



**MINUTES**  
**March 5, 2015**  
**Conference Call**

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**Members Present:** Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Janine Burns, Diane Davis, Malcom Derk Shelia Finlayson, Rick Gray, Penny Gross, Larry Land, Ernie Lehman, Leo Lutz, Kelly Porter, Ann Simonetti, John Thomas, and Bruce Williams.

**Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Staff Present:** Mary Gattis (LGAC Coordinator); Amy Robins (CAC/LGAC Staff), and Al Todd (Executive Director).

**Speakers/Guests Present:** Greg Barranco (CBPO), Russ Baxter (VA), Carin Bisland (CBPO), Jessica Blackburn (CAC Staff, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay); Nick DiPasquale (CBPO), Rachel Dixon (STAC Staff), Jason Dubow (MD Department of Planning), Ken Hastings (Mattawoman Creek Society), Donnelle Keech (The Nature Conservancy), Rebecca Hamner (Forestry Workgroup), Reggie Parrish (CBPO), Matthew Pennington (W.V. Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning & Development Council (Region 9), Margaret McGinty (MD DNR), Tanya Spano (MetroWashington Council of Governments), and Renee Thompson (Healthy Watersheds GIT).

**Meeting presentations and materials:**

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22439/>

**Thursday, March 5, 2015 – CONFERENCE CALL (1:00 – 5:00 pm)**

**Call to Order, Introductions**

Chair Penny Gross called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

**2015 Annual Report to the Executive Council (Strategic Action #1.c)**

The committee reviewed LGAC's 2014 Report to the Executive Council. Members identified issues to be considered for LGAC's 2015 Annual Report to the Executive Council:

- Contractor training (carryover from last year) – relate to workforce development; some discussion about the high cost of low wages
- BMP Verification (carryover from last year)
- Urban and suburban tree canopy and forest cover
- Federal government responsibility as well as local government accountability for EPA superfund sites (Ruby)
- Maintaining water quality, concerns regarding drinking water and the need for more transparency around the transport and disposal of fracking water (Janine)

- Lack of funds being sent down to meet regulations for stormwater (Ann)
- Need for stormwater fees (Diane, Sheila, Larry)
- Role of Federal Facilities (John, Penny, Diane, Sheila) – reference to S. 3481

Nick suggested talking to the Chesapeake Bay Commission about issues that relate to the General Assemblies.

*Follow-up: Mary to begin drafting EC Report and present for further consideration at May meeting.*

### **LGAC's 2015-2021 Work Plan/Strategic Priorities**

Mary Gattis presented the Alliance's 2015-2021 Workplan for LGAC Support, which was submitted for approval as part of a new six year Cooperative Agreement between the Alliance and EPA. She highlighted LGAC members' roles, including those of the Executive and Communications committees. In response to Sheila's questions about the workplan, Al Todd, Executive Director of the Alliance, explained that the workplan was developed to meet the requirements of EPA, who provides funding for LGAC. Therefore, EPA has final approval of the workplan. Penny suggested that the committee send comments about the workplan to Mary.

*Follow-up: Members to send comments on the workplan to Mary.*

### **Implementing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement – Management Strategies**

#### ***Management Strategy Overview***

Greg Barranco, CBPO, gave an overview of Management Strategies, which should be completed by June 16, 2015. He said the role of the local government is very important. There will be a 30 day public input period prior to approval. Workplans will be prepared by December 15<sup>th</sup> of 2015. See [Management Strategy Posters](#).

#### ***Fish Habitat Management Strategy Presentation and Discussion***

*Margaret McGinty, MD Department of Natural Resources Biologist*

*Ken Hastings, Mattawoman Creek Society*

See [presentation](#). Margaret reviewed fish habitat management strategies, outcomes, and discussed the local economic benefit from fishing. Commercial fisheries in the mid-Atlantic are value to be around \$78 million and provide 1,100 jobs. In Maryland alone it is estimated the local economy benefits close to \$535 million from recreational anglers. If the ability to obtain local fish is lost, the cost to replace the market is great. Margaret discussed changes to stream health related to urbanization. The increased runoff plus increased erosion creates increases in nutrients, sediment, and toxins within local streams. The impairment leads to implementation of TMDLs are a cost to the local governments. Various thresholds for impervious surfaces were explained by estimating the decline in fisheries. Margaret ended her presentation by stressing that land conservation is fish conservation.

*Ken Hastings, Mattawoman Creek Society*

Ken Hastings, a citizen scientist from Charles County, explained that the Mattawoman Creek has been rigorously studied and if urbanization isn't stopped or planned in a sustainable way, the Mattawoman watershed will die. Ken said that the Maryland DNR has delivered this information to planners.

Members made the following points in response to the presentation:

1. Local control of land use must be maintained
2. Planning Commissions play a critical role in advising elected officials; education and outreach is critical
3. Local officials need tools like maps/spatial tools; examples they can share with developers
4. Economics must be addressed
5. Rural/agricultural preservation is a common priority with funding

***Individual Management Strategy Presentations and Discussion***

Donnelle Keech from The Nature Conservancy discussed the Healthy Watersheds' Management Strategy. She pointed out that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure (the cure is restoration). The good news is that people have a chance to protect healthy watersheds. Management approaches include tracking, local leadership, federal leadership, and support of state based efforts.

