



CHESAPEAKE BAY & WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY- Draft
November 17, 2017

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chair Sze called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. He thanked the committee for the productive year, and invited Libby Garvey to say a few words as designated incoming chair. Chair Sze shared that he presented the CBPC's 2017 accomplishments and highlighted 2018 priorities to the COG Board at their November 8th meeting.

2. CBPC APPROVAL OF DRAFT SUMMARY FROM JULY 28TH MEETING

The draft summary of the September 15, 2017 Forum was approved as written.

3. PANEL: CONNECTING WATER QUALITY & THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Panelists shared their experiences with how the improving water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac and Anacostia Rivers is beneficial to our regional economy and communities, including developers, local businesses, fisheries, and water sector jobs.

Adam Ortiz, Prince George's County Dept. of Environment Director

- Mr. Ortiz provided information about Prince George's County's stormwater program, the "birthplace" of Low Impact Development (LID).
- Prince George's is planning to retrofit 2,000 impervious acres via the Clean Water Partnership, which includes a private partnership with Corvias Solutions, and a mentoring program that develops small, minority or disadvantaged businesses into stormwater agencies, able to compete and bid for Prince George's and regional stormwater projects.
- The Clean Water Partnership is developing two local businesses per year. To learn more about the Mentor Protégé program, watch the video posted on www.theleanwaterpartnership.com
- The Clean Water Partnership has an online dashboard to track county stormwater progress of acres retrofitted, and corresponding pollution load reductions. The stormwater business is a growing sector, and the County's goal is to be on par with health and tech fields in the region.

Member discussion:

- Ms. Gross said community colleges have an important role to play in workforce development, and asked whether Prince George's County is collaborating with Prince George's Community College on stormwater training. Mr. Ortiz said yes, the community college offers three semesters of stormwater classes, and sixty-two participants have taken these courses.
- Ms. Antos inquired whether they have a County residency requirement for their stormwater workforce, like DC Water requires? Mr. Ortiz said there is a 30% Prince George's County resident target for contractors working on Prince George's stormwater projects.

Michael Stevens, Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District President

- Michael Stevens said this is the ten-year anniversary of the NoMa (North of Massachusetts Ave.) capitol riverfront Business Improvement District (BID). The Anacostia waterfront has become a new growth area.

- Twenty years ago, this part of DC was light industrial, brownfields, with public housing and strip clubs. For 60-70 years the Anacostia has been passed over.
- Mr. Stevens credited the cleanup of the Anacostia River, in part due to DC Water's Clean Rivers Project, as a major contributing factor for this shift in perception of the capitol riverfront BID. Mr. Stevens said finding the waterfront attractive is rightfully so, "water is magic" and civilizations have always flourished alongside waterways. Water creates a sense of identity and community.
- Waterfront parks are part of the attraction. Yards Park has Friday night concerts and DC's jazz fest, and there is ice skating at Canal Park. The Riverfront trail is a 20-mile trail for running, walking, and biking, creating an outdoor "ethos".
- As part of Mayor Williams' visioning for the Anacostia Riverfront Park as a space for unifying the city and Wards 7 & 8, the District of Columbia and the federal government have invested money into this portion of the District, including the Nationals baseball stadium and parks.
- A \$2.3 B investment by the federal and District governments is expected to leverage \$10 B in private reinvestment, and to return city revenue in sales, property and income tax.
- Now NOMA is the seat of residential and retail growth, and draws in millennials as a space to work and play. NOMA BID applied for the Amazon headquarters contract.

For more details about development of the Anacostia Riverfront, see Mr. Steven's power Point, <https://www.mwcog.org/file.aspx?&A=9grfzP%2bot3UqL%2f0iOxd8NYCGQE0ELWap4CeFkIkLX6M%3d>

Member discussion:

- Ms. Garvey inquired whether the BID is going to invest in water taxis as a means of commuting. Mr. Stevens said yes, there is talk of water taxis, like those between Alexandria and National Harbor, and this will be further discussed at the District's transportation summit in spring of 2018.
 - Mr. Stevens mentioned the Anacostia Watershed Society's (AWS) Anacostia River boat tours are -a great way to see the waterfront. Ms. Antos said the AWS boat tours are funded by DOEE funds collected by the plastic bag fee.
- Ms. Silverman asked about efforts the BID(s) are doing to ensure affordable housing and access to the waterfront for all populations, since the new development and housing often signals gentrification. Mr. Stevens said they have retained 20% affordable housing in the Capitol Riverfront BID, via inclusionary zoning, which is the same percentage as before redevelopment. Yards Park is an example of a recreational area that is enjoyed by a diverse demographic.
- Ms. Silverman inquired about efforts to work with the National Park Service (NPS) to improve the Anacostia Riverfront Park, on NPS land.
- Ms. Antos mentioned an Anacostia Park stakeholder workgroup interested in improving access to the park and improving the park.
- Committee members expressed interest in meeting with the NPS to address park land issues. Ideas for meeting with NPS could include a boat tour, or Mr. Ortiz mentioned he could speak with Tara Morison, who works for NPS, about coming to a future meeting at COG.
- Ms. Antos said next year is the "Year of the Anacostia", commemorating the history of the Anacostia and envisioning its future. DOEE is conducting a river dredging survey, to assess how and where to dredge the Anacostia, based on river usage.

Martin Gary, Potomac River Fisheries Commission Executive

- Mr. Gary explained how the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) manages the fish population of the tidal Potomac, from the mainstem to the Bay. The PRFC is bi-state and its genesis in 1963 was due to “oyster wars.”
- Mr. Gary gave examples of the fish populations that are being monitored and managed, which includes Striped bass, Blue crabs, Blue catfish and Menhaden.
 - Striped bass has a 6 M lb. quota and has a market value of \$13-14/lb. of filet.
 - There are 4-5 M lbs. of Blue crab in average in the Potomac, which amounts to roughly \$7.5 M dockside revenue, but more in the retail market.
 - PRFC establishes crabbing limits, based on rate of reproduction (dependent on Atlantic current).
 - Shad is an important fish food and its population has steadily been rebounding in the Potomac River. It is in its 9th consecutive year of population exceeding targets in the Potomac River.
 - Menhaden is capped at 2.6 M lbs. harvest.
 - Menhaden is an important ecological fish, but is fished for feeding to farmed salmon, to raise their Omega-3s.
 - Blue catfish is an invasive species, but it is being managed by consumer demand, and it is served in regional restaurants.
- For more details, see Mr. Gary’s power Point, www.mwcog.org/chesbay

Greg Casten, Oceanpro Industries Founder and DC Restaurateur

- Profish, as a local seafood business, has been evaluating how much more are restaurants willing to pay for sustainable fish.
- Profish has provided seafood products to the Senate, and Smithsonian Institution, among others.
- Profish has been instituting sustainability efforts as the right thing to do, including zero waste for Styrofoam and cardboard.

Member discussion:

- Ms. Gross inquired about oyster filtration metrics. Mr. Gary replied that oysters do not have a big role in filtering water, since they are only 1% their historic biomass. Ms. Spano noted that the Bay Partnership is actively working to improve oyster restoration, and to account for those nutrient reduction efforts as part of the Bay TMDL implementation process.

4. MEMBER & CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATES

A. Chesapeake Bay Program Midpoint Assessment Updates

- Ms. Spano noted the revised December schedule for the Bay Program meetings, and she directed members to the meeting handout summarizing WQGIT actions.
- She said the Bay Program decisions are incredibly complex, and COG staff will continue to distill them down and bring time-sensitive decisions to the CBPC members to weigh in as applicable.

B. Other Staff Updates

- Ms. Bonnaffon asked members to review the 2018 proposed Calendar of CBPC Meeting Dates.

- Mr. Walz provided background about the State and Local Tax letter from COG to U.S. Congressional members.
- Mr. Walz said that Chair Gross, CEEPC Chair, and Chair Sze have agreed that it would be good for the CBPC to sign on to a letter opposing the repeal of the Clean Power Plan and asked for CBPC approval to add the CBPC's name to the draft letter. The letter will be circulated for CBPC review and chair's signature.

C. Member Updates

- Ms. Gross shared news of Karen Pallansch being recognized by the *Washington Business Journal* as "Women Who Mean Business."

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

The next CBPC meeting will be on **Friday, January 19** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at COG.

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates:

Adam Ortiz, Prince George's County
Dan Sze, Chair, Falls Church
Elissa Silverman, DC Council
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Katherine Antos, DOEE
Libby Garvey, Arlington County
Mark Charles, Rockville
Penny Gross, Fairfax County
Sam Rosen-Amy, DC Council

Guests:

Michael Stevens, Riverfront BID
Martin Gary, Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Greg Caston, Profish
Amy Tarte, VA Dept. of Emergency Management

COG Staff:

Heidi Bonnaffon, COG DEP
Steve Shofar, COG DEP
Steve Walz, COG DEP Director
Tanya Spano, COG DEP

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