

**CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION**  
**Annapolis, Maryland**  
**January 7, 2010**

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its fourth quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2010, in Annapolis, Maryland.

The following Commission members and staff were in attendance:

Senator Mike Brubaker  
Delegate John Cosgrove  
Assistant Secretary Frank Dawson  
Representative Russ Fairchild  
MD Citizen Representative Bernie Fowler  
Senator Brian Frosh  
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
Delegate James Hubbard  
Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton  
Representative Mike Sturla  
Senator Mike Waugh  
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple  
PA Citizen Representative George Wolff  
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.

Staff: Ann Pesiri Swanson  
Suzan Bulbulkaya  
Marel Raub  
Matt Mullin  
Paula Hose

Navy Liaison Jennifer Guerrero

Members not in attendance:

Secretary Preston Bryant (proxy)  
Delegate Virginia Clagett  
Secretary John Hanger  
Delegate Lynwood Lewis (proxy)  
Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (proxy)  
Representative Jim Wansacz

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission's business meeting was called to order by Chairman Cosgrove at 10:00 A.M. Following roll call, the November 2009 meeting minutes and the meeting's agenda were adopted as proposed.

## **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

### **Biofuels Report Release**

Chairman Cosgrove announced that the Commission's third and final biofuels report is scheduled to be released on January 20<sup>th</sup> during a media call with the press. Members were given an advance copy of the report and invited to participate in the media call. Chairman Cosgrove also thanked Delegate Jim Hubbard who led the biofuels Advisory Panel throughout the entire project. The Chairman also highlighted the high level of expertise and pro bono participation of the Biofuels Advisory Panel. Their contribution to this report was estimated to be over \$1 million.

### **Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting**

The Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) met on January 5<sup>th</sup> in Arlington, Virginia to hand over leadership from Governor Kaine to Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator. Chairman Cosgrove stated that he attended as the Commission's member of the Council. During the EC meeting Chairman Cosgrove voiced his belief that EPA had a big job to do and EPA must be proactive, not reactive, to answering questions and fears with the farming and development communities. Administrator Jackson agreed with this approach to dissuade misinformation.

### **Budget**

As each of the member states are facing major budget reductions this year and in the foreseeable future, the Commission's Executive Committee held a conference call in December 2009. The members reviewed each state's budget needs and examined the Commission's revenue and expense projections for FY2010 and FY2011. Staff was directed by the Committee to find additional ways to reduce expenses in the CBC budget in anticipation of level funding despite growing costs. As a result of interest expressed by one of the member states to reduce expenses to that state, the Committee recommended that level appropriations in each state be requested while offering each state the option of a rebate.

Senator Mike Brubaker motioned that the signatory states fund FY2011 at the full appropriation level, with the option that each state could request a \$15,000 rebate in writing. The rebate request must be made by September 15<sup>th</sup> in the same fiscal year as the appropriation. The motion was seconded by Delegate Hubbard and adopted by all members.

### **New Travel Policy**

Chairman Cosgrove announced that as a result of the Executive Committee's decision and the Commission's cost reductions, the member travel policy was modified. Included in the new policies, the Commission cannot pay for an overnight stay the night before a meeting if the member travels a distance of three hours or less. Chairman Cosgrove further explained that while the few changes to the policy were significant, they were necessary during these difficult financial times. All members were asked to sign and return the updated policy, acknowledging their acceptance of the revisions.

## **Membership**

The Executive Committee was also asked to consider the expansion of the Commission's membership to include the Secretaries of Agriculture of the three member states. Chairman Cosgrove announced that this was in fact discussed during the December Executive Committee conference call, however the members needed further input from the full membership. It was suggested these discussions continue at a future meeting while acknowledging that funding was an issue at this time.

## **USDA Conservation Partnership**

Ann Swanson provided an overview of USDA's efforts to account for voluntary agricultural conservation practices. Mr. Wolff stated that he had strong feelings about this effort and suggested that the Commission write a letter to NRCS Chief Dave White and USDA Secretary Vilsack, commending Ms. Dana York for her leadership of this effort prior to her reassignment to Washington, D.C. He further requested that her replacement continue her work with the same amount of effort and vigor. Mr. Wolff reiterated his feelings that this was a critical issue that must be addressed as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Mr. Wolff to send a letter to Chief White; that motion was seconded by Senator Middleton and approved.

## **WHO IS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION?**

### **PART I – Defining our Scope**

Executive Director Ann Swanson began the discussion with an overview of the Commission, discussing its history, function, purposes and power. Discussion among the members ensued on several topics, including Bay pollution issues (water quality), how the Commission should approach these issues (bringing together diverse interests and opinions), and what the primary focus of the Commission is believed to be (legislative policy). A general consensus was found for facilitating meaningful conversations and moving those conversations into legislative actions.

## **LUNCH/STATE DELEGATION MEETINGS**

Members met for lunch by state delegations.

## **WHO IS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION?**

### **PART II – Implementing our Vision**

Chairman Cosgrove welcomed everyone back from lunch and began the afternoon's discussion by reiterating the session's purpose. Discussion then followed among the members again, mostly focusing on various issues facing the Chesapeake Bay and some of the suggested solutions to address the problems.

As the afternoon's discussion came to a close, Chairman Cosgrove recognized Admiral Boensel for his dedication to the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

## **ELECTION OF 2010 OFFICERS**

The following nominations were approved for 2010:

MD: Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton, Chair; Delegate James Hubbard, Vice-chair

PA: Senator Mike Brubaker, Chair; Representative Russ Fairchild, Vice-chair.

VA: Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, Chair; Delegate John Cosgrove, Vice-chair

Senator Middleton was elected Commission Chairman for 2010.

## **OUTGOING/INCOMING CHAIR REMARKS**

Delegate Cosgrove thanked the members of the Commission and staff for a busy and insightful year and said it was an honor to serve as chairman of the Commission. Senator Middleton pledged to take the significant challenges the Bay is facing in the next year seriously. He noted that the Presidential Executive Order presents a challenge and an opportunity to make sure that it is successful. The Commission must remain engaged and proactive in all aspects of the Bay TMDL and the EO to further ensure they are successful.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

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The next meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Commission  
will be held at the Beacon Hotel  
in Washington, D.C. on May 6-7, 2010