

**CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION**  
**Annapolis, Maryland**  
**January 4, 2007**

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its fourth quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2007, in Annapolis, Maryland.

The following Commission members and staff were in attendance:

PA Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator Pat Buckley  
Assistant Secretary Jeff Corbin  
Delegate John Cosgrove  
Assistant Secretary Frank Dawson  
Representative Russ Fairchild  
MD Citizen Representative Bernie Fowler  
Senator Brian Frosh  
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
Representative Arthur Hershey  
Delegate James Hubbard  
Delegate Lynwood Lewis  
Senator Nick Rerras  
Rear Admiral Rick Ruehe  
Senator J. Lowell Stoltzfus  
Delegate Mike Weir, Jr.  
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.

Staff: Ann Pesiri Swanson  
Suzan Bulbulkaya  
Marel Raub  
Pat Stuntz  
Paula Hose

Members not in attendance:

VA Citizen Representative Irvine Hill  
Delegate Scott Lingamfelter  
Senator Mike Waugh  
PA Citizen Representative George Wolff (proxy)

**WELCOME**

Roy Hoagland, Vice-President for Environmental Protection and Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation welcomed the members to the Bay Foundations headquarters office in Annapolis, Maryland.

## **MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman Emmett Hanger at 10:10 A.M. Following roll call, the November 2006 meeting minutes and the agenda were adopted as proposed.

## **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES**

**Federal Farm Bill** – Chairman Hanger introduced Alan MacLeod, the Commission's Agricultural Policy Advisor who is working with the members in furthering their goals through the reauthorization of the 2007 Farm Bill. Mr. MacLeod informed the members that he and Executive Director Ann Swanson have been meeting with members of the Congressional Bay delegation as well as farm conservation leaders in the House to help craft a conservation title that will be of significant benefit to the Bay region. Mr. MacLeod recommended the following action steps needed to reach these goals:

- Representative Van Hollen (Md.) would like to take a leadership role for the Bay region and has asked the Commission to draft a bay region letter that will be circulated by the Congressman for signatures. A draft has been delivered to the Congressman's office that was vetted by several organizations, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the North East Mid West Institute.
- Commission assistance is needed in getting co-sponsors for Bay-friendly bills such as Congressman Kind's Healthy Farms, Food and Energy Act. Congressman Kind (Wi.) will likely re-introduce his bill in February. Mr. MacLeod is working very closely with the Congressman to enhance provisions of benefit to the Bay region. Representative Van Hollen is also working with Representative Cardoza (Ca.) to see if they can merge their two bills together.
- Mr. MacLeod also suggested that the Commission should host farm tours in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.
- Commission members should travel to Capitol Hill for lobby days.
- The Governors of the Bay region states must be engaged in the Farm Bill debate. The Commission could play a vital role in making this happen.

**Abandoned Mine Lands Legislation** – Chairman Hanger announced a Congressional victory concerning the Abandoned Mine Lands legislation. With more than 1,000 miles of acid-impaired streams on the Susquehanna alone, and more than 8,000 miles in the Bay watershed, this is an enormous stride for improved water quality. Pennsylvania citizen member George Wolff, who spearheaded the effort and directed the staff on behalf of the Commission, played a significant role in helping push the bill in the final days, and conveyed a message of thanks to Ann Swanson for her efforts. Maryland Congressman Steny Hoyer, and Pennsylvania Senators Specter and Santorum were particularly instrumental in the bill's passage which was signed by the President on December 20, 2006.

**Blue Plains Sewage Treatment Plant** – Chairman Hanger informed the members that in an effort to further the Commission's contribution in securing funding for upgrades to the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant, he and Secretary Preston Bryant directed staff to draft a letter to the Office of Management and Budget. The letter, which was distributed to the members, was copied to the Members of Congress. The letter also supports the

request from the Congressional Bay Task Force for \$66 million to be included in the President's budget.

