CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

Business Meeting Summary-DRAFT

September 15, 2024

Link to all meeting presentations and materials:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/9/20/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

Business Meeting

decisions and actions:

* Members approved the summary of the July 19, 2024 meeting.

1. Welcome

Chair Natali Fani-González welcomed members. She asked members in the room and online to introduce themselves.

1. meeting SUMMARY approved

 Members approved the draft summary of the July 19, 2024 CBPC meeting.

3. STAFF & member lightening UPDATES

* + Caitlin Bolton, COG, let members know that there will be a morning tour of the Anacostia by the Anacostia Watershed Society on October 25th. Interested members and alternates can RSVP to Caitlin Bolton, cbolton@mwcog.org by September 29.
	+ Ms. Bolton shared that September 22th is World Rivers Day and Festival del Rio is September 21st.
	+ Ms. Bolton invited CBPC members to the COG membership and awards reception on December 11th.
	+ Ms. Bolton shared the General Updates document. See document for additional updates, resources, and events.

4. transition to forum

 Chair Fani-González adjourned the meeting to transition to the forum. The next CBPC webinar will be on November 15, 2024 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

**ANNUAL BAY & WATER QUALITY FORUM**

**SUMMARY - DRAFT**

1. Chair’s welcome & introductions

Natali Fani-González, CBPC Chair, invited guests, and CBPC members

Chair Fani-González opened the CBPC Water Quality Forum and welcomed members and guests. She introduced the following speakers:

1. Stefanie Taillon, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
2. David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources
3. Steve Saari, Interim Deputy Director, Natural Resources Administration DC Department of Energy and Environment
4. Adam Ortiz, EPA Region III Administrator
5. Martha Shimkin, Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office

2. REMARKS & dialogue

Invited guests spoke about their long-term visions, priorities, and planning strategies regarding the Bay and local water resources. The EPA and states reiterated their commitment to the Bay Program’s Beyond 2025 efforts as well as their own water quality initiatives. After presentations, there was an open dialogue with CBPC members. When asked about how to build a strong water workforce moving forward, speakers highlighted the importance of engaging the next generation and communities in environmental stewardship and conservation efforts.

Stefanie Taillon, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Secretary Taillon updated on the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee progress and highlighted the completion of phase one and the upcoming phase two. She emphasized the need for each jurisdiction to determine their priorities for the future and the importance of revising the agreement to continue the partnership's work effectively. Secretary Taillon emphasized Virginia’s investments, particularly in the agriculture sector, leading to significant nitrogen reductions. She also addressed the challenge of engaging producers who are not early adopters and the need for targeted implementation and capturing of all activities on the ground. Additionally, she highlighted the innovative approach of the pilot paper outcomes program and the focus on learning and reflection through an outside consultation process. She also emphasized Virginia's efforts in oyster restoration and the need to explore new technologies to expand the restoration initiatives.

David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Secretary Goshorn provided an overview of the agency's structure, including its focus on water, land, and internal operations, as well as its vision for the future, particularly in relation to the Chesapeake Bay restoration. He emphasized the need for adaptability and expressed optimism for the current efforts. Secretary Goshorn discussed the challenges posed by growing bureaucracy and the unintended disconnection with the general public. He highlighted Maryland's efforts to embrace the Comprehensive Evaluation System Response (CESR) report.

Steve Saari, Interim Deputy Director, Natural Resources Administration DC Department of Energy and Environment

Interim Deputy Director Saari spoke about the district's long-term vision for water quality and environmental initiatives, highlighting the need for collaboration at local and interjurisdictional levels. He outlined priorities such as addressing emerging contaminants, climate change resilience, working with federal agencies, and promoting equity in developing the water workforce, with a specific emphasis on engaging underserved communities.

Adam Ortiz, EPA Region III Administrator

Region 3rd Administrator Ortiz reflected on the significant progress made in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Effort and emphasized the transformation of the partnership from a fragmented state to a more cohesive and effective collaboration. He discussed the resolution of litigation, restoration of the partnership's health, and the engagement of stakeholders, including farmers and private sector companies, to accelerate restoration efforts and address challenges in non-point sources.

Martha Shimkin, Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Ms. Shimkin highlighted the significant accomplishments of the Bay Program over the past 41 years and emphasized the strength of the partnership. She also provided an overview of the responsibilities of the program office and shared the four goals set for the office for the coming years, aligning with the regional and EPA mission and goals. She then discussed the Beyond 2025 steering committee and provided an overview of the public feedback received on their report. They received 81 responses with 538 unique comments, reflecting widespread support. The comments were diverse and meaningful, coming from various groups and individuals, including educators, scientists, and citizen scientists.

**Further Discussion:**

Questions and discussion focused on the topic of diversity and inclusion in workforce development, with a specific focus on recruiting and preparing the next generation for quality work and community engagement. The conversation highlighted various initiatives, including investments in communities of color, grant-making for historically marginalized communities, and partnerships with minority-serving institutions. Additionally, the discussion touched on programs such as the Pathways internship program and a gig economy approach to green infrastructure maintenance as part of the efforts to promote diversity and inclusion.

3. adjourn

The Forum was adjourned at 12:00 with a luncheon to follow.

PARTICIPANTS:

**In Person Attendees:**

Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG

Steve Bieber, MWCOG

Adam Ortiz, EPA Region 3 Administrator

Cara Honzak, City of Takoma Park Council

Jenni Pompi, Greenbelt

Susan Whitney, Collage Park

Tom Lipinski, Loudoun Water

Cara Honzak, City of Takoma Park Council

Steve Haverly Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Stefanie Taillon, Virginia Natural and Historic Resources

David Goshorn, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Steve Saari, DC DOEE

Martha Shimkin, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Greg Sandi, MDE

**Online:**

Heidi Bonnaffon, MWCOG

Wyetha Lipford, MWCOG

Shannon Moore, Fredrick County

Christine Wellons, Montgomery County

Christine Howard, MECOG

Emma Tarquinio, Frederick County

Kathy Smith, Fairfax County

Trina Brown, Tow of Bladensburg

Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water

Anthony Morris, DEQ

Myles Cooper, Alex Renew

Kenny Boddye (Vice Chair), Prince William County Supervisor

Norm Goulet, Nova Region

Erin Flynn, Falls Church

Kalisha Dixon, Town of Bladensburg

Katie Dyer, MWCOG

Matt Ries, DC Water

Steve Bieber, MWCOG

Lisa Ragain, MWCOG

Emily Judson, WMATA

Andrea Lewis, Fairfax County

Kevin Mclean, DEQ

MC Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County

Susan Cunningham, Arlington