

CAC Members Present: John Dawes, Andrew Der, Matt Ehrhart, Bill Fink, Brenna Goggin, Donna Harris-Aikens, Verna Harrison, Chuck Herrick, Anna Killius, Esi Langston, Julie Lawson (Chair), David Lillard, Mike Lovegreen, Joe Maroon, Bill Matuszeski, Abel Olivo, Kate Patton, Daphne Pee, Charlie Stek, Dana Wiggins, and CAC Staff: Jess Blackburn and Adam Bray. *(Members who attended the meeting in person were required to follow CDC guidelines and provide proof of vaccination)*

Speakers/Guests Present: Carin Bisland, Rachel Felver, Kate Fritz, Amy Handen, Jenny McGarvey, Chris Miller, Martha Shimkin, Jennifer Starr, and Kathy Stecker.

Meeting presentations and materials are located at:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/citizens_advisory_committee_quarterly_meeting_sept_2021

Thursday, Sept 16, 2021

The CAC Chair, Julie Lawson, called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM. She gave an overview of the agenda and highlighted the meeting's goal: to reach consensus agreement on three topics of recommendations for the annual Executive Council Meeting in December 2021.

Airlie staff welcomed CAC members and provided a short history of the property and Airlie's connection to the first Earth Day and the Civil Rights Movement.

Local Watershed Context

Chris Miller, Piedmont Environmental Council

Chris provided CAC with an overview of Fauquier County and the Piedmont area of Virginia. He described the area's history and culture, current environmental issues, and how the area is planning for a sustainable future that incorporates climate change impacts, environmental justice, and equity. He discussed the recent challenges of farmers in the county replacing their forested land with solar panels and how COVID disrupted the distribution of local food to local consumers. Chris explained how they are working to convince thousands of private landowner families to participate in conservation and easement agreements, because publicly-owned land is a small portion of the total land in the Piedmont of Virginia.

Discussion: CAC discussed the ability for the area to reach the 30% conservation goal. Chris explained that the Piedmont Environmental Council's goal is 50% and that he believes it is achievable in coming generations.

Chesapeake Watershed Agreement Outcome Attainability

Carin Bisland, Branch Chief, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Carin briefed CAC on the progress of the Watershed Agreement Outcomes and outlined potential next steps for accelerating the Outcomes that are lagging behind. There are six outcomes that are measurable and will still require effort to be completed but will likely meet the 2025 deadline - blue crab abundance, blue crab management, oyster restoration, fish passage, protected lands, and public access. There are three outcomes that

are far off track that will require a significant acceleration of implementation - forest buffers, wetlands, and diversity. The Forest Buffers outcome requires 1,719 miles/year to meet WIP3 goals. Acreage data for wetlands is inconsistently reported but the Bay Program is confident progress on the outcome is behind. For the diversity outcome, the Partnership has set a target to increase the percentage of people of color in the Chesapeake Bay Program to 25% by 2025 and the percentage of people of color in leadership positions to 15% by 2025.

The Bay Program is not making progress at a rate necessary to achieve these outcomes. The Outcome Attainability Team has recommended to the Management Board to focus on two outcomes, the Forest Buffers outcome and the Tidal Wetlands outcome, and has proposed three one-day workshops to create options and recommendations for accelerated implementation.

Discussion: Members discussed the barriers for reaching buffer and wetland goals including landowner commitment, community outreach and funding. Members thought this was an area for CAC subcommittees to follow in the future. They discussed which of the outcomes are most important for reaching the 2025 TMDL goals, and how the outcomes are important for achieving results in the ecosystem that go beyond just water quality. For the one-day workshops, members recommended that the Bay Program include target audience members to participate.

Part One: 2021 CAC Recommendations to the Executive Council

CAC initiated a discussion on determining recommendations to give to the Executive Council (EC) for their December meeting. Jess outlined the topics CAC has focused on since the last EC meeting and CAC's Executive Committee offered the following suggestions for CAC to consider: (1) accountability on 2025 Deadline to Maintain Public Confidence; (2) Climate Change; (3) Conowingo WIP; and (4) Stewardship and Engagement. Members discussed whether the Stewardship and Engagement topic should be stand-alone or if it should be woven into the other three recommendations and agreed to continue the conversation the following day.

Clifton Institute Tour

CAC toured the [Clifton Institute](#) to learn about their education, restoration and research programs and tour wetland and buffer restorations.



