

CAC Members Present: Chante' Coleman, John Dawes, Andrew Der, Bill Dickinson, Matt Ehrhart (CAC Vice Chair), Bill Fink, Dale Gardener, Verna Harrison, Paula Jasinski (CAC Chair), Ann Jurczyk, Julie Lawson, Joe Maroon, Bill Matuszeski, Jorge Ribas, Charlie Stek, Neil Wilkie, and CAC Staff Jessica Blackburn and Adam Bray

Speakers/Guests Present: Tommy Wells, Katherine Antos, Matt Brown, Maureen Holman, Adam Garber, Jenny McGarvey, John Hill, James Davis Martin, Lucinda Power, Steve Raabe

Meeting presentations and materials are located at:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/citizens_advisory_committee_quarterly_meeting_november_2017

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

The CAC Chair, Paula Jasinski, called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM, followed by introductions and welcoming new CAC members, Chante' Coleman from Maryland and Ann Jurczyk from Virginia.

Paula introduced the themes and topics of the meeting: 1) to provide advice and feedback to DC on their local engagement plans for the Phase III WIPs, 2) to discuss CAC positions on Midpoint Assessment decisions for the December PSC retreat, and 3) Provide advice and feedback on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Stewardship Index and plans for outreach.

District Department of Energy and Environment

Tommy Wells, Director of District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
Katherine Antos, Chief, Partnering and Environmental Conservation Branch

Tommy Wells showed an [introductory video](#) that highlighted DOEE's achievements in sustainability that has made D.C. the first LEED Platinum city in the world. Tommy shared that he was previously the first elected LGAC member from DC and learned about the importance of stream restoration through LGAC site visits in Pennsylvania. DC has restored almost every stream controlled by the DC government and is now partnering with National Park Service to repair streams on federal land. This work has resulted in aquatic grasses and [eagles](#) (click to see the eagle cam link) returning to the Anacostia River. He briefed CAC on the combined sewer overflow (CSO) tunnel that is set to open in March 2018. It will mitigate 80% of the overflow problems that impact the Anacostia. DC is also investing in new green infrastructure above ground in Northwest DC that will help with the CSO affecting the Potomac River.

Katherine Antos provided details on DC's Phase III WIP. DC is unique because it has the dual function of a state and a city. Over 90% of DC's load is from wastewater. The city is largely developed and the CBP estimates that 89% of the city's growth by 2025 will be infill. This growth is a driver of both water quality and improvements. She explained how the District's stormwater management regulations require large construction and redevelopment projects to install green infrastructure and how projects can meet 50% of their requirements off-site through the purchase of Stormwater Retention Credits. D.C. also has incentive-based programs like RiverSmart Homes, Communities and Schools. The city is engaging new partners, like the Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake and plans to conduct listening sessions with target audiences in 2018 to increase involvement.

Discussion: The group discussed specifics of the “[Year of the Anacostia](#)” celebrations (100th Anniversary of Anacostia Park) that will coincide with the start of the tunnel in 2018. CAC raised the importance of reaching out to Hispanic residents in the Anacostia watershed as part of the celebrations. CAC asked about sediment problems in the Anacostia and potential solutions for transporting and using the sediment elsewhere. Tommy noted that the city is sinking while the water is rising and that while the cost is high there might be an opportunity to create sediment barriers.

Lunch with Keynote Speaker

Nicholas DiPasquale, Director Chesapeake Bay Program Office, EPA

Nick DiPasquale reflected with CAC about his career, upcoming retirement and the current state of the Bay. He is optimistic about the health of the Bay. Resilience is being built back into the system and it is the 5th year in a row of seeing significant improvements. Nick talked about the importance of the 2014 Watershed Agreement because it focuses on connections. He brought up the need for more diversity in Bay-related work – the population composition is changing and there needs to be appropriate representation. He shared that the greatest challenge for the Bay Program is to make sure it continues to be funded in the future.

DC Water

Matt Brown, Chief Financial Officer, and

Maureen Holman, Sustainability Chief, Office of the General Manager

Matt Brown updated CAC on how DC Water has funded infrastructure improvements. Matt explained how DC Water had accrued \$2.8 billion in debt. DC Water was challenged to fund infrastructure improvements and pay down their debt while keeping costs affordable for DC residents. Currently, the average DC ratepayer pays \$102 per month for their water bill. Twenty-five percent of that is the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge, forty percent goes to pay off the debt, and some goes to a customer assistance program that helps very poor people. He described the challenges of communicating their work. The tunnel, for example, is underground so not many people can visually see the significance of the project.

