

CAC Members Present: Paul Bruder, John Dawes, Andrew Der, Matt Ehrhart, Greg Evans, Christy Everett, Bill Fink, Dale Gardner, Verna Harrison, Jeff Holland, Chris Karakul, Julie Lawson, Bill Martin, Joe Maroon, Charlie Stek (CAC Chair), Nikki Tinsley, Victor Ukpole, Bob Wayland (CAC Vice Chair), Neil Wilkie, and CAC Staff - Jessica Blackburn and Amy Robins.

Speakers/Guests Present: Rich Batiuk (CBPO- Wed.), Abby Cooke (Baltimore Office of Sustainability-Wed.), Joel Dunn (Chesapeake Conservancy-Thurs.), Jim Edward (CBPO), Shawn Garvin (EPA Region 3 Administrator -Thurs.), Ben Grumbles (Maryland Secretary of the Environment-Thurs.), Amy Handen (NPS, Stewardship GIT-Thurs.), Bari Klein (Healthy Harford-Wed.), Linda Miller (EPA), Dave Nemazie (UMCES-Thurs.), Mark Platts (Susquehanna Gateways Heritage Area-Thurs.), Rupert Rossetti (Octorara Watershed Association –Wed.), Bob Summers (UMCES-Wed.), Renee Thompson (USGS, Healthy Watersheds GIT-Wed.), Al Todd (Alliance), Ronnie Webb (The Green Scheme-Wed.), Julie Winters (EPA)

Meeting presentations and materials are located:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/22437/>

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

The CAC Chair, Charlie Stek, called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. The CAC members and guests provided introductions. The Chair welcomed the two new D.C. members Julie Lawson and Chris Karakul.

Business Meeting

The Chair reviewed the agenda and meeting theme. He challenged the staff to provide the water quality information in the areas where CAC meets.

Greg Evans motioned to approve the May 2015 Minutes and it was seconded by Paul Bruder. The committee accepted the meeting minutes as provided.

Charlie provided a debriefing on the meetings with the Executive Council (EC) Chair Governor McAuliffe, the annual EC, and the EPA Administrator Lisa McCarthy. CAC agreed to write a letter, one jointly signed with STAC and LGAC if possible, expressing their appreciation for meeting with the EC Chair, but requesting in addition to consider a format change for the next EC meeting to allow for better engagement with the Advisory Committee chairs on their annual recommendations. Charlie reminded the members that under the Bay Program Governance Document that the CBP has 90 days to respond to the CAC letter of recommendations. Jim Edward indicated that responses to the Advisory Committees' report would be discussed at the October PSC meeting.

The Chair opened the floor to member updates. John Dawes (PA) reported on the President's budget for the [Power+ Plan](#) requesting rapid spend out of \$2 billion. The funding could be used for land reclamation and jobs in PA, MD, VA, and WV. The number one recommendation is reforestation on these lands.

Greg Evans (VA) reported on the upcoming [Rivanna River Renaissance Conference](#) taking place at Mary Washington University on Friday, October 2, 2015. Greg will forward out the summary once completed.

Charlie Stek (MD) updated the committee on the National Marine Sanctuary on the Potomac River. There is also a parallel effort taking place on the York River in Virginia. Charlie participated in the review of programs aimed at engaging local leaders. One recommendation was to form a new umbrella organization to help move "Shed Talks" forward.

CAC Staff, Amy Robins, provided an update on the CAC Student Outreach Program.

Working Lunch: Local Restoration Presentation –[Octoraro Watershed Association](#)

Rupert Rossett, Recording Secretary, Board of Directors

The Octoraro Watershed includes fourteen townships and four boroughs in southern Chester and Lancaster Counties, Pennsylvania and Cecil County Maryland and flows into the Susquehanna River downstream from the Conowingo Dam. The Octoraro Watershed Association (OWA) partners with watershed landowners to improve water quality. Through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife "Partners for Wildlife" Program, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, NRCS, the County Conservation Districts, and other partners the OWA is help farmers are install stream bank fencing and riparian buffers. These projects seek to restore wildlife habitat, stabilize stream banks, and filter pollutants from watershed stream banks.