Friday, Sept 17, 2021

CAC Business Meeting

CAC reconvened at 8:30AM and adopted the draft May 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. CAC approved the proposed 2022 Meeting Dates: **Feb 24-25; May 18-19; Sept 15-16; Dec 7-8**. Julie reminded CAC about the Sept 27 deadline for comments on the CBP draft DEIJ Implementation Strategy.

CAC Member Updates: John shared legislative updates on Acid Mine Drainage legislation. Abel Olivo briefed CAC on the Latin@ Leader Summit that his organization, Defensores de la Cuenca, hosted earlier in the week. He shared that forty Latin@s and Spanish-speakers attended from across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to create connections among people who serve the Latino community and to support each other's efforts to engage in nature and the environment. Joe Maroon offered a dedication to Tayloe Murphy. Anna Killius briefed CAC on relevant political and legislative updates in Virginia.

CAC Staff Updates: Jess shared the goals to reconvene the CAC subcommittees one more time before the end of the year and to hold one more CAC learning session before the February 2022 meeting.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Martha Shimkin, Deputy Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

Martha briefed CAC on the upcoming Principals' Staff Committee meeting (Sept 21st) and the two upcoming Executive Council Meetings. On Oct 1st, the Executive Council will meet at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach for a boat tour to discuss oysters and climate issues and a ceremonial signing of the Climate Directive and press event. In December (exact date TBD), the Executive Council will meet again in Richmond, VA to vote on the next EC Chair and hear the Advisory Committee recommendations.

Martha provided an overview of the FY2021 budget and how it is dispersed among the EPA offices and grants. She described the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG) and the Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program (CBRAP). Their combined \$23.8M is distributed to the States/DC. The EPA also

provides \$5M for Local Government Implementation of the WIPs and \$5M for watershed-wide water quality monitoring. Martha explained the Most Effective Basins (MEB) grants as new funds directed by Congress that go to States to support water quality practices based on cost and load reduction effectiveness for nitrogen. She briefly described the Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Funding administered through a cooperative agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust as well as the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants and Small Watershed Grants administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Additionally, Martha shared that the new EPA Regional Administrator will likely be appointed by the end of the year.

Discussion: Members discussed the ways performance evaluation factor into EPA's process for dispersing grants. They talked about how the Most Effective Basins are chosen and whether states and communities have a say in the process. CAC discussed Pennsylvania's shortfall and if funding alone can fix the problem or if it is a bigger issue related to capacity and public engagement.

CAC Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions

CAC subcommittee members elected their Chairs for 2022, discussed priority topics, and selected an activity to lead for 2022. Anna Killius will serve as the Emerging Issues Subcommittee Chair. The subcommittee will explore environmental and social co-benefits looking beyond 2025 and how the impacts will affect communities in a changing climate. Their priority topic will be trees and their co-benefits, related funding considerations, and will explore how tree canopy affects the airshed and air quality. They want to help coordinate a more in-depth panel during a CAC meeting that sets up a potential CAC recommendation for action.

Matt Ehrhart will serve as the Water Quality Subcommittee Chair. They will focus on targeting and accelerating progress before 2025 with an eye on carbon and investments in Ag land.

Chuck Herrick will serve as the Stewardship and Engagement Subcommittee Chair. Their overarching theme will be stewardship and behavioral change. They intend to review and comment on the DEIJ plan individually and then share recommendations with the full CAC.

Part Two: 2021 CAC Recommendations to the Executive Council

Members debated either weaving stewardship and engagement into the other three CAC topics or whether it should be a stand-alone recommendation. Some members expressed interest in choosing the most actionable and relevant recommendations regardless of topic category and others saw stewardship and engagement as an interpretive lens by which to view other priorities. Members offered ideas on actionable stewardship and engagement recommendations such as a leadership development pilot program that would train and fund leaders to outreach and organize in their communities on topics that are aligned with Bay partnership goals. Additional ideas offered are improving funding processes that can better redistribute power to communities by removing matching fund requirements and allowing more access. All members agreed that a contributing factor to the failure to meet the 2025 goals is a failure of effective stewardship and engagement.

Decision: Each subcommittee will develop language for an actionable recommendation relevant to their topic of interest and based on full CAC meeting discussion for each of the four topics: 2025 Deadline; Climate Change; Conowingo WIP; and Stewardship and Engagement.

Next Steps: Each subcommittee will convene to draft recommendation language. The CAC's Executive Committee will review the complication, followed by a fatal flaw review by the full committee.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.