Maureen Holman summarized the Environmental Impact Bond (EIB) that DC Water is structuring to finance the first project in the DC Clean Rivers Projects’ Green Infrastructure Program. The EIB is the first of its kind in the country and modeled after Social Impact Bonds. It is designed to mitigate the risk of loss if the green infrastructure fails to manage stormwater runoff as designed. The EIB also promotes intergenerational equity and fairness by spreading the costs over the next 100 years. DC Water has already gained recognition and won awards within in the world of finance for the EIB.

Discussion: CAC discussed the Green Century Bonds and whether they can be replicated in other jurisdictions and in rural contexts. Maureen said that D.C. is unique in that it had collected so much data for measuring effectiveness. Other municipalities could replicate the program if they have the same kind of baseline data for evaluation and if local laws allow it. CAC also discussed the types of investors that are interested in programs like this and learned that it is primarily institutional investors that are divesting from things like gas and oil to be more socially and environmentally responsible.

Federal Funding cut impacts on Susquehanna Basin

Adam Garber, Deputy Director, Penn Environment

Adam Garber briefed CAC on the report [Rough Waters Ahead](#) that details the potential impacts of federal funding cuts on the Susquehanna River Basin. The report focuses on 8 different case studies that demonstrate the impact funding cuts would have on efforts to address acid mine drainage, agricultural pollution, sewage

overflows, research and education. Adam asked CAC how these case studies can highlight the critical role the EPA plays in the Susquehanna basin.

Discussion: CAC discussed the challenge of discussing this with people who are anti-EPA. Adam said that he responds to such people by explaining how the states are unable to pay for it alone and how it is much more cost efficient for the federal government to manage it instead of each state developing their own separate programs. He also emphasized the importance of telling stories about local creeks, streams and fishing spots. CAC members added the need for the report to connect clean water to health issues, especially children's health.

Water Quality Nutrient Trading Basics and Examples

Jenny McGarvey, Chesapeake Forests Program Manager, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Jenny McGarvey presented the basics of water quality trading by using examples from Virginia and the opportunities that it can offer farmers. Farmers can introduce best management practices to reduce nutrient loads in nearby streams. Once a farmer meets a certain threshold or baseline and continues to reduce the amount of nutrient runoff, the farmer may generate credits. These credits can then be purchased by eligible producers to offset their load reduction goals and improve local water quality. Point sources, like wastewater treatment facilities, can purchase credits. MS4 Permittees are required to meet nutrient load reductions as dictated by the TMDL. Also, construction activities that disrupt more than 2,500 square feet of land (including single family homes) are required to have a site-specific stormwater pollution prevention plan. Jenny said she expects there to be a big demand for nutrient trading from general construction permittees. She explained some of the misconceptions of nutrient trading and some of the perceived barriers that prevent landowners from participating. She also shared that the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is the only non-profit currently shepherding landowners through the credit generation process in Virginia.

Discussion: CAC members discussed how long landowners need to maintain their baseline practice and if the State can change the baseline. Jenny explained that the baseline practice needs to be maintained in perpetuity and that the baseline is locked-in. Members also had questions about enforcement. Jenny said that DEQ technically enforces it and Joe added that the liability stays with the permit holder. CAC also discussed the issue of interstate trading and using oysters as BMPs. Jess said that EPA recommendations about this should be made available by January or February. Joe reminded CAC that the programs in Maryland and Pennsylvania are different than Virginia. States have different understandings of credits and different laws. The interstate trading white paper in the meeting packet begins to explore the needs and challenges for inter-state trading.

Business meeting

With no discussion of the September 2017 Meeting Minutes, Matt Ehrhart motioned for approval and John Dawes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted. Following up from September's meeting, CAC discussed the letters sent regarding the Farm Bill and the Bay Journal funding. Jorge requested that someone contact Ben Grumbles to make sure the letters were received. Paula agreed to contact him.

