



*LGAC Members Present:* Richard Baugh, Patty Bubar, Mark Dobbins, Amy Dubois, Sheila Finlayson, Jasmine Gore, Penny Gross, Michael Helfrich, Donna Iannone, Andria McClellan, Don Phillips, Robin Rich-Coates, John Thomas, Ann Simonetti, James Wheeler, Emeritus Bruce Williams representing Jake Day, Emeritus Phil Briddell representing Leo Lutz and LGAC Staff: Ola-Imani Davis and Jennifer Starr

*Speakers/Guests Present:* Carin Bisland (EPA), Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Laura Cattell Noll (Alliance), Jim Edward (EPA), Liz Feinberg (NFWF), Rachel Felver (CBP), Mary Gattis (Bay Journal), Adrienne Kotula (CBC), Danny Lapin (Otego County), John Maleri (DC DOEE), Matthew Pennington (WV), Tuana Phillips (EPA), Kathy Stecker (MDE), Jim Sullivan (DE DNREC), Ashley White (CCAP), Justin Williams (VA DEQ)

#### **Thursday, September 24, 2020**

##### **Call to Order: Greetings and Introductions**

Chair, Ann Simonetti called the meeting webinar to order at 10:00 am.

Ann welcomed LGAC Members and invited guests to the 2020 Local Government Forum: *Building Local Community Resilience Against Climate-Related Flooding*, hosted in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Climate Resiliency Workgroup and funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The Local Government Forum is a problem solving-strategic planning event hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in collaboration with the Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council (LGAC) and NFWF. Through facilitated group discussion, participants identified issues that hinder or help advance local implementation of watershed protection and restoration initiatives. Findings and recommendations, developed during the forum, are documented and next steps are identified.

Participants considered the development of recommendations based upon this problem statement: *As communities face the increasing challenge of climate-related flooding, there is a growing need for local decision makers to harness public support and resources necessary to effectively prepare for, manage, and ultimately reduce/mitigate local flooding impacts. Making the case to state and federal partners for funding actions tied to improving community resilience is paramount. Climate-related inequities need to be addressed as well as protection of social, economic, and natural infrastructure assets. Managing water quantity challenges caused by flooding must be prioritized along with meeting water quality requirements. There is a cost to no action compared to securing resources to prepare for and better respond to flooding impacts.*

Participants also identified assumptions made on behalf of the problem statement, explored relative case study analyses, and formed break-out discussions to develop specific recommendations addressing flooding to impacted communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

#### **Friday, September 25, 2020**

Chair Ann Simonetti began the second day of the LGAC Quarterly Meeting by thanking Members for their participation during the 2020 Local Government Forum. She then welcomed new LGAC Members, Amy Dubois, Chair of the Mathews County Board of Supervisors, VA; Commissioner Donna Iannone, Sullivan County, PA; and, reported that Commissioner Ron Fithian, Kent County, MD, had resigned from LGAC.

## 2020 Local Government Forum Debrief

Jennifer invited Members to reflect on the 2020 Local Government Forum. Members enjoyed the Forum topic and connecting technical subject matter experts to the idea of what is impacting local governments, while giving LGAC a voice in the matter. Members also appreciated the advantage of conducting break-out sessions to thoughtfully cover more sub-topics. Jennifer reported that the draft Forum report will be available for review by the end of 2020. Members considered expanding on topics around equity and water quantity, availability of funding strategies on federal, state and local levels, dual benefit projects, and the negative effects of flooding (tidal and precipitation) on water quality due to polluted runoff.

## Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

*Carin Bisland, Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)*

Carin reviewed:

- The jurisdictions' progress in meeting 2025 watershed implementation plan (WIP) targets.
- The draft Conowingo WIP strategy, which primarily supports restoration efforts in natural filters, sustainable farm practices, and nutrient reduction practices in northern MD, PA and southern NY. After the draft strategy is reviewed and approved by the Principal's Staff Committee (PSC), a final financial strategy should be available by March 2021 to begin implementing financing activities by winter 2022-2033.
- The most effective basins funding allocation methodology; when Congress appropriated \$85 million to Chesapeake Bay funding, \$6 million was designated to most effective basins. Although no formal description of intent was given, the CBP office has used a percentage of this funding to address load effectiveness (a measure of the ability of management practices implemented in a given area (basin) to have a positive effect on dissolved oxygen in the Bay) and its combination of land to water, delivery, and dissolved oxygen response. Another percentage of funding will be provided for the most cost-effective BMPs in the agricultural sector to the Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions that have committed to reducing the agricultural contribution of nitrogen in their Phase III WIPs.
- The CBP's diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) commitments. After CBP's Diversity Statement was signed by the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) in August 2020, the PSC developed an action statement including commitments and recommendations which included, *"within three months of the signing of the Chesapeake Executive Council statement, [the CBP partnership will] explore a process for a community advisory board (CAB) composed of environmental justice leaders and representatives from organizations led by people of color or other underrepresented groups. This board could be part of one of the partnership's existing advisory boards (Citizens Advisory Committee or Local Government Advisory Committee)."*

