



CHESAPEAKE BAY and WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY - **DRAFT**
May 20, 2016

1. Call to order and Introductions

Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of draft March Meeting Summary

The March 18th meeting summary was approved as submitted.

3. Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week Outreach Planning

Ms. Bonnaffon presented an Outreach Plan for four annual water recognition events:

- a) National Infrastructure Week (May),
- b) Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (2nd week of June),
- c) VA's Water and Wastewater Professionals Day (June 30), and
- d) Critical Infrastructure Security and Resiliency Month (November).

The CBPC endorsed the Outreach Plan, with some additional messaging points, per member comments below. CBPC also agreed to the draft Media Advisory's framework for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, with some additions. CBPC members were asked to: a) identify any additional activities to support the Bay Appreciation Week outreach material; and b) confirm whether they also wished to be listed as COG experts/references for the media effort.

The City of Falls Church drafted a resolution recognizing Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, to go before the Council on May 23. Copies of the resolution were provided at the meeting.

Utility members also provided links to media and other resources that highlighted National Infrastructure Week (see member comments below).

Member Comments:

National Infrastructure Week

- Ms. Holman said that George Hawkins was quoted in a publication for National Infrastructure Week and that she would forward the link.
- Ms. Pallansch said that an article in the Alexandria Gazette recapped an Alexandria Renew Enterprises tour for officials that included Tim Lovaine, Tim Kaine, DEQ, Virginia Parks Association, etc. that highlighted Alexandria Renew's wastewater sustainability, innovations, and infrastructure.
- Ms. Pallansch said Alexandria Renew Enterprises is hosting a tour for Congressman Beyer and other Virginia congressional representatives on June 10th. CBPC members were invited to participate.
- Ms. Gross said that Congressman Beyer succeeded Jim Moran who was a champion of the environment, and that it is good for CBPC members to highlight our green initiatives for new representatives as well.
- Chair Rice stated that having an outreach plan is good way to mentor new Congressional leadership on the region's environment and water successes, since there may be local turnover in November, plus the change in federal staff with a new presidency.

- Ms. Feldt said she would share a video link from Montgomery County's Greenfest, which featured EPA's Administrator, Gina McCarthy, stating the importance of water infrastructure.

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week/Media Advisory

- Ms. Holman said that on June 14 EPA is going to hold a press event at Blue Plains to highlight the wastewater sector's contributions to Bay nutrient reductions. And also suggested adding water-energy nexus language to the Media Advisory/talking points.
- Ms. Gross said the Outreach Plan elements should credit volunteers that support water quality. She also said that rate issues could also be included in our messaging: The water quality improvements and utility work are supported by the rate payers and rates need to increase to make up for deferred investment.
- Mr. Bieber added that November is Critical Infrastructure Security and Resiliency Month, and it would be another good opportunity for water outreach. He also mentioned that a COG water Redundancy Study would be finishing the end of May, and staff could report to the CBPC on the drinking water capacity and storage findings from the study.
- Mr. Karimi said that he appreciated efforts to contact the press with positive news about the benefits of public investment in water infrastructure. He also suggested staff develop talking points for the listed experts, so that each member speaks to their specialty. Staff confirmed that they would be preparing talking points.

Actions:

- The CBPC endorsed COG staff to prepare a Media Advisory for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.
- COG staff plan to develop a Region Forward blog post and social media in recognition of Water and Wastewater Professionals Day on June 30.
- COG staff will prepare a summary of member updates and materials.

4. Chesapeake Bay Program Activities and Upcoming Decision Points

Ms. Spano presented the many technical changes and updates being made to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Watershed Model, and the potential implications for COG's members.

Highlights include:

- The Watershed Model 6.0 will be using new land use data, at a finer (more localized) scale. Ms. Spano cautioned while the data will be more precise, it remains to be seen whether the increased precision in land use data also means better accuracy when nutrient and sediment loads are generated at smaller scales.
- The new model will also reflect updated wastewater, biosolids, stormwater and agricultural management practices.
- The CBP wants the revised model to account for the change in sediments due to the latest information about the Conowingo Dam's equilibrium loadings.
- The CBP also wants to account for climate change implications in future plans. The challenge with quantifying climate change impacts is extrapolating large scale models and data to local scales and areas.
- Once all of the updates are put into the model collectively, only then will we know whether the states' efforts are closer to the Bay TMDL targets and the 2025 goal or farther away.
- The CBP has also formed a Local Area Targets Taskforce to discuss whether local area

targets will be set, at what scale, and in what format (descriptive or numeric targets). Norm Goulet, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, is on the taskforce [a recommendation that the CBPC had formally endorsed], and COG staff will continue to provide feedback on local area targets via participation on the CBP's Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT). CBPC members serving on LGAC also help provide a local perspective.

Ms. Spano also presented the CBP schedule for key decision points when COG will need to provide technical and policy input. Highlights include:

- Decisions about how to handle the Conowingo Dam, climate change, and other technical issues, are likely to happen in the fall of 2016.
- The 2017 Mid-Point Assessment schedule dates have slid back; now end dates range from December 2018 to February 2019.
- Therefore, staff are recommending that the CBPC's Water Quality Forum be held in the fall in order to use that opportunity to raise key points with EPA and the states before several decisions are made in the Bay Program.