Progress Updates on Water Quality

Rich Batiuk, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Rich reviewed the status of each jurisdiction achieving the 2017 interim targets for nitrogen and phosphorus in Agriculture, Wastewater, Stormwater, Septic, as well as the overall progress based on Bay Model data. He explained the 2014-2015 EPA Oversight Status charts for the jurisdictions. Based on modeled data, wastewater targets are on schedule for Maryland and Virginia. Pennsylvania has over committed to Stormwater and Agriculture. The major red flags for stormwater included getting the states' MS4 programs and permits in place and fully functional and ensuring local funding sources are in place. Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia are on target for Agriculture. Pennsylvania needs to reduce 19 million pounds of nitrogen to achieve their 2017 interim target.

Rich then presented the monitoring data. From 1985 to present there has been an 18% reduction in nitrogen, however, most of the gain took place in the first 10. Phosphorus is down 7% Baywide. The Susquehanna, Potomac, and James Rivers are the three largest sources of Phosphorus. Changes in suspended sediment from 30 long-term monitoring stations from 2003-2012 show that 8 station sites are improving, 18 station sites degrading, and 3 station sites exhibit no discernible change. The increases in subaquatic vegetation show an improvement in water clarity.

Committee members discussed the difficulty in understanding the real progress when both modeled data and monitoring data are presented. While the data are complex, it would help have it presented in a more public-

friendly way. The committee volunteered to help vet future presentations or communications to the public to avoid confusion.

Third Party Verification of BMPs

Bob Summers, Senior Research Scientist, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Bob reviewed several excerpts from the National Academy of Sciences report (2011) on “Achieving Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Evaluation of Program Strategies and Implementation”. He highlighted that accurate tracking of BMPs is important to estimate current and future pollution loads. Currently, the accounting of BMPs is not consistent or nonexistent across the Bay jurisdictions. The verification committee was unable to determine the reliability and accuracy of the BMP data and recommended an independent (third-party) auditing of the tracking and accounting at the state and local levels.

Bob then provided a project status of a report funded by the Abel Foundation to look at third party verification methods and delivery. The goal of the project is to ensure that the federal, state, and local agencies overseeing the Bay restoration put in place a fully transparent accounting and verification system; and an independent, third party audit process can demonstrate to the public that restoration is effective and is being carried out in an efficient manner that makes best use of available resources. The final report is scheduled to be published by EPA in January 2016. It was noted that if BMPs cannot be properly verified then the jurisdictions would not be able to get credit for BMPs in the model. The fact that we have the BMP Verification Framework to go back makes a big difference from where we were five years ago.

Urban Gardening Presentations and Panel Discussion

Victor Ukpolo, CAC Member

Victor provided a brief introduction between community engagement, urban farming, and urban land conservation touching on both the stewardship and land conservation goals.

Ronnie Webb, The Green Scheme

The Green Scheme based in Washington, D.C. provides leadership, education, training, and awareness on a wide variety of environmental topics from healthy living to green career pathways. The organization seeks to engage and empower communities where poor health outcomes and poor environmental conditions are most prevalent to promote healthy living in conjunction with environmental justice issues. They follow an approach which allows community members to identify issues that directly affect their lives. They strive to empower people to gain autonomy over their circumstances by presenting tools to community member that can be used to change and sustain improved quality of living outcomes. The Code Green program is funded by the USDA and includes support for the garden committee, rainbarrels, and the adopt-a-tree initiative. Ronnie shared the following video with the committee: <http://www.wjla.com/articles/2014/07/d-c-organization-helps-hungry-residents-in-food-deserts--105070.html>

Bari Klein, Healthy Hartford

Healthy Hartford is the healthy community initiative of Harford County. Founded in 1993 as a non-profit 501c3, Healthy Hartford is a coalition of forty members including local government agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and citizens dedicated to improving the health of Harford County residents through education, policy changes, and improvements in the built environment. Promoting local resources, services, and business that support a healthy lifestyle. They believe that healthy lifestyle choices are an individual decision, but as a community they can work together to create an environment where making the healthy choice, is the easy choice. They mapped

out food insecure areas to help identify potential gardens. One issue they found was trying to identifying land that did not have toxic soils from the past boat building industry. The local cooperative extension does the soil testing and in most cases they construct raise beds due to lead contaminated soils.

