



**Citizens Advisory Committee**  
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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May 27, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Chair, Chesapeake Executive Council  
State of Maryland  
Office of the Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: CAC 2014 Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Dear Governor O'Malley,

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) recognizes the hard work the Chesapeake Bay Program partners have undertaken in support of creating a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (Agreement). Thank you for allowing for additional public review and comment periods as well as responding to the issues that the citizens feel are important inclusions in a regional approach to restoration. We are particularly pleased to see that toxic contaminants, climate change, diversity, environmental justice, and stewardship were included in the final Agreement. We believe the breadth and scope of topics that are in the Agreement are appropriate for a holistic restoration and protection effort across the Bay watershed.

As your citizen advisors, we offer the following comments and points of recommendation for your consideration for the 2014 annual meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council when the EC members are expected to review the progress of the restoration effort setting the policy for the future of the collective watershed work by signing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement:

### **Points of Recommendation**

#### **1. Emphasize Local Benefits in the Management Strategies**

We acknowledge that the inclusion of the Headwater States of Delaware, New York and West Virginia is a landmark moment in the evolution of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. We believe this collective recommitment to the restoration and protection of the watershed provides an opportunity for more citizen engagement through the



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improvement of local waterways. The management strategies should be viewed as a tool for local

participation and be developed in a way that clearly demonstrates local benefits and the value of healthy local natural resources. We encourage you to guide the staff who will lead the development of the management strategies to do so in the spirit that a healthy Chesapeake Bay is really the collection of healthy local waters that benefit the entire region's citizenry.

2. **Commit to the Resources Required to Meet the Commitments in the Agreement**

We strongly urge the signatories of the Agreement to provide adequate staff and funding towards the commitments required to meet the goals and outcomes. We encourage you to consider using the management strategies to show how the signatories are prioritizing their commitment to the Agreement by outlining the anticipated funding that will be used to meet outcomes. We also encourage you to take full advantage of federal funding that may be available for meeting the goals. For example, collectively support the designation of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed as a high priority landscape in the Collaborative Landscape Conservation Initiative and the 2014 Farm Bill's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

3. **Continue with the Good Work on Strengthening Consistency in BMP Verification**

As you may know, CAC has been a strong proponent of the Bay Program partners' work to improve the verification of nonpoint source Best Management Practices (BMPs). The Program has taken great care to respond to the challenges in the 2011 reports issued by the National Academy of Science, *Achieving Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Evaluation of Program Strategies and Implementation* and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's *Conservation Effects Assessment Project* (CEAP). We acknowledge that the States and District have different approaches to BMP verification and that there are challenges to consistency among the sectors. We also acknowledge that there should be a balance between the need to expend resources on implementation while still ensuring appropriate verification is in place. We believe that this balance can be achieved in with a common sense approach also believe that a lack of funding for appropriate BMP verification is not a sufficient reason to forgo the steps necessary to ensure citizen confidence in the accounting of restoration and conservation practices. We encourage you to continue to work toward strengthening BMP verification and follow the protocols that afford the jurisdictions defensible credit in the Chesapeake Bay computer model.

The Citizens Advisory Committee supports the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners. We are hopeful that the management strategies will be developed with transparency that demonstrates the signatories' commitment to the watershed effort that will demonstrate local benefits and allow for local participation. We are committed to help where we can to meet the recommendations we've provided for the 2014 Chesapeake Executive Council. Please feel free to call upon us to be of service in our capacity of advisors.

Thank you for your continued leadership to restoring and protecting our National Treasure, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Sincerely,



R. John Dawes  
Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee

CC: Chesapeake Executive Council Members  
Attachment: 2014 Citizen Advisory Committee Membership

## **MARYLAND**

### **Andrew Der:**

Andrew is the Principal of Andrew T. Der & Associates, LLC which provides water resource assessments and feasibility studies. He has served 17 years as a government regulatory official and, since 2000, currently an environmental consultant.

### **Verna Harrison:**

Verna serves as the Executive Director of the Keith Campbell Foundation in Annapolis. She retired from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources after serving as Assistant Secretary for 20 years. Verna serves on the Executive Committee of CAC.

### **Jeff Holland:**

Jeff Holland serves as the Riverkeeper for the West and Rhode Rivers, engaged in restoration projects, advocacy and awareness-building programs to make the water swimmable, fishable and clean. Previously, he was executive director of the Annapolis Maritime Museum, where he established an award-winning environmental education program for Anne Arundel County public school students. An avid fisherman and boater, he also serves on the board of the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race and is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Annapolis Rotary Club.