Renee Thompson, coordinator of Healthy Watershed Goal Implementation Team spoke about Land Use Methods and Metrics. She reviewed management approaches, goals, and critical partners, including LGAC. She said that the "how" has not yet been outlined yet, but a communication strategy will be developed. Penny cautioned against discussing the "rate of conversion," which is a negative conversation that pits one interest against another.

Jason Dubow presented the Land Use Options Evaluation Management Strategy. Larry added that there are state planning chapters to help and Ernie told the committee about Skytruth, a remote sensing and mapping site for environmental applications. Malcolm said the options need to be state/region specific.

Mark Bennett presented on the Climate Resiliency Management Strategy

Al Todd spoke about citizen stewardship and stated that people are the most important part of the agreement. Penny stated that behavior change is important. Janine suggested that local government champions can help foster citizen stewardship.

Reggie Parrish provided an update on the Diversity Management Strategy and highlighted linking job training with environmental positions.

Carin Bisland presented the Local Leadership Management Strategy and the need to find a way to measure success.

Rebecca Hammer spoke about Urban Tree Canopies highlighting trees as the best stormwater BMP. The Outcome calls for a 2,400 acre net gain by 2025. She acknowledged long-standing municipal tree programs but pointed out that the link with using trees for stormwater BMPs is weak. Larry suggested that the VA Association of SWM Agencies may be a good resource/ally. Rebecca called on LGAC to be Tree Champs!

Committee agreed that Mary will conduct reviews, as time allows, and draft comments during public input period. Comments will be submitted under the Chair's signature upon Executive Committee review.

### **Business Meeting**

December 2014 Minutes were approved following a motion by Ruby and second by Larry.

### **Coordinator's Report (LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis)**

Mary presented the draft Expense Reimbursement Guidelines and asked for questions/comments. There were none. The guidelines will be finalized and distributed to all members.

### **Executive Committee Report (Chair, Penny Gross)**

Election of Chair and Vice Chairs occurred. Janine Burns was elected to serve as Chair, following nomination by Ruby and second by Ernie. Leo Lutz was elected to serve as Vice Chair for Pennsylvania following nomination by John and second by Ann. Ruby Brabo was re-elected to serve as Vice-Chair for Virginia following nomination by Richard and second by Penny. MD & DC elections were tabled until the next LGAC meeting.

### **Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**

*Nick DiPasquale, Chesapeake Bay Program Office Director*

See [presentation](#). Nick DiPasquale provided Chesapeake Bay Program updates. He reviewed the 2013-2014 CBP Bay Barometer results.

Nick began his updates on the management strategies by thanking the LGAC Chair and members for their support and input in developing the strategies. He gave special recognition to Mary Gattis who has participated in many GIT, and workgroup calls. He extolled the importance of local government's perspectives. The CBP encourages the LGAC to use forums to solicit comments and ideas that can advance local efforts. Nick discussed management strategies and the schedule for review, completion, tracking, assessment, and verification.

Nick also provided an update on CBPO funding for FY15. The current enacted budget is \$73 million with the President's Budget for FY16 at \$70 million. The EPA FY15 grants set aside \$5 million for local government.

Nick reviewed the high resolution land cover and elevation data for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The 30 meter resolution land cover data is very limited and is unable to fully detect things like urban tree canopy so high resolution data will therefore be key to the phase 6.0 CBP model as well as the midpoint 2017 assessment. High resolution data will be initially funded by federal, state, regional, and local agencies and other organizations. The EPA and consortium is dedicated to answering any concerns expressed by the LGAC.

Nick mentioned the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) expressing concern about the lack of vote in CAC letter to the PSC in December of 2014. The CAC was recommending that Advisory committees have a voice in the management board. Nick referenced the Chesapeake Bay Governance document and stated the advisory committees will not have a vote at the Management Board. Members expressed concern about this and said that they believe Advisory Committees should have a vote at the Management Board. The Chair and Coordinator will convey this position to the Governance Team and Management Board.

*Russ Baxter, Virginia Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources*

Virginia Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources, Russ Baxter, addressed the committee briefly. He began by pointing out that the current PSC Chair and VA Secretary of Natural Resources, Molly Ward, is a two term Mayor of Hampton who truly understand local government concerns.

### **New Business/Announcements for the Good of the Committee/Future Agenda Items**

Member Reports/Announcements

Future Agenda Items:

- Riparian Forest Buffers
- Takoma Park Green Streets
- BMP Expert Panel Protocol: Local Government Representation
- Unregulated Stormwater Discharges/Residual Designation Authority

Upcoming Events/Meetings

May 19-20, 2015 – [Choose Clean Water Conference](#), Harrisburg, PA

May 20-21, 2015 – LGAC Quarterly Meeting with Citizens Advisory Committee

June 2015 – Executive Council Meeting

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5 p.m.