

## Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

**Date: Friday, Nov. 18, 2005**

**Time: 9:45 a.m.– 11:45 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.*

### **REVISED Meeting Agenda**

9:45 **1. Introductions and Announcements** .....Hon. John R. Lovell  
Chair, Frederick County

- Revised agenda
- Chesapeake Executive Council meeting
- Washington Aqueduct decision on residuals management

9:50 **2. Approval of Meeting Summary  
for Sept. 28, 2005**..... Chair Lovell

**Recommended action:** Approve DRAFT Meeting Summary (*Att. 2*).

9:55 **3. Briefing on Water Quality Monitoring Data and Trends**  
..... Heidi Bonnaffon, COG staff

Ms. Bonnaffon will provide an update on the Bay Program's measurements of key water quality indicators, such as dissolved oxygen levels, during the summer of 2005. She also will present some of the most recent data on trends in nutrient and sediment levels in the Potomac River.

10:10 **4. Response to CBF Bay Report Card and GAO Report**  
..... Ted Graham, COG Water  
Resources Director

Mr. Graham will summarize two recent evaluations of the Bay Program by outside organizations that have received substantial media coverage: the 2005 "State of the Bay" report by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Government Accountability Office report on the Bay Program.

**Recommended action:** Staff will offer options for the committee to consider in determining COG's role in responding to the criticisms of the Bay Program made in these reports. Plan for report on these issues to the COG Board in early 2006.

10:45 5. **Review of Federal Legislation** ..... Peter Marx , Senior Fellow, Northeast-Midwest Institute

Mr. Marx will review proposed legislation that could affect the Bay restoration effort, including the reauthorization of the federal farm bill. Mr. Marx also will focus on two bills to reauthorize the federal role in the restoration effort: HR 4126, a bill introduced by MD Rep. Wayne Gilchrest and S. 1490, introduced by MD Sen. Paul Sarbanes (*Att. 5*). Both bills would increase federal financial support to the Bay Program and create new opportunities and responsibilities for local governments. Mr. Berger will identify issues of concern on which COG may wish to comment.

**Recommended Action:** Determine process for developing a set of recommended comments on H.R. 4126 and S. 1490 to be considered by the COG Board at its January 11, 2006, meeting.

11:15 6. **Recommendations on Potomac Trash Summit Actions** ... Hon. Penelope Gross  
Fairfax County

Mr. Graham, COG staff

In March 2005, under the leadership of the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), six jurisdictions in the Potomac Watershed (including four in the COG region) signed a "Trash Treaty" pledging to work toward a trash-free Potomac River by 2013. In May 2005, Tracy Bowen, AFF Executive Director, briefed the COG Board on the project vision and the Board adopted Resolution R16-05 directing COG staff to work closely with AFF in this effort. Since then, Arlington County has signed the treaty and several other COG members have also expressed a strong interest in becoming a signatory. COG is now partnering with the AFF, including participation on the project's Advisory Council and supporting "action committees" to develop a trash-free strategy and implementation plan that will be considered at a regional Trash Summit scheduled for March 2006. COG recently received a grant to assist in this work. Supervisor Gross and Mr. Graham will provide an update on progress to date including Ms. Bowen's presentation to the COG Board on November 9 and the subsequent action by the Board regarding continued COG participation in the development of the trash-free strategy (*Att. 6*).

**Recommended Action:** The committee should provide guidance to COG's representatives on the Trash Treaty Advisory Council regarding the proposed action agenda for the Potomac Trash Summit. Feedback on potential recruitment of additional signatories is also requested.

11:35 7. **Update on Bay Program Developments** .....COG staff

COG staff will note recent developments concerning the state tributary strategies and plans for the Bay Program's 2007 re-evaluation of its key nutrient and sediment reduction goals.

**Recommended Action:** Receive briefing

11:40 8. **New Business** .....Members

11:45 **9. Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20, 2006, 9:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

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

Enclosures:

- Item 2 DRAFT Meeting Summary of Sept. 28, 2005
- Item 5 Text of H.R. 4126, the "Chesapeake Bay Restoration Enhancement Act of 2005," and S. 1490, a bill to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Item 6 COG Board Resolution R43-05