**Communications Workgroup Monthly Meeting – Minutes   
July 16, 2013**

Mike Land (Chair), NPS Guy Stevens, CBP/UMCES Pat Buckley, PA-DEP   
Samantha Kappalman (Vice chair), MDE Nita Sylvester, EPA Bill Hayden, DEQ

Margaret Enloe (Coordinator), CBP Comm. Matt Ellis, STAC, CRC Phil Miller, DNREC. Catherine Krikstan, CBP Comm. Jenna Valente, CRC Josh Davidsburg, DNRDeb Kleiner (phone), CCWC Tom Wenz, EPA Mary Gattis, AICP

**Round Robin:**

Margaret Enloe:

* Working on meeting Steve Droter’s grant deliverables by July 31, 2013 as well as producing a PSA that we hope to launch by the EC meeting.
* Video intern, Olivier Giron, is working with us for the summer and is primarily focusing on administrative tasks and recreating a Bay 101 piece on air pollution.
* New water quality indicators have been developed and will be coming out sometime in the next month.
* Will be on vacation from July 29-August 13.

**Action:** Margaret and Nita need to meet and discuss methods for releasing the new indicators.

Tom Wenz:

* Working on the report to congress which will be closely tied to the agreement. Every 5 years EPA has to submit report to congress on behalf of the partnership about how we are doing at the Bay Program in regards to restoration of the Chesapeake bay.
* The timeline was supposed to go out to the Management Board on July 25th with a draft but that is going to be delayed because the agreement has been delayed.

Nita Sylvester:

* Updated the dissolved oxygen indicator with the 2012 data, it is up on our website now. There was hardly any change between 2011 and 2012.
* Blue crab indicator was updated last week with the 2013 data.
* Last remaining 2012 shad indicator data just came in, so that will updated on the website shortly.
* In the fall the shad indicator will be revised but will be updated for now on the website.
* Sometime in the next month the new water quality indicator will be uploaded.

**Action:** Margaret, Lisa and Nita will be meeting sometime this week to sort out the details of the water quality indicator so it can be featured on the website and included in the report to congress.

Bill Hayden:

* Making a big switch in Virginia with the state agency that is responsible for the stormwater program. It has switched from the Conservation and Recreation Department to DEQ.
* Updated website with a lot of stormwater related information. This switch doesn’t change what Virginia is doing to regulate stormwater but it changes the agency that has primary responsibility for a lot of the Bay stormwater activities.

Samantha Kappalman:

* July 25th is MDE’s major climate change summit at the Maritime Institute near the airport. The governor will release his final climate change plans and give a large climate change policy address. It should be a large gathering, 350 people are expected to attend.
* August 6th there will be an electric vehicle infrastructure ribbon cutting in Baltimore City right in front of City Hall.
* A couple days after the ribbon cutting there will be a ‘Scoop the Poop’ pet waste event about how picking up your pet waste will help positively impact the Bay and the watershed.
* Continuing to answer questions about stormwater fees and talking about the big picture as to how all of the jurisdictions have to complete stormwater management projects to reduce the water pollution under the Clean Water Act.
* In August or September MDE will be working with EPA on a stormwater conference. Ideally, this conference will happen around the country but will start in Maryland.

Josh Davidsburg :

* Put out a video on the Berlin stormwater utility which could be helpful for Samantha – it is on Youtube at <http://youtu.be/51uBB-wvtNg>
* The Governor is doing a sustainability forum in late August or September.
* Leaving DNR at the end of August for a teaching job at College Park.
* Assisting with the Climate Change Summit
* The sustainability forum is all of the MD agencies and O’Malley talking about what has been done so far and where we are going in the future.
* **Action:** Josh was the liaison of the habitat goal team. If anyone is interested in filling that role please contact Mike Land.

Phil Miller:

* Nanticoke River Festival in Seaford, Delaware just wrapped up and was one of the major outreach events of the summer.
* Preparing for Delaware State Fair which begins on Thursday July 18, 2013.
* Beginning to work on a backyard habitat video.

