

*LGAC Members Present:* Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Daniel Chao, Jacob Day, Sheila Finlayson, Jasmine Gore, Michael Helfrich, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Don Phillips, Kelly Porter, Robin Rich-Coates, John Thomas, Ann Simonetti, James Wheeler, Emeritus Bruce Williams representing Mark Dobbins and LGAC Staff: Ola-Imani Davis and Jennifer Starr

*Speakers/Guests Present:* Carin Bisland (EPA), Laura Cattell Noll (Alliance), Rachel Felver (CBP), Liz Feinburg (NFWF), KC Filippino (HRPDCVA), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Danny Lapin (Otego County), John Maleri (DC DOEE), Matthew Pennington (WV), Tuana Phillips (EPA), Lovinia Reynolds (Environmental Law Institute), Kathy Stecker (MDE), Jim Sullivan (DE DNREC), Jeff Sweeney (EPA), Ashley White (CCAP), Justin Williams (VA DEQ), Cuiyin Wu (CBP), Breck Sullivan (CBP)

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

#### **Call to Order: Greetings and Introductions**

Chair Ann Simonetti called the webinar meeting to order at 9:30 am. She thanked everyone for the flexibility to rearrange their schedules due to the global Covid-19 pandemic and participate in this web meeting.

#### **BMP Verification Assessment Update**

*Jeff Sweeney, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)*

Jeff presented the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's approach to watershed best management practice (BMP) verification. CBP has developed a basinwide framework to strengthen verification of BMPs to address concerns over the reliability and accuracy of reporting. The current plan will account for new implementation, inspection, maintenance or retirement, according to the BMP's "credit-life". They will also continue to look for drastic increases in implementation rates, missing historical BMPs, illogical implementation and re-inspection dates, and BMPs with inadequate descriptions.

LGAC Members questioned the ability of local government staff to manage BMP verification programs especially with a lack of available funding. Several jurisdictions have developed stormwater fees or rainwater taxes to address this lack of funding.

#### **Chesapeake Bay Program Update**

*Carin Bisland, CBP*

Carin updated Members on highlights of the FY2020 federal agency budget, CBP's expanded focus on social science, diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) and local engagement, and thoughts on recommendations for the Chesapeake Executive Council. She began by reporting a \$12 million increase to Chesapeake Bay programs for a total of \$85M this fiscal year. The National Fish and Wildlife Federation will continue to manage Small Watershed Grants, Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants and local government implantation funds for PA. She then discussed how the Bay Program's Diversity Outcome is to have at least 25% persons of color participating within the Bay Program by 2025. CBPO maintains an interest in discovering how social science drives the economy and how incentives can be introduced to developers. Finally, Carin explained that the next Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting will be held on August 18, 2020 having a combined tree/forest and DEIJ theme. She suggested that LGAC's recommendations should be actionable including one recommendation that aligns with the themes.

LGAC Members asked if local governments are notified or benefit from the increase in federal funding and discussed means to share priority efforts from a local perspective.

#### **Environmental Justice Local Government Assessment Project**

*Lovina Reynolds, Environmental Law Institute*

Lovinia presented an effort to assess the consideration of environmental justice in state and local ordinances. This effort is being organized by the Environmental Law Institute, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Chesapeake Legal Alliance. It will determine if and how local governments are installing environmental justice strategies into their local ordinances.

### **Business Meeting**

- Officer Elections – LGAC members met with each of their delegation partners to discuss the elections of LGAC Chair and Vice Chairs. The outcomes were as follows:
  - Chair – Ann Simonetti, nominated by Sheila Finlayson
  - PA Vice Chair – Ed Bustin, nominated by Ann Simonetti and expressed willingness to serve in writing
  - MD Vice Chair – Jake Day, nominated by Sheila Finlayson
  - VA Vice Chair – Ruby Brabo, nominated by Andria McClellan
  - DC Vice Chair – Daniel Chao, nominated by Brianne Nadeau
  - At-Large Vice Chair – Don Phillips, self-nominated and willing to serve a second term
- Approval of December 2019 Minutes – Andria McClellan moved to approve the December 2019 minutes, seconded by Michael Helfrich, Ruby Brabo abstained
- Executive Committee Report (Chair) – The draft Chesapeake Awareness Week Proclamation template was shared. This template was designed for state associations to disseminate to their localities in order to recognize Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, June 6-14.

*Action: Staff to share the final draft of the proclamation upon completion.*
- Coordinator's Report (Coordinator) – Jennifer updated Members on the roles of the Local Government Staff at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay:
  - Laura Cattell-Noll – LLWG Coordinator
  - Ola-Imani Davis – LGAC Program Assistant and communications/diversity liaison to the Alliance and CBP
  - Patti Bohnsack – Local Government Team's Program Assistant, project and events staffJennifer then discussed LGAC quarterly meeting operating procedures and best methods of communication with Members.

### **LGAC Strategic Priorities Discussion and Potential Executive Council Recommendations**

*Jennifer Starr*

Jennifer presented past LGAC recommendations to the Executive Council and asked Members to brainstorm recommendations for the 2020 meeting. Members suggested an incentivizing strategy that will minimize clear cutting of trees by developers, as it has a high impact on climate and stormwater runoff levels. Members agreed emphasizing intact forests should be a priority. Another suggestion was that LGAC recommendations focus primarily on climate while including supportive recommendations that align with the EC meeting's theme.

Members also thought it was important to include an effective approach to BMP verification within the watershed. Concern was expressed of an anticipated failure to reach 2025 TMDL goals. Other recommendations encouraged by LGAC members included elaborating on an actionable workforce development follow up, and encouraging the importance of local watershed priorities over Chesapeake Bay priorities. Members also stated the need to reiterate LGAC's 2019 recommendation of a one-day climate summit.

### **New Business/ Future Agenda Items**

- Next LGAC meeting, June 4-5, 2020, is intended to be in-person at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA focusing mostly on agriculture. Jennifer will connect with a PA Alliance member to determine a tour of local practices.
- Rachel notified Members the 2018-2019 Chesapeake Bay Program's Bay Barometer is set to release March 25, 2020

*Action: Distribute the Bay Barometer to LGAC members once released*

Meeting Adjourned at 12:17pm