**CAC Meetings and CAC Letters**

**A Year in Review September 2020 - September 2021**

Briefing Material for 2021 CAC Annual Recommendations Discussion

Below is an overview of meeting topics and letters since the last CAC annual report of recommendations issued July 2020:

Meeting Themes:

*Environmental Quality and Public Health*

*New Administration Priorities and Conowingo WIP*

*Progress and Climate Change*

*Chesapeake Bay Program Communications and Outreach, Engagement and Stewardship*

*Watershed Agreement Outcomes (wetlands and buffers) and federal funding*

Letters:

1. *To President Biden: federal leadership; federal funding; oversight, enforcement and accountability*
2. *Comments on Draft CWIP: funding; feasibility; sediment*
3. *To EPA Administrator Regan: accountability for the 2025 deadline, cover letter for President Biden letter*

**September 2020 Meeting**

***Theme:*** *Environmental Quality and Public Health*

***Meeting Goal:*** Foster a deeper understanding of the connections between environmental quality and public health. The panel will help us to discover opportunities for professionals and stakeholders in both fields to bridge the gaps and inform each other’s efforts for positive change.

**Chesapeake Bay Program’s DEIJ Strategy and PSC Action Plan**

* Highlights of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Strategy, EC Statement and PSC Action Plan
* Updates and Discussion on options to create a Community Advisory Board

**Panel: Bridging the Gaps Between Environmental Quality and Public Health**

**Co-Moderators:** Surili Patel, American Public Health Association and Julie Lawson, CAC Vice-Chair

**Panelists:**

* Doug Farquhar, Esq, Environmental Health Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures
* Dr. Sacoby Wilson Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health
* Nsedu Obott Witherspoon, Executive Director, Children’s Environmental Health Network
* Liz Perera Director, Climate Policy, Sierra Club
* Adrienne Hollis, Union of Concerned Scientists

**Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**

* Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan and Financing Strategy
* Updates on Jurisdictions’ Progress
* Most effective basins for allocating funding
* How EPA determines targeted tributaries for additional funding

**Wastewater Epidemiology and COVID-19**

Dr. Raul Gonzalez, Environmental Scientist, Hampton Roads Sanitation District

**September 23-** Virtual Meeting with Virginia Governor Ralph Northam

**October 2020**- CAC Learning Session: Monitoring 101

**December 2020 Meeting**

***Theme:*** *New Administration Priorities and Conowingo WIP*

***Meeting Goal:*** Learn and discuss Committee advice and action on environmental priorities for the new Administration and the draft Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan.

**Environmental Priorities in the New Administration**

* Shannon Frede, Environmental Policy Counsel, Office of U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (MD)
* Alyssa Charney, Environmental Issues, Office of U.S. Senator Casey (PA)
* Peter Marx, Federal Affairs, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Panelists share their thoughts and perspectives onPriorities of the Congressional Delegation with respect to the Bay Watershed in 2021 and How the Biden Administration can help advance restoration of the Chesapeake and challenges for doing so.

**Draft Conowingo WIP Strategy**

Matt Rowe, a co-chair of the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Steering Committee, and Bryan Seipp, with the Center for Watershed Protection, grantee to help develop the WIP, present key elements of the draft Conowingo WIP. Comment period open until January 20 (new extended deadline).

**Conowingo Dam: Stakeholders’ Perspectives**

* Beth McGee, Director of Science and Agricultural Policy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
* Betsy Nicholas, Executive Director, Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Stakeholder’s perspectives on the draft WIP, the Conowingo Settlement with the State of Maryland and Exelon, Corp., and other topics of interest.

**Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**

* Updates on DEIJ Action Team and the Community Advisory Board
* CBP action around 2020 CAC EC Recommendations
* FY2021 Budget

**January 2021**

CAC Orientation #1: Bay Watershed 101

CAC Learning Session: Monitoring 101

Letters:

* President Biden: federal leadership; federal funding; oversight, enforcement and accountability
* Draft CWIP: funding; feasibility; sediment

**February 2021**

CAC Learning Session Modeling 101

CAC Orientation #2: How CAC Works

**February 2021 Meeting**

***Theme:*** *Progress, Priorities and Climate Change*

***Meeting Goal:***Identify the Citizens Advisory Committee’s preliminary priorities to inform future meeting themes and CAC Subcommittees

**State of the Chesapeake Bay**

Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission

* Progress toward meeting the pollution reductions in the TMDL “pollution diet”
* Overview of the Chesapeake Bay Commission’s Congressional outreach efforts
* Update on Federal and state legislative activity
* Insights on additional pollution from climate change

**2019-2020 Bay Barometer**

Rachel Felver, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office

* Overview of the CBP Communications Office
* Highlights from the most recent Bay Barometer

**CBP Updates**

* Overview of the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) workplan
* March PSC Meeting and plans for April PSC Meeting
* Executive Council Meeting Planning
* Relevant Executive Orders and Biden Administration Priorities

**Community Engagement on the CBP DEIJ Implementation Strategy**

**Climate Change Impacts and Challenges**

Dave Jasinski, Green Fin Studio

* Introduction to Climate Change concepts
* What the science and data are saying
* Impacts

**Climate Change Challenges to the Bay TMDL**

Mark Bennett, Co-Chair, CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup, (USGS)

James Martin, CBP Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, VA DEQ

* Overview of the scientific understanding via the Bay Model of climate change on the Bay TMDL 2025 goal
* CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup’s goals for advancing the Bay Program Partnership's understanding and resiliency response
* Bay Program’s response to addressing climate change for the TMDL 2025 goal
* Virginia’s Approach

**March 2021**

Letter- EPA Administrator Regan: accountability for the 2025 deadline

**April 2021**

CAC Learning Session: EJ and Equity Dashboard

**May 2021 Meeting**

**Theme:** *Chesapeake Bay Program Communications and Outreach, Engagement and Stewardship*

***Meeting Goals:***(1) Explore how the CAC can be most effective in advising the Chesapeake Bay Program on outreach and engagement and (2) Inform CAC members about policy issues where CAC may want to advise the Principals’ Staff Committee and Executive Council.

**Briefing and Background for the Afternoon’s Session on Outreach and Engagement**

Daphne Pee, CAC Member: Definitions and terminology debrief

Kristin Saunders Cross Program Coordinator, CBP, UMCES: Description of CBP’s role

**Stewardship and Social Science at CBP**

Britt Slattery Coordinator, Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship, NPS

Amy Handen, Local Implementation Programs Coordinator, EPA CBPO

**Chesapeake Bay Program Local Engagement Strategy**

Laura Cattell Noll, Coordinator, CBP Local Leadership Workgroup

Jennifer Starr Coordinator, Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

**Examples of CBP Communications and Outreach**

Paula Jasinski, Green Fin Studio- Education Modules: A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay

Caitlyn Johnstone, Outreach and Communications Specialist, CBP- CBP Fish Consumption Advisory

**Region 3 EPA Updates**

Diana Esher, Acting Region 3 Administrator, EPA

* Status of hiring a new CBP Director and potential Bay Czar
* EPA's plan to help or intervene with jurisdictions falling behind in the Bay TMDL
* What happens if the 2025 water quality goals are not met?
* EPA's priorities for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

**Climate Change Executive Council Directive**

Ann Jennings, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources

**Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan** **Financing Strategy**

Dan Nees, Center for Global Sustainability, University of MD

**August 2021**

CAC Learning Session: Plastic Pollution Action Team