

**Members Present:** Rick Gray (Chair), Dave Dunmyer, Penny Gross, Sheila Noll, Emily Rice (alternate for Adriana Hochberg), Debbie Ritter, Ann Simonetti, John Thomas, James Wheeler, Bob Willey, and Bruce Williams. **Staff Present:** Mary Gattis (LGAC Coordinator, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay) and Al Todd (Executive Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay). **Guests Present:** Carin Bisland and Greg Barranco (EPA CBPO), Matt Ellis (STAC Staff), and Rhonda Manning (PA DEP)

### **Call to Order, Introductions**

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

### **Monitoring Networks Presentation**

Mark Bennett, *USGS and Co-Chair, Science and Technical Analysis and Reporting Team (STAR)* and Bill Dennison, *Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) member*, presented information about the Bay Program's tidal and non-tidal monitoring programs. Copies of their presentations are available at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/19236/>. LGAC members took great interest and raised many questions about proposed changes to the monitoring program. Key issues/questions raised include:

1. A word other than "Monitoring" should be used to demonstrate action and raise awareness about importance of monitoring.
2. Local government officials don't know who is making decisions about cuts to monitoring network within their jurisdictions.
3. Some communities are doing local monitoring, e.g. Fairfax County, VA. Need to know more about this.
4. Citizen monitoring has limitations. Need to know more about appropriate role of citizen monitoring programs.
5. Local government officials need to understand water quality in context of what's happening on the land.

### **Outcomes:**

1. LGAC to send letter to municipal associations alerting them to importance of water quality monitoring and issue of reduced funding
2. LGAC members directed LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, to engage with STAC and STAR on this issue.
3. LGAC members directed Gattis to arrange a water quality monitoring field trip in conjunction with an upcoming LGAC meeting.

### **Bay Program Update**

Carin Bisland, US EPA, provided information on the following Bay Program items/initiatives:

- New Bay Agreement – a draft has been released to the Executive Council for their review/comment; anticipate release for public comment in late January and signature by Executive Council in late spring. Carin thanked LGAC for their participation in crafting the new agreement.

- Bay Barometer – the 2012-2013 Bay Barometer has been released. Printed copies will be available following the Executive Council meeting. P. Gross commented on positive tone of Bay Barometer.
- ChesapeakeSTAT – this website, which provides information about activities, progress towards achieving goals and funding, is being updated. The Bay Program needs input from local government. LGAC will be contacted to participate in the discovery process.
- Land Use – land use data will be updated as part of the 2017 WIPs. The Bay Program needs help getting data from local governments, primarily in PA and VA.

**Outcomes:**

1. Send 2012-2013 Bay Barometer to LGAC members when available.
2. Carin to send land use data request to LGAC so that they can provide feedback on request which might result in a greater response.

**Business Meeting**

The September 2013 Minutes were approved on a motion by B. Williams and second by S. Noll.

Chairman Gray reported that the **Executive Committee** met with CAC's Executive Committee to develop the agenda for the December 5, 2013 joint meeting. Other business, including development of this Agenda and approval of the letter to the Executive Council Chair was conducted via e-mail.

The **Communications Committee** has not met but continues to rely on Coordinator Gattis to pursue roundtables and presentations at association conferences. After reviewing the upcoming association conference schedule, LGAC members identified conferences that need to be added to the association conference schedule.

**Outcome:** Gattis to revise schedule and pursue conference proposals.

Dave Dunmyer reported that the **Bay Agreement Workgroup** had successfully negotiated revisions to the Bay Agreement consistent with the direction given at the September LGAC meeting. Dunmyer will attend the December 12, 2013 meeting of the Executive Council to share LGAC's comments on the draft Bay Agreement. A December 5 2013 letter from the Chesapeake Bay Commission to the Executive Council was discussed briefly.

**Outcome:** Gattis to send CBC letter to LGAC members.

Gattis reported on progress implementing LGAC's **Strategic Plan**, noting that the following items have been updated to reflect activity since the last report: 1.a; 1.c; 2.a; 2.c; 2.e; 3.d; 4.a; 4.b; and 4.c. She asked for concurrence on priority actions for the next quarter.

Action item 2.b (Awards Program) was discussed briefly. Members suggested recognizing (1) a local government leader; (2) outgoing LGAC members; (3) communities (Bay Partner Communities).

**Outcomes:**

1. LGAC members directed Gattis to focus on items 2.a and 4.a; secondary priorities 2.b and 2.c.
2. Gattis to create Certificate of Recognition for outgoing LGAC members.

**2014 Meeting Dates/Locations** will be set after a poll to determine member availability. Members concurred with the proposal to hold the March 2014 meeting in the Tidewater region of Virginia. Other 2014 locations to be considered include Lancaster, Oxford/Easton (oysters), and Takoma Park (green streets, transit-oriented development).

**Outcome:** Gattis to conduct a poll to determine best meeting dates for 2014.

#### **New Business/Announcements for the Good of the Committee/Future Agenda Items**

James Wheeler reported that there has been no decision on American Rivers et. al's petition for EPA to use its Residual Designation Authority to control stormwater pollution. He will continue to monitor the petition and update the committee as needed.

Wheeler reported that he attended the STAC Meeting on BMP Verification December 3 in Annapolis. Both STAC and CAC have been working on this issue for quite some time. Wheeler suggested that LGAC should be more engaged on this issue since it has tremendous implications for local government.

**Outcome:** Gattis was directed to draft a briefing paper for LGAC members on the BMP Verification issue.

Sheila Noll reported that the VA Delegation met with VA DNR Deputy Secretary Anthony Moore on December 2, 2013 for the purpose of reviewing LGAC's recommendations to the Executive Council (Strategic Plan Item #1.a). The meeting was attended by LGAC members Wilson, Ritter, Noll and Gross and LGAC Coordinator Gattis. Gattis to arrange a meeting with VA DEQ Director David Paylor.

Bob Willey reported that he recently attended a very informative meeting on oyster restoration in the Harris Creek. Gattis reported that she has been in communication with the Fisheries Goal Implementation Team about the need to better engage local government. She suggested that the Fisheries GIT be invited to present at a future LGAC meeting.

**Outcome:** Gattis was directed to work with Fisheries GIT to find a suitable meeting date/location.

Bruce Williams reported that he is a member of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. At a recent meeting, the Commission addressed the question of What happens to the Bay when we grow? A brief discussion followed.

**Outcome:** Include topic of population growth and sustainable land use practices on future LGAC meeting agenda.

The committee indicated interest in the following topics for future LGAC meetings:

- *Indicators* Presenter: Nita Sylvester, US EPA
- *Water Quality Monitoring Trends* Presenter: TBD
- *Citizen Monitoring Programs* Presenter: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- *Oysters/Fisheries GIT* Presenters: Peyton Robertson and Bruce Vogt, NOAA
- *BMP Verification* Presenter/s: TBD
- *Sustainable Land Use Practices* Presenter: TBD

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.**