Member Comments:

- Mr. Charles commented that it would be premature for governments to develop Phase III WIPs before the Phase II MS4 permits have been issued: The implementation schedule for urban stormwater is inconsistent with the end date goal.
- With regard to the lack of time to accomplish the goals, Ms. Gross repeated her mantra, "Don't set us up for failure" and said it would be good to start documenting potential failures, given the limited timeframe for implementation.
- Mr. Charles echoed this sentiment, saying local governments have been set up for failure, because there has not been sufficient time to meet the mid-point goals.
- Chair Rice suggested the CBPC may wish to formally go 'on the record' concerning some schedule and timing limitations, and Mid-Point Assessment issues, via a letter to the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Mr. Walz suggested coordinating with regional General Counsels if the CBPC pursues writing a letter.
- COG staff will work with the members and staff to ensure that all policy, technical and legal aspects are considered, should the CBPC craft such a letter, and will provide recommendations at an upcoming meeting.

Actions:

- The CBPC agreed to hold the Bay and Water Quality Forum on September 16.

5. Committee Planning for Remaining 2016

A. Joint CBPC/CEEP meeting, and new COG Policy Principle

- CBPC supported the new draft CBPC Policy Principle, "Implementation Flexibility and Innovation" and to have it be presented to the CBPC and CEEPC committees for their collective approval at the joint July 27th meeting.
- CBPC also agreed on proposed topics for the July 27th joint meeting with CEEPC, namely:
 - Lab-to-Market Tech Forum Outcomes & Next Steps for Innovation

- o Water-Energy Nexus: New Opportunities for Enhancing Resiliency

Additional topics may include:

- o Highlighted outcomes from the Critical Infrastructure Resiliency Study, and supply chain impacts to energy-water.
- o A panel of local success stories, such as wastewater treatment plant strides toward net zero energy: These include Alexandria Renew Enterprises, DC Water, and WSSC's energy resiliency wind and solar installations.

Member Comments:

- Ms. Gross said she liked the draft new Policy Principle. The language, "whether regulatory or not," evokes the earlier Principle of voluntary.

Actions:

- Mr. Walz asked members to review the draft Policy Principle over the next few weeks and email staff with any proposed edits.

B. CBPC Tour and Bay Forum Plans

Bay and Water Quality Forum – September 16th

CBPC agreed to hold the annual Bay and Water Quality Forum with EPA and the States on September 16th. **Please save this date.**

- September allows COG a better opportunity to provide key input on the Mid-Point Assessment issues,
- Issues raised during Ms. Spano's presentation, including local area targets and the related implementation challenges, as well as ensuring adequate time for comments on the new watershed model, will be timely topics for the Forum discussion. The Forum will also be a good time to report successes with common outreach efforts, such as the Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week activities.
- Ms. Gross raised another point to emphasize at the Forum: Varying legal structures by state (VA, MD, and DC), means that a one size fits all approach to implementation and financing will not work.

Tour Interests

Stormwater Management Focus - November 18th

CBPC supported touring stormwater facilities in Montgomery County. This would include a CBPC business meeting at either Pepco's WaterShed Sustainability Center, or the Montgomery County Council building. COG staff will coordinate with Montgomery County staff this fall to organize logistics for the tour. Mr. Charles has also offered sites in Rockville, should the logistics work out.

Conowingo Dam Tour Option – Date to be determined

Chair Rice expressed interest in organizing a tour of the Conowingo Dam, to be scheduled in addition to regular CBPC meeting dates. He explained that since the dam sediment is a focus of much discussion as the new CBP model is developed, it would be good to see the dam firsthand. Several other members agreed that they would like to have a tour of the dam.

Members proposed that the tour be organized for September, and potentially include members of LGAC, Pennsylvania representatives, and possibly even the Baltimore COG. COG staff will follow up with arrangements and details for a tour.

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Member Updates

- Ms. Gross was the keynote speaker at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Forum, held April 25-26 at the University of Maryland. Ms. Gross emphasized in her speech that local governments have the lead role in restoring the Bay; that local waters are at the root of Bay health; and there is not a “one size fits all” approach to financing programs. She said COG membership was well-represented at the Forum.
[Link](http://efc.umd.edu/CBEFSNotes.html) to the Ms. Gross’ keynote. Forum notes: <http://efc.umd.edu/CBEFSNotes.html>
- Mr. Hearn noted that WSSC is installing wind and solar power as part of its energy resiliency platform. He will be providing the CBPC members with more details to coincide with the July 27th joint meeting. COG staff will be compiling similar water-energy project information in preparation for the joint CBPC/CEEPC meeting.
- Dr. Karimi shared that the District of Columbia was ranked number one in North America, followed by Toronto, for green roof installations in 2015, by Green Roofs for Healthier Cities.

B. National Legislation and Issues of Importance to COG’s Members

Ms. Spano reported that COG is working with various national organizations, including the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), to track a few national water issues, namely the Water Resources Development Act, and tax exempt bond issues.

COG staff will be following up with the CBPC Advocacy Work Group on these issues, and will provide more details as any actions develop.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

The next CBPC meeting will be a **joint meeting with CEEPC on Wednesday, July 27, 2016** (10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon).

ATTENDANCE:

Members and alternates:

Craig Rice, Chair, Montgomery County

Hamid Karimi, DOEE

J Davis, Greenbelt (phone)

JL Hearn, WSSC

Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew
Enterprises

Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County

Mark Charles, Rockville

Maureen Holman, DC Water

Penelope Gross, Fairfax County

Ruth Anderson, Prince William County

Guests:

Alexander Stanley, Prince William County

COG Staff:

Heidi Bonnaffon, DEP

Steve Bieber, DEP (phone)

Steve Walz, DEP Director

Tanya Spano, DEP

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