While LGAC agreed that CAB should be separate from LGAC, Members reminded themselves that DEIJ work should remain integrated through their work in local governance. Michael Helfrich moved to support that, "LGAC believes that diversity, equity, inclusion and justice principles should be incorporated in all of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's activities. In addition, LGAC supports the formation of a Community Advisory Board and commits to work with the Community Advisory Board in a capacity to be agreed upon by the Community Advisory Board and LGAC at a later date." Penny Gross seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

*Action: Staff to provide Members with CAB information sheet.*

## Business Meeting

- Approval of June 2020 Minutes – Penny Gross moved to adopt the June 2020 minutes, seconded by Sheila Finlayson, all in favor, none opposed.
- Executive Committee Report (Chair) – Ann reported the success of the 2020 EC Meeting where Governor Ralph Northam was elected Chair. She then reminded Members of the invitation, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, to virtually meet with Governor Northam where LGAC recommendations will be discussed. Ann also mentioned the meetings she had attended prior including a meeting among the Advisory Committee Chairs during the MD Bay Cabinet Meeting, where LGAC recommendations were also discussed, and reported she will be attending the upcoming PSC meeting in October 2020. Finally, Members agreed to 2021 LGAC Quarterly Meeting dates.

- Coordinator's Report – Jennifer reported that LGAC staff represent LGAC on various CBP Workgroups and Goal Implementation Teams. She also solicited Member feedback on holding a full day and a half of meeting during the December 2020's LGAC Quarterly Meeting to which LGAC had no concerns.
- Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Report (Coordinator) – Laura reported the LLWG has elected Shannon Moore, Frederick County, MD, as its Vice Chair and she will succeed Matthew Pennington as the Workgroup Chair effective February 2021. She also shared the LLWG is wrapping up their two-year milestones and will be coming to LGAC in December to discuss what the Workgroup needs to get done during the 2021-2022 year. Finally, Laura updated Members on the status of the watershed education modules and will come to LGAC in December for a complete overview of the project.

### **Jurisdiction Lunch Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates**

*Maryland* discussed finding a new MD delegation Member to replace Ron Fithian, COVID-19 impacts on local governments in terms of funding allocations, and, a partnership effort in Anne Arundel County that has a potential to be a funding mechanism for environmental efforts.

*District of Columbia* is concerned about COVID-19 impacts on development and regulations for developers. The DOEE will keep their capital budgets moving into the next fiscal year and that will allow them to continue restoration projects.

*Pennsylvania* expressed the need for new Members getting acclimated through training sessions to Chesapeake Bay (Watershed) issues and the Chesapeake Bay Program upon appointment. Staff considered making follow-up calls to new Members after attending their first Quarterly Meeting and reminded Members that the Watershed Education modules will outline Chesapeake Bay information in a digestible way for local elected officials. PA also discussed how local governments needed to scale back due to COVID-19.

*Virginia* welcomed Amy Dubois, discussed the financial and water quality effects of COVID-19 and potential legislations. (Andria McClellan shared the idea of creating a citizen-appointed Commonwealth Flood Board to address flooding and precipitation data). On September 9, 2020, Penny Gross moved to elect Andria McClellan as the LGAC's Virginia Vice Chair and seconded by Jasmine Gore via email. Penny Gross moved for LGAC to ratify Virginia's choice to elect Andria McClellan as LGAC's Virginia Vice Chair; seconded by Richard Baugh, all in favor, none opposed.

*Delaware and the At-Large* delegation discussed including town managers as guests at LGAC Quarterly Meetings as a potential to help alleviate the stressors of turnover and managing budget.

### **New Business/ Future Agenda Items**

- Jennifer reassured LGAC that there are a number of topics that can be referred back to as possible topics for the December 2020 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm