

Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Report

2002



Chesapeake Bay Program

A Watershed Partnership

Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

Citizen Advisory Committee Reorganization

In the Fall of 2001, CAC held a facilitated workshop to realign its organization with the

goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement; streamlining the number of internal subcommittees from twelve to three standing Committees. CAC now has internal committee to work specifically on the issues of :

- Land Use
- Water Quality
- Communications and Education

Accordingly the CAC Executive Committee is currently comprised of the CAC Chair, Vice Chair and the subcommittee chairs of each of the above groups. It is expected that this re-structuring will enhance the effectiveness of CAC as an Advisory Committee,

CAC Young Delegate Program

In 2001 CAC added non-voting young delegates from each of the four Bay Program jurisdictions,: Stephanie Quaranta from the District of Columbia (American U), Shannon Meseck VA (Old Dominion U), Olivia Campbell MD

(Gettysburg College) and Jessica Spencer PA (Dickinson College). The Young delegate program was accepted by CAC and authorized by the Bay Program with a \$5000 budget. Each of the young delegates has contributed willingly to the CAC meetings with some participating in other Bay Program meetings. The intention of this program was to bring fresh perspectives on Bay programs and CAC's deliberations. CAC has decided to extend the program and is currently in the process of reviewing several resumes for delegates to its 2003 meetings.

CAC Stakeholders

To strengthen the Communications between CAC members and their stakeholder groups CAC increased the number of Stakeholders to 255 watershed organizations , many of whom are in the headwater states. CAC stakeholders receive invitations to all of the CAC meetings, relevant communications, and a copy of the annual report. CAC members are encourage to stay in close contact with the organizations from their relative jurisdictions.

CAC COMMUNICATIONS

CAC routinely communicates with the Director of the US EPA Bay Program and the members of the PSC. Over the past year Rebecca Hanmer has met with the CAC members as a group and individually many times. CAC's jurisdictional delegations (MD, BVA, PA, DC) have also met with key members of the Principal Staff Committee in 2002 to discuss specific concerns relative to the jurisdictional efforts in protecting and restoring the Bay.

CAC'S COMMITMENT

As in past years, individual CAC members were integrally involved in aspects of work of almost all of the Chesapeake Bay Program's numerous subcommittees. In 2002 CAC members were instrumental in areas including Budget Steering, Nutrient Trading, Toxics, Communication and Education, Living Resources, small watersheds, general program implementation, and many others. It is difficult to quantify the contributions of the thousands of hours that these volunteer to invest in the Chesapeake bay Program. Suffice to say, the unique independent perspective that CAC members bring to a process dominated by government agencies is invaluable to keeping the Bay Program on a course that is more reflective of the general public's will and desires.

Throughout the year the CAC members assemble at least quarterly withing each one of the Bay Program Partner jurisdictions. This past year, CAC met at:

- US Arboretum, Washington DC
- Baltimore, MD
- Stratford Hall, VA
- Ephrata, PA

Each year the CAC members collectively volunteer over 5000 hours of service to the Bay Program by attending numerous subcommittee meetings in addition to the two-day length quarterly meetings.