

## Minutes

### Local Government Advisory Committee

June 6 – 7, 2012

Lancaster, PA

Attending Members: Rick Gray, Mary Ann Lisanti, Ann Simonetti, John Thomas, Jeff Wheeland, Penny Gross, Sheila Noll, Rosemary Wilson, Sheila Finlayson, David Dunmyer, Bruce Williams, and Rick Keister, Jessica Blackburn, Al Todd, Pat Buckley, Chris Aadland, Jake Romig, Mary Gattis, Don McNutt, Charolte Katzenmoyer, Carin Bisland, Nick DiPasquale

#### Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The LGAC meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Gray followed by self introductions by the members attending. The minutes from the last meeting in Washington DC were approved after a motion by Penny Gross and a second by Bruce Williams. Pat Buckley's name was added to the attendance list.

- **Peter Marx of the Choose Clean Water Coalition** briefed the Committee on the activities of the Coalition. We're more than 230 organizations—national to regional to the most local of levels – located throughout our six states and DC.
- Our groups include:  
Conservation, Restoration, Water Monitoring, Sportsmen, Environmental, Faith-Based, Planning, Economic Development, Land Trusts
- Working towards our shared vision: *Vibrant, clean rivers and streams in all communities in the Chesapeake region.*
- Keeping the Chesapeake Bay blueprint (TMDL) and larger Clean Water Act intact by cultivating allies and stopping all attacks
- Holding states and federal government accountable for commitments made to clean our waters
- Supporting local action and local government leaders in their work for local clean water protections
- Telling stories about the why our vision is possible and highlight what success looks like throughout the region
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The threats to the Chesapeake Bay include:

- Weak watershed implementation plans

- Legal threats that would stop or delay implementation of the Chesapeake Bay blueprint
- Reduction in financial resources, especially for implementation
- Congressional attacks on the Clean Water Act and blueprint

The Coalition has found what will work:

- Local waters messaging
- Collaboration
- Building allies
- Success stories
- Benefits of implementation

**Nick DiPasquale, Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office**

Nick indicated that EPA wants to focus on implementation as we move out of the planning phase. Quarterly meetings will be held with state jurisdictions and the District to keep abreast of WIP progress. He reported that the Executive Council meeting has been set for July 9 at Gunston Hall in Lorton, Virginia. He also requested that LGAC take a look at the work of the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) to see if the goals are still relevant. As some point it would be useful for LGAC to identify their own future issues that may not now be under consideration. The Management Board will be looking at the GIT goals and how to realign them with the goals of the Executive Order.

**Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission**

Ann Swanson reported on the CBC’s latest study, “Nutrient Trading for the Chesapeake Bay.” The purpose of the study is to investigate the potential cost savings that could be achieved when considering different nutrient trading scenarios. The report defines a series of alternative scenarios, mixing source types and geographic restrictions, and applies these approaches to the watershed as a whole.

Some of the key findings are:

Nutrient credit trading has the potential to substantially reduce the costs of achieving TMDL limits for the Bay

The costs of meeting SigPS load reduction requirements could be reduced by  
–as much as 20-28% with SigPS-Only trading

–as much as 36-49% with SigPS-AgrNPS trading

These potential cost savings are greatest when trading is allowed across the entire watershed

The potential costs savings are particularly high when regulated urban sources are allowed to purchase credits

Although the potential cost savings from trading are significant, in practice, trading will be limited by transaction costs and uncertainties for buyers and sellers, and other regulatory restrictions and non-economic considerations. The complexity of factors involved in nutrient trading cannot be overlooked. The full report can be seen on the Commission's website: [www.chesbay.us](http://www.chesbay.us)

### **Tour of Lancaster's Green Infrastructure Project Sites**

At 2:30 pm, the Advisory Committee members embarked on a bus tour of Lancaster City's green infrastructure sites, hosted by Mayor Rick Gray, Public Works Director Charlotte Katzenmoyer, and Live Green's Danene Sorace and Fritz Schroeder. The following sites were visited:

- City-owned parking lot- one of four lots that have been retrofitted with green infrastructure to demonstrate what private parking lot owners can do to "green" their lots to meet the Bay TMDL. This is an important part of the City's goal to meet the Bay TMDL since parking lots account for 30% of the City's impervious cover.
- Groff's Family Funeral Home green roof – constructed through DEP and Lancaster County grant program.
- Brandon Park – how can you "green" an already green park...this park will manage more than 4 million gallons of stormwater from the surrounding neighborhood and is under construction.
- Alley 148 – see how an old dilapidated alley was transformed to be a property-value booster for this neighborhood.
- Sixth Ward Park – another green park that manages stormwater from the surrounding city streets.
- Lancaster Brewing Company – a dangerous street intersection is getting a makeover to make it safer for motorists, but we will see how green infrastructure is being incorporated and, by the way, is providing a big economic boost to this popular restaurant to boot! There will be a "meet and greet" with the restaurant's manager to discuss the project on this stop.

Contact information for Live Green:

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Fritz Schroeder, *Director*

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Danene Sorace

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The tour ended at 5:30 pm.

The LGAC Dinner was held at Carr's Restaurant, 50 West Grant Street, in Lancaster.