Mary Gattis:

* LGAC is implementing their strategic plan which focuses heavily on communications and outreach.
* Starting to hold round table discussions with other elected officials at annual conferences of municipal associations.
* Held one in late June at the Maryland Municipal League Convention, one person showed up but there was only about a week’s notice and it was on a Sunday afternoon in Ocean City, Maryland.
* Working on getting the word out about who LGAC is, why they matter, who the representatives are and why they are important
* Thenext round table discussion is Aug 14th from 3:30-4:30pm at the MACo. Conference in Ocean City.
* **Action**: Open to suggestions for ways to get the word out also ways to get funding and ideas on how to get printed products out. If you have suggestions please contact Mary Gattis.
* *Samantha –* There is an information booth at the MACo building that could inform people about the meeting. Also, social media is a great way to promote the events.
* Case studies and how to get involved in your state’s WIP are available for public viewing on the Bay Program LGAC page under ‘publications’.
* Waiting to confirm the October Virginia Municipal League round table. All of these round tables are intended to be a safe place to create dialogue and learn more information.
* Responsible to putting together the local government and leadership goals and outcomes for the new agreement.

**Action:** If anybody wants to be involved in the process of creating the goals and outcomes, please contact Mary Gattis.

Matt Ellis:

* Report updates:
* Environmental Literacy report will be sent out this afternoon.
* Lag Times workshop report: STAC will be completing the final edits at the end of this week and will release it in the next couple of weeks.
* Nutrient trading, multiple management models and coastal habitats are all in draft form and should be finished by August or September.
* Oyster aquaculture review is supposed to be due out in July 2013 but might get pushed back until September because STAC is trying to get a spot in the August 8th Management Board meeting to discuss it.

1. Watershed Agreement/EC meeting:

* Several things were discussed on Thursday and Friday that effect Communications Workgroup members
* Management Board will recommend that the EC should be moved to December but the PSC has to agree to that still, but it looks like the move will most likely happen.
* There have been some changes to the timeline for the new agreement.
* Still planning on holding the EC planning team meeting next week until told otherwise that the meeting has been moved to December.
* Editorial review team has been created in concept, not everyone has been asked to serve on it yet.
* Final agreement will be finished in December for the EC meeting but hopefully a draft will be completed by October.
* Communications Workgroup has not been brought in on planning for this agreement outside of the CBP Communications promoting the agreement.
* At the Management Board retreat there was a lot of discussion about stakeholder participation. There will be ongoing stakeholder discussion the abridged draft of the agreement until August 15th. The draft can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement/page>.
* There will be a draft sent to the editorial committee to be made more public-friendly until the end of September. It will then go back to the Management Board and the PSC for approval.
* From October 5-November 5 there will be another 30 day public comment period before the EC meeting where it will be signed.
* The concept is to allow the EC members at least 3 weeks to review the agreement.
* The draft will be posted on MB and PSC meeting pages but potentially could be on the Chesapeakebay.net page if leadership decides they want it there.
* Everything gets posted under the MB and PSC meeting pages for anyone who is curious about what progress has been made.
* Editorial review committee is meant to reflect both state and federal representation. Someone from every state has been volunteered to be a part of the editorial committee plus people from various different groups. The committee will look at the language to make it more understandable to the public.
* **Action:** A lot of different terms are being used to describe the same thing (i.e. drafters group, editorial review committee) it would be helpful to use the correct names for groups to avoid confusion.
* Nick and Jim suggest that Margaret sit in to advise and give support to the drafting committee but not be an official member.
* **Action:** The LGAC member could be a contact for media to interview for stories. Margaret and Mary need to discuss.
* **Action:** LGAC is interested in the ‘Lessons Learned’ publication by STAR, Nita please send this to Mary.
* Scheduling issue: we are conflicting with the MB meetings, so our meetings will be moved to the **first** Thursday of every month as opposed to the second. Stay tuned for more information about the meeting shift.