical reports per year. WE&RF's subscribers overlap with COG membership - seven COG local governments/wastewater utilities are WE&RF members that help provide approximately \$200,000 a year in research funds to WE&RF. In most cases, they are national leaders in technology and innovation with regard to energy neutrality and implementing best practices for energy in the water sector.

Nationally, the combined drinking water and wastewater sector is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest industry for energy usage, with one-third of that energy used by wastewater, and the remaining two-thirds used by drinking water. The greatest energy use from the wastewater sector is aeration (60%), whereas the greatest energy use for drinking water treatment and supply is for all pumping (84%). WE&RF has been providing dedicated energy research for the water sector for about ten years to help the water sector reduce understand how to energy demand and increase energy recovery opportunities.

Ms. Fillmore provided details on WE&RF's recent research that has focused on net-zero energy usage, and balancing energy demands with recovery at wastewater plants. The research provides insight to the opportunities and work needed in this sector to recover some of this energy. One WE&RF study evaluated 25 scenarios to identify 'potentially recoverable' energy in the wastewater process. The research has shown that potentially up to five times more energy is stored in wastewater than is required for its treatment. The potential energy recovery includes:

- Energy that is stored as heat can be as much 80%, which is why 'thermal heat recovery' is a major area of focus.
- Conversion of influent chemical energy to digester gas can be as much as 33%.
- Improved utilization of 'supplemental carbon' or use of internal carbon sources (to aid in advanced nutrient treatment processes).

WE&RF developed a Net-Zero Energy Solutions Guide that shows how best practices at typical wastewater operations could reduce energy demand on average by 40%. However, there are limitations and challenges to easily accomplishing that level of energy demand reductions. For instance, there are strict nutrient permit requirements in this region (i.e., for Chesapeake Bay) and, generally speaking, the greater the nutrient removal required, the more energy intensive the process. In other words, energy recovery opportunities decrease as utilities adopt Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) technologies.

Alex Renew and DC Water are pioneers in addressing this challenge is by adding emergent technologies to their processes (i.e. 'short-cut' nitrogen removal). 'Shortcut' nitrogen removal processes increase efficiency in enhanced nutrient removal by removing a step in the traditional treatment process (i.e. instead of nitrifying ammonia and then denitrifying later, this process replaces nitrification and denitrification with single-step deammonification). Shortcut nitrogen removal practices can cut up to 40% of energy use, but often requires capital investments since it must be coupled with other practices such as enhanced carbon management, enhanced anaerobic digestion often with the addition of combined heat and power (CHP) facilities, and development of processes to recover remaining energy from bio-solids.

The bottom line is that implementation of best practices can reduce energy demand but not achieve energy neutrality. WE&RF's next steps and ongoing research needs will continue to address that gap through maximizing carbon management and increasing energy recovery. WE&RF noted that additional projects to address energy recovery (which are applicable to drinking water and wastewater facilities) include use of:

- Solar panels (on-site) and wind energy
- Geothermal power
- Strategic electric power demand management
- Microgrid technology
- Equipment and technology improvements/upgrades
- Use of best practices

WE&RF also noted that they collaborate with others, such as Water Research Foundation, to evaluate specific opportunities for decreasing energy usage/demand for drinking water operations, which can include reduction of water losses, use of more efficient pump systems, and use of turbines to recovery energy.

### Discussion

- Ms. Fillmore addressed questions about the relationship between costs and regulations, and their report findings, noting that:
  - Research has been conducted to determine how cost can play a role in decision making.
  - The use of life-cycle cost recovery over a 20 to 30-year time horizon more accurately reflects the financial implications of and utilization of these major public assets - versus focusing only on the initial capital cost investments.
  - Developers of technologies may be constrained if they only consider how they fit into current regulations.
  - While many new technologies may not fit into the current regulatory landscape, they can be used in conjunction with other processes like shortcut carbon capture to optimize efficiency.
- She also addressed questions about wastewater technologies used to meet sustainability objectives (especially in the Bay watershed), noting:
  - EPA has guidelines on incorporating sustainability practices, but it is often a challenge to implement given multi-jurisdictional inconsistencies.
  - The metropolitan Washington region has been leading in innovative design.
  - WE&RF and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) have partnered to produce the Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology (LIFT) Program to pursued many of these ideas. Where WEF has lead the discussion around people and policy, while WE&RF produces research products about regulatory models from around the world, including analysis of effectiveness and the influence of plant design.
- Ms. Spano noted as an example the success of the wastewater sector in the Bay watershed, the recent EPA press event celebrating this success, and the presence of several COG wastewater representatives. And cited the plans for COG to help organize an updated 'limits of wastewater technology' workshop in the coming year.
- Ms. Fillmore addressed specific questions about the use of biogas, noting:
  - It is being considered as a renewable component of natural gas infrastructure.
  - Studies have shown that biogas from the wastewater sector is much cleaner than landfill gas.
  - Cleanup technology has advanced greatly so that this contribution can likely increase over time.
- Ms. Fillmore also addressed questions regarding other energy recovery mechanisms, noting:
  - In-pipe turbines are being used in conjunction with surface based turbines.