### **Thursday, June 7, 2012**

The LGAC Business meeting began at 9 am with Chair Rick Gray asking for input into the LGAC report to the Executive Council which is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Penny Gross observed that getting the attention of the governors and the mayor of DC as well as the EPA administrator is difficult. They tend to focus on Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.

Diane Davis said that timing is critical this year because of the local focus of the WIPs. Now that we are paying more attention to implementation, they may focus more on local governments. Financing of WIP implementation is most important, and partnerships at the local level are more important.

Jeff Wheeland commented that there needs to be some consensus on the model, and David Dunmyer observed that WIP meetings in his county have become grip sessions about the model.

Chair Gray indicated that the technical experts need to establish credibility at the local level, that LGAC members should focus on local government implementation. For instance, how are we going to pay for it and do we have the local staff capacity to be able to be successful. We now know what to do, and local governments are developing methods to follow-up on the WIPs. Resources being limited, the question remains how will we pay for this implementation? We want the model to be of such a nature that they could be used as a guide for improvement, not questioned as the rationale to keep from acting.

The Circuit Rider program has ended and another program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Administration has received increased funding to provide technical assistance to local governments. The lessons from the CR project indicate, while that program funding may have ended, there is still a significant demand for technical assistance to local governments. This will be especially true during this next phase of WIP implementation. Bruce Williams pointed out that there is still concern about the ability of local officials to manage local projects when they can find extra funding. Chair Gray said that locals need clear guidelines on what to do and we are impatient to get going. We need EPA flexibility to move forward without being penalized. Questions were also raised about a possible role LGAC might play in monitoring the new grant assistance program.

Stormwater will continue to be a major issue for urban and suburban areas.

Mayor Gray suggested that LGAC might want to host a conference for smaller municipalities and that the League of PA Cities might be willing to co-sponsor. As part of our communications plan, LGAC members should talk to their local government associations, to have meetings and workshops at local conferences to provide information about WIP implementation. We do have a draft power point for officials to use in explaining the basic issues to meetings of their own constituents. In order to attract elected officials to a mini conference, we would have to show the results of practical projects that have produced results in a cost effective manner. Ann Simonetti suggested that it would also be a good idea to invite local sewer authorities to conferences we may host.

The question was asked, but not answered, if it would be useful to have display booths at local association meetings. Videos such as the one on Lancaster's Green Infrastructure Program would be very useful at such meetings. Adriana suggested that they could be used internally at the staff level to familiarize them with the issues local governments face. Local cable TV channels could also be another outlet for videos. The link to the Lancaster video will be sent to all LGAC members.

Messaging should be an important part of the LGAC agenda. Al Todd indicated that the Alliance would look for other sources of funding for publications, case studies, and a web presence for LGAC on the Alliance website. All these items are needed to help members communicate beyond our membership. We need to figure out the tools that we need to expand the LGAC impact to other local governments and to make an impact on the Executive Council. It would be useful to focus on the many lessons learned already in the WIP project development process.

### **Don McNutt, Lancaster Conservation District**

Don talked about how the Lancaster Conservation District is planning to address the requirements of the PA WIP through agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs). He described their approach as one that is based on cover crops, with a heavy emphasis on no-till farming. Among their farms and farmers, they seek consistency, enforcement, and a plan for every farm to comply with the WIPs. They also emphasize volunteer compliance first, second, and foremost, with lots of attention paid to education and outreach to both ag and non-ag audiences. As in other jurisdictions in PA, Lancaster County is seeking credit on unreported BMPs which have been instituted on many farms. The farm community has supported lawsuits against EPA in the enforcement of the TMDL. Interestingly, he indicated that the greatest problem in the County is not runoff from farm lands, but the proliferation of lands being turned into lawns.

Don's contact information: 717-299-5361 ext.115,  
[donmcnutt@lancasterconservation.org](mailto:donmcnutt@lancasterconservation.org)

## **Mary Gattis-Schell, Lancaster County Planning Commission**

Mary Gattis-Schell described the County's newly completed Integrated Water Resources Plan which will provide a framework for integrating water resources planning and management efforts in order to achieve growth management goals. The purpose of the Plan is to facilitate implementation of the County's Comprehensive Plan and provide a framework for more efficient delivery of essential services. The basic strategies are:

- Fully Serve Urban Growth Areas
- Align Water and Sewer infrastructure with growth areas
- Plan for Wastewater Management in Rural Areas
- Conduct Regional Stormwater Planning
- Develop stormwater BMP demo sites
- Set local tree canopy targets
- Amend/Adopt local ordinances
- Amend Capital Improvement plans
- Align funding criteria
- Establish County Water Resources Council
- Establish a peer network
- Pursue regional management structures
- Pursue local nutrient credit trades
- Support Local Conservation District plan for every farm

Potential partners in this effort include local governments, sewer authorities, land conservancies, and watershed organizations. This systems approach will lead to shared responsibility for implementation, access to new sources of funding, increased awareness about water resources issues, and the increased likelihood of achieving our goals.

Mary Gattis contact information, 717-299-8333, [gattism@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:gattism@co.lancaster.pa.us)

### **New Business**

At the request of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Alliance, the next LGAC meeting will be held in conjunction with the Chesapeake Watershed Forum on Sept. 27-28 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. There will be a one day pre-conference workshop that will focus on issues of green infrastructure and financing for local governments.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

