

Citizens Advisory Committee TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Diverse Voices Unified for the Chesapeake

**2007 REPORT TO THE
CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**
December 5, 2007



Citizens Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council

2007 Annual Report

(Issued December 5, 2007)

In 2007 the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council (CAC) has continued to sharpen its focus on overall funding for Bay restoration and progress on the Tributary Strategies and improved water quality as the starting point for a healthy Bay. Since the last Executive Council meeting over a year ago, individual CAC members have contacted their Congressional representatives to support increased conservation funding in the 2007 Farm Bill. Additionally, CAC convened panels on Tributary Strategy implementation in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia with particular interest in land use and growth management. CAC has engaged Bay Program staff, technical committees, and numerous local stakeholders on these issues.

In each jurisdiction throughout the watershed, CAC heard one resounding theme: The restoration effort must be tied to local rivers and quality of life, not a broad “Save the Bay” message. Each community has its own unique treasure that must be protected. Focus on these local resources will drive communities throughout the 64,000 square mile watershed to support their elected officials and encourage the political will to invest in local environmental preservation. Based upon this work and internal CAC discussions, CAC is pleased to offer the following Annual Report with specific recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council.

The Citizens Advisory Committee remains encouraged that the Bay Program partners are making progress in understanding and implementing needed restoration actions despite a significant gap between the available and required funding for full implementation of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement. CAC acknowledges that the Program partners will not meet the 2010 deadline for targeted goals of water quality improvement. However, we continue to strongly believe in the goals and mission of the Bay Program. We view the Tributary Strategies as the most crucial element of the Bay restoration effort. As your citizen advisors, CAC recommends the Bay Program partners seriously evaluate how the Tributary Strategies are implemented and reallocate your efforts and funding to achieve the “best bang for the buck”. To this end **CAC recommends you strategically target how and where you spend your implementation dollars in order to significantly accelerate restoration progress and measurable results. Tributary Strategies should be further refined to target spending, land acquisition, and messaging.**

Accelerate Tributary Strategy Implementation:

- **Target Agricultural Practices**

Supporting agricultural lands and implementing Best Management Practices remains the most effective means of controlling nutrient and sediment loading to the Bay and achieving the C2K water quality objectives. Invest in agricultural BMPs that support farming viability, are sustainable overtime, and that can eventually pay for themselves. **In order to significantly accelerate restoration we encourage you to target programmatically and geographically.**

- **Growth Management**

CAC believes current growth patterns, if continued, will significantly increase the costs of Bay recovery and may negate the steps currently being taken to improve water quality and living resources. We must think differently about how we grow. To date, the Program partners have not yet figured out a way to measure sprawl development. CAC believes we will not be able to manage the impacts of growth if we do not have a way of knowing how much farm land, forests and wetlands we are losing to development. We encourage you to build the capacity of local communities so local governments and their constituencies will have the means to make well-informed decisions on land use that protects local water quality. **We encourage you to promote an effort for local communities to proactively identify tracts of land for preservation, rather than merely deciding where growth will occur.**

- **Messaging**

Local ownership of a broad Chesapeake Bay restoration will not drive a successful clean-up effort. Motivation and action is tied to self interests and preserving quality of life. The focus and message from the Bay Program partners must be flexible enough to demonstrate to communities that there are local benefits of good land use decisions and the Bay will reap benefits as well. **When citizens support their local governments to make decisions to protect their backyard *and* local governments have the right tools to do it, then an ethic of “Healthy Communities, Healthy Bay” will drive restoration.**

Looking to the Future

- **Bio-energy:** We encourage you to make comprehensive decisions regarding the potential advances and water quality impacts from Biofuels and Bio-energy technologies.

- **Conowingo Dam:** All of our restoration progress is vulnerable to the millions of pounds of sediment building up behind the Conowingo Dam. It is a “Katrina-like” disaster in our own backyard. We strongly advise you to direct scientists and engineers to suggest the best course of action regarding this issue.
- **Oyster Restoration:** CAC has been following oyster restoration efforts and the Federal Environmental Impact Study on potential introduction of a non-native oyster in the Chesapeake Bay environment. We recommend you continue to support the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) recommendations for a thorough the Environmental Impact Statement process on this difficult policy question.
- **Enhancing Bay Program Organizational Effectiveness:** Last year CAC reported to you that we support the Bay Program in evaluating a reorganization to assess how the Program can more effectively implement the Tributary Strategies and enhance accountability. The Citizens Advisory Committee is working internally and with Bay Program staff to refine how citizen input can provide you and the Bay Program with timely and relevant advice. We encourage you and your principal staff to offer guidance to CAC as to the topics on which you would like to have citizen perspectives. As you can see below, CAC’s membership has specific expertise and is well qualified to provide you with meaningful advice.

2007 CAC MEMBERSHIP

MARYLAND

Robert J. Etgen: Rob is Executive Director of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, a regional land conservancy which has protected over 35,000 acres of Chesapeake Bay landscapes. Rob has been active in Maryland land preservation since the mid - 1980's and is currently on the Boards of Scenic Maryland and Maryland Nonprofits where he serves as Public Policy Committee Co-Chair.

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. In 2007 Verna served as Vice-Chair of CAC.

Kathleen L. Maloney: Katie is the Executive Vice President and Legislative Affairs Director for the MD State Builders Association. She currently handles policy priorities for the building industry in the legislative and regulatory agencies. She lives in Annapolis where she enjoys sailing and running. Katie serves on the Executive Committee of CAC.

Beth McGee: Beth is the senior water quality scientist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. She coordinates CBF's agricultural initiatives and provides technical expertise on water quality and contaminant issues.

Steele Phillips: A retired farmer from Dorchester County, Steele has been an at-large appointee since 1991. He is a Supervisor of the Dorchester Soil and Water Conservation District, and on the President's Advisory Council and a former Trustee of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Steele also sits on the Board of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance Board. Steele represents CAC on the Bay Program's Nutrient Subcommittee.

Charlie Stek: Charlie is an environmental consultant and recently retired chief policy advisor to Senator Paul Sarbanes on Appropriations, Environment, Natural Resources, Public Works and Transportation issues and transition projects director to Senator Benjamin Cardin. Charlie is currently working on the No Child Left Inside legislation.

Nikki Tinsley: Nikki is a consultant and recently retired Inspector General to EPA where she provided audit oversight to help improve federal grant accountability and worked with political leaders and agency managers to develop national environmental goals and strategies to protect human health and the environment.

John McNeil (Neil) Wilkie, Chair: Originally an appointment of the District of Columbia, Neil is Managing Director of the Davidson Capital Group, LLC. Prior positions since retiring as Vice Chairman of Morgan Guaranty International Bank include 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 and will be serving a second term as Chair of CAC in 2008. Neil served as a Vice-Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel.

There is one gubernatorial Maryland Vacancy.

PENNSYLVANIA

John Dawes: John is the administrator for the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, formerly named the Western PA Watershed Program. 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 currently serves as President of the

Board of POWR – the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers. John is also an Angus breeder on his Huntingdon County farm.

Jim Elliott: Jim serves in an At-Large capacity. He is an attorney with Hunton and Williams in Washington, DC, specializing in environmental law. Jim lives in Pennsylvania and serves on the Bay Program’s Budget Steering Committee and is the newly elected 2008 Vice-Chair for CAC.

C. Victor Funk: C. Victor Funk is a retired Chief of the Nonpoint Source Management Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The Chesapeake Bay Executive Council awarded Mr. Funk the “Unsung Hero” award in 1992 for his support to the Bay Program and for promoting cooperation between agencies.

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

Betsy Quant: Betsy is a family business operator, serving as Office Manager, Accountant, and Chief On-Site Assistant for Canoe Susquehanna, and Ironwood, an electrical, plumbing and heating firm.

There is currently one At-Large Pennsylvania Vacancy.

VIRGINIA

Nancy L. Alexander: Nancy is a systems analyst at Wachovia Securities, residing in Chesterfield County. She is a graduate of William & Mary with a BS in Biology. Her volunteer work with Ducks Unlimited and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation keeps her active in wetland conservation.

Suzy Friedman: Suzy is a staff scientist at the Center for Conservation at the Environmental Defense. In 2006 she was a lead project manager for a report “Farming for Clean Water” that looks at how to target agricultural practices in tributary strategies implementation.

Stella Koch: Stella resides in Fairfax County in Great Falls. She is the Virginia Conservation Associate at Audubon Naturalist Society. She is a founding member of the VA Environmental Network, later incorporated into the Coalition for Smart Growth. She serves on the Boards of the Center for Watershed Protection; the Potomac Riverkeeper and on the Environmental Quality Advisory Council to Fairfax County Board.

Louis Ryan: Louis is a retired executive vice president and general counsel for Landmark Communications Inc. He resides in Hampton Roads, VA and serves on the Boards of Chesapeake Bay Foundation advisory council and the Elizabeth River Project. Past leadership includes Lead Hampton Roads board chair, the Planning Council board, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce board and the Virginia State Bar chair of the Business Law Section.

William J. Whitney: Jack has served as an At-Large appointment since 1989. Jack was formerly the chief environmental planner for Virginia Beach and is now Directors of the Virginia Beach

Department of Agriculture and Department of Planning. Jack is a past Chair of CAC, and currently serves on CAC's Executive Committee.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Carl Cole: Carl recently retired from CAC as an appointee of the District of Columbia for ten years, Carl is a Management Consultant for small and minority owned businesses. He is the former Director of the Climate Institute and served on the Board of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation.

William 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.

Jack Nelson: Jack is a recently retired Program Manager with the Employment Compliance Technical Assistance Division of the US Department of Agriculture. A District appointment since 1991, Jack is active with the Highland Beach & Venice Beach Citizens Associations.

There is two mayoral vacancies.

CAC YOUNG DELEGATES

Maryland: **Sarah Gregg**, Washington College

Virginia: **Aaron Pratt**, Virginia Tech

In the coming months CAC will be selecting Young Delegates for Pennsylvania and DC.

CAC is staffed by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

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