- Solar installations can be utilized anywhere there is a public space.
- Evaluating the potential energy recover from stormwater management is an evolving issue (a potential topic for a future meeting)
- CEEPC Chair Gross thanked the speakers and noted that she felt that such a discussion at the Chesapeake Bay Programs' LGAC could be very informative.

## B. LOCAL WATER UTILITY PERSPECTIVES & OPPORTUNITIES – PANEL DISCUSSION

*Karen Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer, Alexandria Renew*

*Maureen Holman, Sustainability Chief, DC Water*

*Shawn O'Neill, Energy Programs Manager, Fairfax Water and Energy*

*Kevin Selock, Production Team and Parkway Plant Manager, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission*

The purpose of the panel members was to highlight the many ongoing and promising innovative actions to address energy at both drinking water and wastewater facilities and systems in the COG region.

**Alexandria Renew** - Ms. Pallansch provided an overview of the Alexandria Renew facility and its challenges. The authority is an independent regional authority created in 1952 to treat wastewater from most of Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County; and treats an average of 38 million gallons per day, and upwards of 120 million gallons during some rainstorms. Physically, the facility is located in a dense urban area, sits on 33 acres, and is bounded by a cemetery, a creek, the Capital Beltway, and a Dominion substation. The structures range from 130 feet tall to four stories below the surface. All of these physical constraints create challenges for repairing and replacing infrastructure, and increases capital and operations and maintenance costs, much of which the authority has less control over.

Alex Renew works hard to achieve fiscally sustainability and rate stability, and to manage risk. Ms. Pallansch highlighted some of their key efforts and innovations over the years in implementing upgrades and planning for future. Knowing that their physical footprint could not be increased later, they began in the late 1990s planning for flexibility and advanced technology into future long-term options. For instance, to be compatible with the surrounding community a soccer field was built above some of their tanks. Additional examples of technical and planning innovations included:

- Use of chemically enhanced primary treatment to enhance carbon capture;
- Building in as much treatment process flexibility as possible when planning their enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) process to meet Bay TMDL requirements;
- Use of a side-stream Anamox process and reuse of digester gas to reduce energy use; and
- \$2.5 million investment to implement mainstream Anamox.<sup>[MD1]</sup>

Although their focus to-date has been on liquid processes they are now switching focus to innovations in the solids processes.

Ms. Pallansch also noted examples of several important partnerships:

- Anamox process – which they have partnered with DC Water and New York on research and operations
- DOE's Superior Plants Program - to find additional savings by using natural gas and methane
- Work with COG for savings from cooperative purchasing
- With VEPGA on electrical rates
- Reclaimed water - limited options now due to a lack of large scale water user in Alexandria, but working with a development partner on a pilot project



**DC Water** - Ms. Holman provided an overview of DC Water and some of its challenges. DC Water is a regional water and wastewater authority which also works in resource recovery (e.g., enriched water). [MD2] At Blue Plains they currently process over 300 million gallons of wastewater a day; and can treat up to 1 billion gallons per day under wet weather conditions. Infrastructure issues are very critical for DC Water, as significant energy usage is needed for many of its processes/facilities. For example, the combined sewer/Clean Rivers Program has very deep tunnels and it is very energy intensive to have to pump the water back up from that underground storage.

Ms. Holman noted that DC Water works not only to meet their own goals but to also support the District government's environmental goals. She also noted DC Water's great collaborative relationship with Alexandria Renew Enterprises, and that many of the innovations and activities previously mentioned were also being implemented at DC Water, though often at a larger scale. DC Water welcomes collaboration to facilitate progress in the metropolitan Washington area.