Abby Cocke, Urban Farming, Baltimore Office of Sustainability

The Office of Sustainability develops and advocates for programs, policies and actions by government, citizens, businesses, and institutions that improve the long-term environmental, social, and economic viability of Baltimore City. One of their twenty-nine goals is to establish Baltimore as a leader in sustainable, local food systems. They have developed six strategies to help achieve this goal. They have been actively mapping food needs, working with vendors to stock healthy foods, promoting EBT at farmer's markets, and implementing healthy eating campaigns in city schools. The city reviewed the zoning and permitting to allow for community managed open spaces and urban agriculture. Citywide approximately 35 acres were identified to meet minimum standards for urban gardening sites. The city requires a pre-qualification application to be filled out reflecting at least 1 year of experience, a sustainable management plan, openness to community involvement, and a financially sound proposal. They have received 12 responses so far of which 6 have been qualified.

Panel Discussion and Q&A

The panel was asked how access to water for watering gardens was addressed. Baltimore provides water access for \$125/year and D.C. has had to walk away from potential sites due to lack of water. All three organizations cited an upwards trend of urban gardening due to the "buy local" movement. Healthy Harford highlighted that the gardening of grass was by far the more dangerous for the bay with excess nutrients being washed into local streams. Healthy Harford also pointed out to that funders need to consider extending their grant cycles so relationships can be built and maintained for a longer term.

Meeting Debrief and Discussion

The CAC Stormwater & Land Use; Stewardship; and Water Quality, Agriculture and Fisheries Subcommittees reported out to the full committee their priorities list. The Stormwater & Land Use subcommittee highlighted MS4 boundaries, buffers, and Urban Tree Canopy, and crediting land conservation. The Stewardship subcommittee would like to continue to track GIT work on stewardship, local messaging, engaging diverse groups, public access to waterways, local river report cards, environmental literacy, urban farming, environmental career pipeline, and trash policies. The Water Quality, Agriculture and Fisheries Subcommittee would like to focus on verification, nutrient management plans, manure to energy, forest buffers, oysters and blue catfish. Chris Karakul indicated he may join the Land Use subcommittee.

The committee agreed to begin Thursday's meeting at 8 a.m. Meeting recessed at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17, 2015

CAC Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Discussion

The members debriefed on the presentations and issues and began to discuss possible outcomes and CAC letters.

Shawn Garvin, EPA Region 3 Administrator

The Administrator reviewed recent activity with the Bay Agreement, management strategies and workplans. He highlighted the importance of leveraging resources for investment with green streets, green jobs, and green

towns. He pointed out that so far the TMDL legal challenges were successful due to partnerships with the environment community. He would like to see the entire community expand by bringing in more partners and focusing on a local level. Verna Harrison raised concerns with a Phosphorus efficiency recommendation for the Bay Model that is proposed by the Nutrient Management Plans Expert Panel. Shawn confirmed that restoration cannot happen solely on paper or in the Bay Model. He pointed out that the model is a tool to help us move forward. The true report is the actual water quality. John Dawes pushed for an answer on how to communicate to all 92 segments of watershed. Shawn confirmed it was a hard challenge and suggested tying restoration/protection to local issues. John mentioned the use of a circuit rider to help explain the authority of/for implementation. Victor Ukpolo felt there was a disconnection between the people and the goals. Shawn acknowledge a lack of funding to fully address that concern. He pointed to a number of great NGOs and EPA is looking into other non-traditional partners like the faith based community. Charlie Stek cited concerns that the Advisory Committee recommendations could disappear or lose their impact because of a lack of timely acknowledgement and response from CBP. Shawn stated they would try to provide better feedback of how things are integrated and acknowledged that communication is key.

Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment

Secretary Grumbles stated 38% of Maryland's assessed waterways meet water quality standards. He confirmed the need think regionally but act locally, to continue to invest in more monitoring, and developing new tools to assess levels of sediment, phosphorus, sulfates, bacteria and plastics in water. He supports the Rivers of the Chesapeake and the need for the Environmental Financing Symposium in early Spring 2016. The symposium is an opportunity to look closely at nutrient trading and catch up to Virginia in this area. Trading is about not about "privatizing" water but broadening the partnership. He emphasized "Trade but Verify". Maryland will be issuing a Policy Statement in the next few days. It is meant to be a roadmap for trading in Maryland. The state plans on partnering with transportation to account for growth.