CAC discussed the need to write letters-to-the-editor about the Bay progress that focus on the things that CAC members have learned and what their communities are experiencing. Jorge, Joe and Charlie agreed to follow-through with this. CAC also agreed to work with the education workgroup on ways to add elements like signage on public lands and workforce development.

Charlie presented a slate of officers for nominations to CAC. Both Paula and Matt agreed to continue in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair. Dale nominated Paula and Matt, and Jorge seconded the nomination. Both members were voted unanimously to continue their role as officers for 2018. CAC discussed ways to honor

Nick DiPasquale's service and agreed to do so with a letter of accommodation and for BMat to read at Nick's retirement party. Bill also volunteered to paint a watercolor as a gift.

Thursday, November 30, 2017

The CAC Chair called to order the meeting at 8:45 am at the United Methodist Building. John Hill, Director of Economic and Environmental Justice of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, gave a short welcome.

Updates: Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

James Davis Martin, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Lucinda Power, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

James and Lucinda briefed CAC on the midpoint assessment policy decisions to be considered by the PSC on Dec 19-20th 2017. The policy decisions include 1) the adoption of the partnership's Phase 6 models, 2) approval of the Bay assimilative capacity, 3) approval of the draft Phase III Planning targets, and 4) approval of the proposed process for the four-month review of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets, 5) approval for using 2025 for accounting for growth in the Phase III WIPs, 6) approval of the approach to account for additional loads delivered to the Bay due to the Conowingo Dam infill, and 7) approval of how to factor in climate change into the Phase III WIPs. CAC learned how there are 400 new BMPs and were also introduced to the [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (CAST), a web-based nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment load estimator tool that streamlines environmental planning.

Discussion: CAC members discussed how the models accounted for growth and learned that it accounts for growth across all sectors including population growth, animal growth and building growth. After learning how the modeling data is matching what the data is on the ground, CAC discussed instances in which the model does not match and the causes for those discrepancies. James said that it is important to know where these places are and not make decisions based solely on the models. Members discussed who would be responsible for offsetting the additional loads from the Conowingo Dam and how it would be done. It will require a multi-strategy approach because relying on dredging alone is too expensive to be the only solution. CAC expressed interest in participating in a future webinar to demonstrate how to use the CAST tool.

Chesapeake Bay Program Citizen Stewardship Index

Steve Raabe, Opinion Works

Steve Raabe updated CAC on the Stewardship Index survey tool. It is designed to measure stewardship progress, inform smart behavior selection for practitioners, and segment data by major jurisdiction and demographic. It is also intended to be a resource to measure diversity and access in Bay Program work. Steve showed CAC members how the survey was put together, the questions asked and the types of information that can be learned from the survey. He pointed the group to the [Citizens Stewardship Index](#) part of the Chesapeake Progress website to find out more information.

Discussion: CAC members asked Steve if any questions were asked that connected water quality to health and drinking water. He said that while there was not a direct connection, people blend in their own concerns about drinking water, especially those on wells. There was also discussion regarding people who will adopt positive practices but not know the connection to water quality or the Bay. He said that motivations can vary dramatically. CAC had questions for Steve about how "stewardship" is defined. He said that the word is never mentioned in the survey and has never been tested. The Bay is also not mentioned in the survey. Doing so would introduce a bias among the respondents.

CAC Discussion, Final Thoughts and Action Items

Members discussed various action items from the previous day – 1) a letter of accommodation to Nick DiPasquale, 2) follow-up with Ben Grumbles related to the letters sent to the Executive Council, 3) drafting letters-to-the-editor about progress and local stories, 4) setting up a webinar for CAC to learn about CAST, and 5) connecting with the education workgroup.

Members also decided to send a congratulations/introductory letter to Virginia Governor-elect Ralph Northam.

CAC wanted to know about the feedback given to the communications office on their draft modeling outreach papers. Jess informed them that she passed on their raw feedback since it was such a broad spectrum of comments.

CAC members discussed the location and possible topics for February's CAC meeting in Maryland. Members decided to meet in Annapolis. They discussed inviting the new mayor of Annapolis to come and speak. Possible topics and speakers that members suggested included: someone from MDE, a technical assistance study on how to help farmers, the Phase III WIPs for Maryland, follow-up from the PSC meeting, forest conservation, and survey results related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

With no further business, the CAC adjourned at 12:00pm.