Ms. Holman highlighted some of DC Water's efforts to pursue innovation. DC Water's new O Street Pumping Station facility at the Navy Yard, near their new Headquarters building, will be built to use space and energy more efficiently. DC Water is just starting to explore the potential use of thermal energy recovery. Wastewater thermal capture is similar to geothermal in that there is an exchange of energy in a directed manner that can be used to assist commercial efficiency and for HVAC heating and cooling systems. It's an emergent technology in U.S., but is widespread in Europe and places like Vancouver. DC Water is also looking into the development of district heating/cooling for their Buzzard Point development with a system that would use heat inherent in the sewage system. Ms. Holman noted that water and wastewater utilities may become part of energy systems in the future as an estimated 200 MW of thermal energy are potentially located in the sewage system.

DC Water is also considering ways to improve the resiliency and redundancy of systems not just to achieve energy savings but to also address the need to be operational even under emergency conditions. DC Water is exploring the use of microgrids to enable continued operations via an 'energy island' when the energy grid is down.

**Fairfax Water** - Mr. O'Neill echoed Fairfax Water faces many of the same challenges and efforts that the previous speakers described. Ninety percent of Fairfax Water's costs are the result of needing to pump water, which is an energy intensive process. Therefore, their primary focus now is to become more efficient, reducing energy intensity as measured by Kilo Watts (KW)/million gallons of water. One innovative effort implemented to address efficiency was the installation of a power bar to show their operators how power is being utilized at all times. The data that is being used to determine efficiency points in operations and has saved them \$2.8 million over the first three years. In addition, the use of variable frequency drives for pumping can save electricity costs of up to \$100,000 per year.

Fairfax Water's secondary focus is on solar installations. They are working on implementing solar at a small scale and considering installation of solar panels in public areas in the future; however, it currently is not economically feasible to do large projects. Low electrical rates have made the return on investments for solar projects too long to be economically worth pursuing (e.g., 35-year payback period). They have locked in rates to purchase renewable energy using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider, which have resulted in savings of \$250,000 per year. Other cooperative electrical agreements are resulting in 4% saving per year.

Fairfax Water is also investigating the use of microgrids to increase resiliency, including the usage of the Covanta Waste-to-Energy facility that is near one of their facilities. Fairfax Water's customers include the military and hospitals, so resiliency is also very important for future consideration.

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)** - Mr. Selock summarized some key features regarding WSSC and its water-energy projects. WSSC currently produces 170 million gallons per day (mgd) of drinking water and treats 70 mgd of wastewater at its facilities (and another 100 mgd treated at Blue Plains). WSSC uses an average consumption of 20 to 25 MW, resulting in an approximately \$20 million per year energy budget with 2,500-3,500 KW/hour per million gallons of wastewater treated.

WSSC is currently negotiating their fourth energy performance saving contract; where efficiencies are paid for by future reductions. Mr. Selock noted that wastewater facilities are designed to be durable and long-lasting, but not necessarily efficient. However, the use of new, more efficient pumps at their Anacostia Pumping Station has saved 3,000,000 KW's per year and that they are negotiating a contract for conversion of 20-year old pumps and mixers that will use one-quarter of the energy of previous models. Also, current energy demand management program optimizations have reduced costs by approximately \$600,000 per year and WSSC estimates use of an active demand response program that will offer dynamic adjustments of power usage that can save \$400,000 year in cost.

The Energy Management Plan [MD3] includes the use of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA). Two 20-year PPAs for solar in operation at WSSC sites. A PPA is also in place for usage of a wind farm in Pennsylvania and WSSC is currently in the development stage for new solar facilities totaling 10 MW.

Biosolids energy recovery is a new focus for their wastewater plants to maximize biogas production, with construction of a biosolids processing plant at their Piscataway wastewater treatment plant to process incoming biosolids from all of their wastewater treatment plants. This facility will approach net-zero energy.

WSSC is also working with WERF, Alexandria Renew, and DC Water to explore the use of side stream processes, as well as to identify ways to recover nutrients in biosolids.

### Discussion

- Ms. Pallansch cited: a) the need to help face the ongoing challenges to the land application of treated biosolids in Virginia, and opportunities to better utilize the energy stored in biosolids; as well as b) working at the regional level to recognize the interrelationship between water and wastewater usage in a watershed, and to look more closely at how to enhance 'reuse' including the evaluation of existing codes that may constrain reuse.
- Ms. Holman noted: a) that wastewater thermal is a very emergent issue, was recently included in a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the District (which DC Water worked on with Councilmember Cheh), and provides opportunities for further investments; and that b) expenses are high for emergent technologies such as microgrid applications, so COG advocating for finding federal and state funding and/or other financing options would be appreciated. Noted that funding lags behind technology, so adoption of RPSs is crucial; and that this is especially true of renewable energy utilization to reach the 80% reduction goals set by COG.
- Mr. O'Neil noted that resiliency is a major need, and that identifying federal and state funds to support microgrid projects and contracts would be beneficial.
- Mr. Selock stated that financing for renewable energy efforts continues to be a challenge, so any efforts to help provide greater financial incentives for these projects is important and helps strengthen the case that the investments are worthwhile.
- CEEPC Chair Gross noted that collaboration on education and outreach to water utility customers and rate payers would be an excellent opportunity to showcase collaboration and emergent technology. She also asked that any future recommendations from committee members regarding CEEPC's Action Plans be directed towards COG staff.
- CBPC Vice Chair Sze expressed an interest in exploring research and development opportunities in the region.