### **Karen McJunkin:**

Karen is a Regional Partner with Elm Street Development and has been responsible for directing land acquisition and development activities for over 20 years in Anne Arundel County, Charles County, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Karen has served as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Home Builders Association of Maryland and is past President of the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Association. She has also served on Governor O'Malley's Climate Change Commission and the Governor's Smart Growth Collaborative.

### **Charlie Stek, Vice Chair:**

Charlie serves as Chairman of the Board of the Chesapeake Conservancy and as Policy Director of the No Child Left Inside Coalition. He retired in 2007 after a 28-year career on Capitol Hill serving primarily as a senior policy advisor and projects director for Senator Paul Sarbanes, advancing Chesapeake Bay and other initiatives.

### **Nikki Tinsley:**

Nikki Tinsley was the Inspector General for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from November 1998 until February 2006. She simultaneously served as Inspector General for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. Prior to her appointment as Inspector General, she served in various management and audit positions including EPA, the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service, and the US Government Accountability Office. As Inspector General, she provided audit oversight and conducted criminal investigations for EPA and CSB programs and operations, and worked with political leaders and Agency managers to develop national environmental goals and strategies to protect human health and the environment. Ms. Tinsley has a Masters Degree in Management and is a Certified Public Accountant. Currently, she provides project management and consulting services to private and public entities.

### **Victor Ukpolo:**

Victor is a Program Specialist for Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection's Waste Reduction and Recycling Section. He is a native of Baltimore City, Maryland graduated from Morgan State University and California State University, Los Angeles with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Master's in Environmental Science and Engineering, respectively. He has just less than 10 years experience working for non-profits such as the Maryland DC Audubon Society and Clean Water Action as an environmental educator and community organizer. He has also interned with the California Department of Transportation as an environmental planner and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board implementing NPDES storm water compliance regulations.

### **John McNeil (Neil) Wilkie:**

Neil is Chair Emeritus of CAC. Prior positions since retiring as Vice Chairman of Morgan Guaranty International Bank include Managing Director of the Davidson Capital Group, LLC, serving as Washington Area Managing

Partner of Tatum CFO Partners and CEO of Eurotech, Ltd., a DC based public company involved in nuclear waste remediation. Neil now resides in Galesville, MD. Neil served as CAC Chair from 2006-2008 and as Vice-Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Finance Panel. Currently, he serves as Maryland's Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and a member of CAC's Executive Committee.

## **NEW YORK**

### **Scott Fickbohm:**

Scott is currently the manager of the Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District and serves on the boards of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and Central New York Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. He is a member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Agricultural Committee, local Water Quality Coordinating Committee and works cooperatively with the Otsego County Farmland Protection Board. Prior to public service, he worked as a researcher monitoring nutrient export in the NY portion of the Susquehanna River Basin; documented the impact of wetland restoration on biodiversity and water quality and studied the impact of purple loosestrife on nitrogen and carbon cycling. He has undergraduate degree in Political Science and a Master of Science degree in Biology from the State University of New York.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **Bill Achor:**

Bill is currently working on a dairy farm. Prior to that, he was a Business Developer for Cargill, Inc. within their Emerging Business Accelerator business platform. Bill has also served as an environmental coordinator for a major mid-Atlantic feed manufacturer and was an environmental consultant. Bill has held several agricultural committee chairs and co-chairs in Harrisburg helping to establish environmental policy in nutrient management for agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

### **Paul J. Bruder:**

Paul is a partner with the Harrisburg, PA based law firm Rhoads & Sinon LLP and Chair of the firm's Environmental and Natural Resources Practice Group. Paul joined Rhoads & Sinon in 1998 after serving 3 years as Assistant Counsel with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

### **John Dawes, Chair:**

John is the Administrator for the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. He served as an alternate Commissioner on Governor Ridge's 21st Century Commission on the Environment and was part of a policy team for the Heinz Endowments Environmental Program. He serves on the Board of POWR – the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers. John was Chairman of the PA Abandoned Mine Lands Campaign which was successful in getting the industry-supported funds reauthorization in Congress in 2006. John is an Angus breeder on his Huntingdon County farm. John is the Chair of CAC.

### **Matt Ehrhart:**

Matt is the Director of Watershed Restoration at the Stroud Water Research Center. Prior to moving to Stroud in January, 2013, Matt served as the Executive Director for the Pennsylvania office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) for over a decade. He chairs the PA DEP Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee and is a member of the PA Water Resource Advisory Committee. Matt received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Resource Management and his Master of Engineering in Engineering Science from the Pennsylvania State University.

### **Jim Elliott:**

Jim is an attorney with Spilman Thomas and Battle, PLLC in their Mechanicsburg, PA office. He has over 15 years of experience practicing law with a focus on civil and criminal environmental matters. Jim has served on the Bay Program's Budget Steering Committee and now serves on the Executive Committee of CAC

### **Dr. Pat Levin:**

Dr. Levin is a Registered Nurse, Folklorist and Genealogist. Pat is a retired Adjunct Professor in American Studies at Franklin & Marshall College. An at-large appointment, she was formerly active in planning and community issues in Lancaster County.

**Jennifer Reed-Harry:**

Jennifer Reed-Harry has served as Assistant Vice President of PennAg Industries Association since 2009. Prior to joining PennAg, Jennifer has worked for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau as the Natural Resources Director; Country View Family Farms as the Growth Manager/Environmental Compliance; and as the District Manager of the Fulton County Conservation District. Jennifer serves on numerous state committees related to soil and water stewardship.

**VIRGINIA**

**Gregory Evans:**

Greg, a resident of Fairfax County, is retired from careers in the environmental consulting industry ending at Booz Allen Hamilton where he directed the company's support to the Department of Defense's environmental management program at the Pentagon level; and as an appointee in the Federal government at the White House, EPA, Department of Energy and the US Synthetic Fuels Corporation. Concurrently, he has served Virginia in many roles including President of the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board, Chair of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District Director, and as a member of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Governor's Commission on Natural Resources Funding. Greg recently joined the Virginia Department of Forestry where he is responsible for developing a statewide voluntary mitigation program focused on upland forest conservation in the Commonwealth. He holds an undergraduate degree in management from Bryant University, RI, an MBA from The George Washington University, and a Master in Natural Resources degree from Virginia Tech.

**Christy Everett:**

Christy is the Virginia Director for the Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Christy oversees CBF volunteer recruitment, restoration, outreach and advocacy programs in Hampton Roads. Prior to joining CBF in 2000, she coordinated the Tributary Team for Maryland's Eastern Shore under the MD Department of Natural Resources. Christy serves on the Executive Committee of CAC.

**Joseph Maroon:**

Joseph is the Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment and serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. He has over 30 years of experience in Chesapeake Bay and natural resources leadership. Joe previously served as the Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for eight years during which time he also served on the Bay Principal Staff Committee (2002-2010), as the Virginia Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (1985-2002), and as the Principal of his own environmental consulting practice (2010-2013). He has received several awards including being named outstanding environmental leader in Virginia in 2000.

**Robert Wayland:**

Bob is retired from the US Environmental Protection Agency where his last assignment was Director of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds. He has served on the Virginia State Water Control Board and the Boards of Directors of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy and the Southeast Watershed Forum. He lives where the Rappahannock meets the Bay and has spent nearly his entire life in the Bay watershed.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**William (Bill) Martin, Jr.:**

Appointed by the District of Columbia, Bill is a retired Patent Agent with the US Patent Office. He is a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. A boat owner, Bill is active in boating, fishing and golf.

**Dan Milstein:**

Dan and his wife live within a stone's throw of the Anacostia River in DC's Ward 7 and look forward to the day when this Chesapeake Bay tributary is swimmable and fishable. Dan presently works in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of International Affairs.

**Erica Rosenberg:**

Erica has over 25 years of wide-ranging legal and environmental policy experience with Congress, agencies, academia, and NGO's. On the Hill, she served as counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Public Lands, National Parks and Forests Subcommittee and to the House Resources Committee. She has also worked in EPA's Offices of General Counsel and Regional Counsel and as senior adviser to the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

She has taught, written, spoken, and consulted extensively on natural resources policy. As an environmental consultant and writer, she has written white papers on land and state watershed protection strategies, park expansion campaigns, and wilderness and forest policy for NGO's, as well as conservation planning for the Marine Corps.

**Angana Shah:**

Angana is a development practitioner with extensive experience in Democracy and Governance issues through projects in the field as a USAID contractor and 2 years as a USAID Democracy and Governance fellow. She currently is a legal consultant for the International Finance Corporation/World Bank Group, Investment Climate Advisory Services.