## **HOW IS THE CHESAPEAKE ECOSYSTEM REALLY DOING?**

Richard Batiuk, Associate Director of the US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, provided the members with an overview on the status of restoration efforts in the Bay. Mr. Batiuk summarized the findings of the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem Health Assessment with three major points:

- There have been a number of small-scale success stories, but the overall ecosystem health of the Chesapeake Bay remains degraded.
- For more than 20 years, on-the-ground restoration efforts have managed to offset the impact of the region's growing population while making modest ecological gains in some areas.
- Major pollution reduction, habitat restoration, fisheries management and watershed protection actions taken to date have not yet been sufficient to restore the health of the Bay.

Mr. Batiuk explained that about half of the needed pollution reduction efforts have been undertaken over the past twenty years, and habitat restoration efforts are about 40% toward their goals. These efforts have been conducted in the face of a growing Bay watershed population of more than a million people every decade. He recommended a greater focus on local implementation, and enhanced funding for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and agricultural best management practices and related technical assistance. Mr. Batiuk noted that air emissions are becoming our second largest source of nitrogen; further actions to reduce emissions are needed. He concluded his presentation by saying that we must determine if we are satisfied with achieving a restored Bay a generation (decades) from now, based on current levels of funding and pollution control.

## **HOW ARE MONITORING DATA AND MODELS BEING USED?**

Gary Shenk, Integrated Analysis Coordinator with the US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, discussed the data inputs used for both modeling and monitoring and described the different applications of the Bay Program's monitoring data and modeling results. The Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributary Monitoring Network contains more than 120 monitoring stations which produce snapshots of the state of the ecosystem, and can be used over time to describe trends in water quality. Looking over the period 1985-2005, monitoring data shows a long term improvement in dissolved oxygen in the Bay, but there is high annual variability due to climate impacts (such as high or low rainfall).

While monitoring data can not be used directly to predict future conditions, the Bay Program's models are used to provide an approximation of future conditions for planning purposes. Mr. Shenk described for the members the data sources, calibration, and various scenarios used by the watershed model. An example of the big picture "what if?" questions that the model can answer was the assessment of maximum potential nutrient reductions for the most cost effective best management practices identified in the Commission's December 2004 report.

Mr. Sherk described the improvements made to the Phase 5 model and provided some interesting examples of the types of analyses that the model can provide to policymakers to assist in developing strategies for Bay cleanup and restoration.

## **SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS: THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION'S '07 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Commission asked the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) to help them transition into each of the state's delegation discussions of the upcoming legislative sessions. Each of the following CBF State Director's presented the members with their legislative priorities for 2007:

Kim Coble, CBF's Maryland Executive Director  
Matt Erhart, CBF's Pennsylvania Executive Director  
Ann Jennings, CBF's Virginia Executive Director

## **CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH WATER TRAIL**

Pat Noonan, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Conservation Fund, who also serves on the Board of Directors with the National Geographic Society, thanked the members and staff of the Commission for their contribution in making the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a reality. Mr. Noonan added that the leadership, tenacity, and enthusiasm of the Commission were instrumental in propelling the legislation forward.

## **HOW CAN MODELS BE USED TO SIMULATE THE EFFECTS OF POLICY AND LEGISLATION?**

### **Modeling Future Land Change**

Peter Claggett, Research Geographer with USGS. Chesapeake Bay Program Office, shared with the members a suite of Chesapeake Bay models he uses for future land change in his forecasts from now to the year 2030, and explained how we can use them as a tool to help with comprehensive land use planning and forecasting. He also pointed out the sobering statistics that in the 1990's alone, the watershed population has increased by 8%, or 1.2 million people, and impervious service has increased 41% based on measurements of satellite information. Expected growth in the 2000's is 1.6 million people. Using his models, Mr. Claggett stressed these issues to consider: growth will continue; plan regionally, implement locally; prioritize where growth should occur; prioritize lands to protect; manage the location, configuration, and density of new development to minimize impacts on water quality.

### **Bringing the Model to the People**

Rob Burgholzer, On-line Watershed Model Developer with US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, presented VORTEX, the Chesapeake Bay Program's web-based interface to run the integrated support system. VORTEX is a web-based tool for world wide access; its menu driven model input development allows non-modelers to develop unlimited number of scenarios and to run the model. VORTEX also has on-line tools for analyzing model output and integrates watershed model, land-use models, crop inputs and population models.