- Ms. Spano noted that several items that were mentioned are already being underway or are being planned by COG staff (e.g., wastewater technology innovations workshop, exploring increased links and potential partnerships with universities and federal laboratories in the region with local water utilities, etc.).

## 5. NEW COG POLICY PRINCIPLE

*Heidi Bonnaffon, Environmental Planner*

Ms. Bonnaffon summarized the history of the CBPC principles and rationale for a new principle. The CBPC had previously endorsed four guiding principles that were formally reflected in a COG Board resolution (in 2009). These principles guide the CBPC's efforts to address Chesapeake Bay Program as well as local water quality issues and policy decisions. Current principles [MD4] include:

- Holistic requirements for analyzing policy decisions such as technical feasibility, cost, and multi-sector analysis;
- Equitable responsibilities across sectors and regional jurisdictions;
- Sound science and the realization that scientific principles can change so adaptive management is crucial; and
- Having a voice for local governments to engage constituents early and often concerning Bay decisions.

The CBPC asked CEEPC to co-sponsor a new policy principle to include as an addition to the existing principles. [MD5] The new principle addresses flexibility and innovation in implementation as a core value across a multi-sectorial and multi-jurisdictional landscape. This new principle would go before the COG board at their September meeting for formal adoption.

### Discussion

- Ms. Spano clarified that the intent of the 'staged implementation' text is to convey the ability to pilot a program or implement projects over time as new information becomes available, also known as adaptive management; noting that this phrase is illustrative but not actually proposed as policy language.
- CEEPC Chair Gross noted that voice, voluntary, sound science, and equitability were the original foundation for the CBPC's efforts; and that decades later that addressing implementation is an appropriate new principle based on the current work of the CBPC.

**Action:** Motion to accept proposed policy principle was passed by both committees.

## 6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### A. UPCOMING COMMITTEE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

- Alexis Goggans from DOEE discussed Climate Ready DC. The draft plan can be found at [Susustainablefuture.gov](http://Susustainablefuture.gov) or in this committee's meeting documents online. This is the cumulative result of community meetings and interactions with local residents to address climate impacts and resiliency in the City. Seventy actions have been identified to be addressed in the Plan. Public comments are currently being accepted through Labor Day. To further engage stakeholders and residents DOEE will host a webinar on Aug 10, 2016 and in person events on both sides of Anacostia River and are planned for August 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Goggans noted that it is a challenge to engage underrepresented citizens, especially in Watts Branch and Bloomingdale where flooding happens more often.

### B. STAFF AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PROGRAM UPDATES

- The committees received the General Updates for the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources, as well as CEEPC Updates in writing. Questions can be directed to COG staff.

- Mr. Waltz reported that COG's new website launched on the July 21, 2016. The site is restructured around committee and meetings and allows usage on multiple platforms for mobile and desktop applications, to enhance ease of use. Member feedback on the website is welcome.

#### C. MEMBER UPDATES

- Mr. Trabue noted that: a) the Atlantic Magazine published a story about low-income renewables in District and Ward 7 and 8, as well as the small commercial pilot program about the benefits of the installation of solar; and b) Council Member Cheh signed a bill into law to raise the Renewable Portfolio Standards by 50% by 2032 and that created a Solar for All Program to lower energy bills by half in low-income households by 2032.
- Ms. Feldt reported that Montgomery County's Green Bank is now incorporated. The first Board of Directors meeting was to be held on July 28, 2016. Ms. Feldt is serving on the Board.
- CEEPC Chair Gross noted that questions have come up at NACO (National Association of Counties) regarding sea level rise and whether there is a need to be concerned with this issue on the east coast. She noted that there is a challenge of explaining our region's climate change issues to representatives who face different challenges in different parts of the country and there is critical need for regional coordination to address this challenge.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next **CBPC** meeting is scheduled for **September 16, 2016**.

The next **CEEPC** meeting is scheduled for **September 28, 2016**.

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