The Secretary touched on the Conowingo Dam. He stated dredging is not the silver bullet solution and there is a need to understand more. Maryland did receive \$3 million from Exelon Corporation to conduct studies to inform for the Mid-Point assessment and Section 401 water quality permit. He stated they are still learning about the Dam's state of dynamic equilibrium and dredging may be part of the answer. They will look at how much benefit there will be in dredging although pollution prevention is still the primary goal. There is currently a debate over the authorities given to the States over the Clean Water Act's Sec 401 issuance of permitting and relicensing with FERC for the Conowingo Dam.

Verna Harrison pointed that trading is usually considered after states' have meet water quality standards, but not used to meet the standards. Ben responded that trading is a tool to meet water quality requirements beyond technology controls. It was noted that interstate trading would lead to more laws. One interstate trading possibility to use poultry litter as electricity. Matt Ehrhart questioned the success of trading given the uncertainty of demand and buyers of the trading credits. Grumbles stated that MS4 permits and smaller plants will be part of the demand.

Getting the Chesapeake Bay Program Down to the Local Level

Joel Dunn, Chesapeake Conservancy, Local Envisioning

Chesapeake Conservancy is a non-profit organization based in Annapolis, Maryland, serves as a catalyst for change, advancing strong public and private partnerships, developing and using new technology, and driving innovation. They have embraced the National Park Service's Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic

Trail as an inspiration and framework for bringing awareness to the local level throughout the region. The trail development strategy includes Envision the James, Envision the Susquehanna, Nanticoke Conservation Corridor, Potomac River Segment Plan, and the Rappahannock River Access Corridor. Joel presented the Conservancy's public engagement model. He highlighted they used web based surveying to understand what the public wanted to see and what was most important to them. By aligning their interests the projects have a collective impact.

Mark Platts, Susquehanna Gateways Heritage Area, Local Engagement

The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area is a nonprofit organization connecting people to the Susquehanna River and its history as it flows through Lancaster and York Counties in Central Pennsylvania. They aim to make the Susquehanna Riverlands a tourist destination by partnering with a board range of business and conservation partners to generate economic impact for the region while promoting heritage and outdoor tourism attractions, experience and event along the river. They have created several destinations along the river including the Zimmerman Center & Columbia Crossing.

Dave Nemazie, UMCES, Local River Report Cards

Dave walked the committee through the process of creating local water quality report card. Connecting the near 17 million people to the Chesapeake Bay watershed is tough, however, engaging them using data from their communities' local water body builds a better connection. These report cards often engage local media in a different way by giving them a contact person with in-depth knowledge of the waterbody.

Panel Discussion – *In addition to the speakers above, the following joined the panel after a brief reporting of their current work.*

Renee Thompson, USGS, Coordinator, Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

Renee emphasized land use is key to protecting healthy watersheds. Currently, the Land Use workplan is still in progress. Three proposal projects have been submitted for consideration of GIT Funding: Identifying healthy watersheds in West Virginia; Virginia Growth trends of riparian forest buffers; and a Land option and Planning Tool. The Riparian Forest Buffer work will engage local governments and hopefully have a second phase in 2016. The Land Option & Planning Tool will help improve capacity of local leaders, review current tools, create a survey for local government and interest groups, and develop an online tool box.

Amy Handen, NPS, Coordinator, Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

Amy reviewed several of the outcomes listed under the Stewardship Goal. The Public Access outcome is to increase the number of access points by 300 sites. The Environmental Literacy outcome aims to engage students as well as the school property in raising environmental literacy scores. Identifying citizen stewards and developing them from personal actions, volunteering, and community leaders.