## **BUSINESS DISCUSSION: FOLLOW UP ACTIONS**

### **Past Business**

Ann Swanson announced that, as directed at the last meeting, a letter was sent to the Scotts Miracle Gro Company urging action on the 2006 directive on residential fertilizer signed by the Executive Council. The letter stressed the Commission's interest for developing consensus on nitrogen reduction improvements resulting from use of their products in the future. Ann Swanson also informed members that letters were sent to Congressional members thanking them for their support of the Captain John Smith Water Trail Legislation.

### **Public Awareness Strategy**

In response to a previous request for a public relations strategy, Pennsylvania Director Marel Raub presented suggestions for the Commission's consideration. Included in the strategy was a wider distribution of the Commission's quarterly meeting agenda in advance of meetings, and preparation by staff of news releases regarding significant action items following the meetings. Additionally, staff would prepare brief meeting summaries for use in members' constituent newsletters. As topics of interest arise, staff would also arrange visits to editorial boards in the watershed. It was the consensus of the membership to accept this strategy as proposed. Following the presentation, Administrative Officer Paula Hose provided a preview of the Commission's new website, highlighting improvements to both its form and content.

### **Bi-State Fisheries Initiative**

Ann Swanson summarized the results of multiple meetings to discuss the potential for a new bi-state fisheries initiative, spearheaded by the Commission, as discussed at the last CBC meeting. The general feeling is that such an initiative, looking at multiple fisheries, would be redundant, particularly in light of the new effort on the part of MD Sea Grant and its state and Federal partners to create a Chesapeake Fisheries Advisory Committee that will address five key species. Ms. Swanson explained that the Committee will be comprised of fisheries managers and stakeholders and will concentrate on ecosystem interactions involving menhaden, crab, oysters, shad, and striped bass. MD Sea Grant is very interested in exploring the Commission's role in this Committee.

## **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pennsylvania Representative Russ Fairchild distributed the documentary Film "*Looking to the River*" to the members. The Documentary, produced by WVIA focuses on the Upper Susquehanna River. Representative Fairchild and Pennsylvania Director Marel Raub are in the video.

Representative Fairchild also reminded members that the November 2007 meeting will be in Sayre, Pennsylvania, which is in Northern Pennsylvania. At this meeting, the Pennsylvania Delegation would like to bring in some folks from New York for their input. Even though New York is not a member of the Commission, their input would be a valued addition.

## **ELECTION OF 2007 OFFICERS**

The following nominations were approved for 2007:

Maryland: Delegate James W. Hubbard, Chair; Senator J. Lowell Stoltzfus, Vice-chair  
Pennsylvania: Representative Arthur D. Hershey, Chair; Senator Mike Waugh, Vice-chair  
Virginia: Delegate John A. Cosgrove, Chair; Senator Nick Rerras, Vice-chair  
Delegate James W. Hubbard was elected Commission Chairman for 2007.

## **OUTGOING CHAIR REMARKS**

Senator Hanger stated that during the past year, the Commission has made significant strides towards accomplishing many of its goals. With all of the Commission's activities, he remarked that his year as Chair passed by very quickly. Policies for reducing nutrient pollution are now in place and some have the necessary funding to upgrade our point sources, mainly sewage treatment plants. With our strong focus on agriculture over the past couple years, Senator Hanger said that the Commission is on the right track and has made progress, but we still need a dependable funding source for our existing state agricultural conservation programs. We still have many challenges ahead that are impeding our progress of restoring the Bay, including growth management concerns and air pollution issues. Senator Hanger also said that he would like to continue dialog after our quarterly meetings to cover the pertinent topics discussed and develop practical applications for furthering policy initiatives by the members.

## **INCOMING CHAIR REMARKS**

Delegate James Hubbard thanked his delegation colleagues for their nomination and said it would be an honor and a privilege to serve as Chairman of the Commission in the coming year. Delegate Hubbard also said he was looking forward to working in conjunction with the members in a consensus mode to benefit future generations who will live and work in the watershed.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30P.M.

-----  
The next meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Commission  
will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel  
in Washington, D.C. on May 10-11, 2007