Jim Edward, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, Chair, Diversity Action Team (DAT)

The Diversity Management Strategy has four focus areas: Communications and Outreach; Employment and Professional Engagement; Promote Environmental Justice; and Tracking and Assessment. Jim provided a brief update on the workgroup's efforts. The Communications and Outreach workgroups is establishing forums and beginning dialogues to better understand how community issues link to watershed restoration, establishing an online forum for diverse groups to share successes, lessons learned, resource needs, available resources related

to restoration, and partnering with citizen stewardship GIT to develop and implement a social marketing initiative to engage diverse populations. The Employment and Professional Engagement workgroup is partnering with jurisdictions to explore designating a diversity engagement coordinator to engage underrepresented communities in the watershed, developing a curriculum for an Environmental Career-Building Day for all High Schools in the Bay Watershed, and working within the environmental literacy curriculum to implement a class schedule. The Environmental Justice workgroup is having the Bay Program partners review and revise their respective grant guidance document, as needed, to address diversity; promoting the use of EJSCREEN by partners; working with funding organizations, to develop a guide to assist groups in grant competition awareness, selection criteria, capacity building and grant writing training for areas with diverse and underrepresented populations; and incorporating perspective from community-based organizations and leaders throughout the Bay Program governance structure, including the advisory committees. Lastly, the Tracking and Assessment workgroup is launching the diversity dashboard and DAT Guidestar Tool. The Diversity Action Team is applying for funding from the GIT Funds for: A Guide to Incorporating Diversity into Chesapeake Bay Funding Policies and Procedures; Targeted Outreach Tools for Fish Consumption Advisories in Diverse Chesapeake Communities; and Assess Outreach Strategies for Bridging Tree Canopy and Environmental Justice Goals. The final workplan is expected in April 2016.

Q&A

Dave Nemazie suggested we have local governments apply a positive peer pressure among jurisdictions. Mark Platts highlighted that when Lancaster County adopted a plan that York County became a leader in stormwater management and the Columbia Borough is not far behind. Joel Dunn cited funding for local engagement as a factor. Jim Edward stated that Public Works in Lancaster and Lititz have definitely been leading the efforts.

Victor Ukpolo asked what is being done to promote urban agriculture as a tool for urban land conservation. Renee Thompson stated that land conservation is largely focused on more rural areas because the urban watersheds tend to already be impaired. She suggested that looking at the fringe areas maybe a possibility.

Jeff Holland thanked Dave Nemazie for the work with report cards. He stated that with the use of his local report card he helped open up 400+ acres of park for public access.

Meeting Wrap Up

Committee members discussed potential motions put forth earlier in the morning. The first letter was to reformat EC meeting to allow for advisory chair engagement during lunch. The second letter is to Shawn Garvin with a copy to the full PSC expressing concern over the lack of science with the Phosphorus Index credit for Nutrient Management Plans.

Charlie Stek made the request that new member join a subcommittee.

A discussion of the order of the meeting followed. Andrew Der stated he would like to see better regulation of the Q&A to allow for more members to be able to participate. Paul Bruder stated the Q&A is often the most useful part of the meeting to him. Matt Ehrhart would like to see more use of the newly developed subcommittees for future meetings. Christy Everett would like to see the action items put back into the agendas so the committee as a whole understands what they would be pulling from a presentation. Charlie agreed and stated subcommittees could add the potential action items along with whether the issue is time sensitive. Jessica Blackburn suggested that the members consider one issue from each subcommittee be part of each agenda on

the first day with the second day allowing for time for the subcommittees to meet. Neil Wilkie felt some of this work could be done by conference call and the subcommittees could report out. Jeff reported that some members are on more than one subcommittee and he preferred sticking with the conference calls to avoid having to choose which meeting to sit in on.

Victor Ukpole felt the information provided by Rich Batiuk was more geared for STAC. Verna stated CAC should be used as a focus group for messaging to the general public. Several members found this information very important in understanding the issues as a whole.

Victor Ukpole stated he would like to see CAC encourage the management board to conserve urban lands for agriculture. Christy suggested pushing the issue in the workplans with a letter. It was pointed out that having urban agriculture included in the workplans would require more than a letter. A request for a CAC member to volunteer for related calls was made. Victor volunteered. He also made the request that CAC push for funding in 2016. It was explained that the RFP process was already closed for the 2016 funding cycle.

The next CAC Meeting will be in North Beach, Maryland on Thursday/Friday November 19-20, 2015.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1pm.