

**CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION**  
**Loews Annapolis Hotel**  
**Annapolis, Maryland**  
**January 5, 2012**

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its first quarterly meeting of 2012 on Thursday, January 5, in Annapolis, Maryland.

The following Commission members and staff were in attendance:

Admiral Tim Alexander  
Senator Mike Brubaker  
Delegate John Cosgrove  
Assistant Secretary Frank Dawson  
PA Citizen Representative Warren Elliott  
Representative Garth Everett  
MD Citizen Representative Bernie Fowler  
Senator Brian Frosh  
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
Delegate James Hubbard  
Delegate Lynwood Lewis  
Delegate Scott Lingamfelter  
Delegate Maggie McIntosh  
Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton  
Representative Ronald Miller  
Assistant Secretary Anthony Moore  
VA Citizen Representative John Reynolds  
Representative Mike Sturla  
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple  
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.  
Andrew Zemba (Acting) Director, Interstate Waters Office, DEP

Staff: Ann Pesiri Swanson  
Bevin Buchheister  
Jack Frye  
Marel Raub  
Paula Hose

Members not in attendance:  
Senator Mike Waugh

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission's business meeting was called to order by Chairman Brubaker at 9:30 A.M. Following roll call, the November 2011 meeting minutes and the meeting's agenda were adopted as proposed.

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

The Chairman announced the release of the Commission's latest publication: *Manure to Energy, Sustainable Solutions for the Chesapeake Bay Region*. The report was a result of the Manure to

Energy Summit held in September. The report highlights a broad array of policy options that can be taken by the states, the federal government and industry to support manure-to-energy and includes four farmer case studies and many graphics never before published. Members approved the press release for the report.

Executive Director Ann Swanson summarized her meeting with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U. S. Department of Agriculture officials to explore the policy options presented at the summit.

Chairman Brubaker discussed the follow up to the November meeting where the members, after hearing presentations from Dr. Donald Weller from STAC and Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin, U.S. EPA, posed several questions regarding the Bay Program model and the TMDL/Phase II WIPs. It was agreed by the members that the answers to those questions were a direct result of the November meeting and should be made available via the Commission's website with a disclaimer that the documents were not a reflection of the CBC's position.

Chairman Brubaker opened discussions on a resolution he recommended for Commission approval, to support creation of a liaison position for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the Bay Program. Creation of a liaison position was supported by representatives of both Maryland and Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Districts. There was a move to adopt, however, after much conversation it was determined to table the resolution.

## **ECONOMICS OF TRADING STUDY**

Roy Hoagland, consultant with Hope Impacts, LLC, and Dr. George Van Houtven with RTI International presented members with their preliminary findings on the CBC study on the Economics of Trading. There was some detailed discussion on what went into the assumptions of costs for nutrient management plans, forest buffers and other practices. Members suggested that the assumptions made in the economic model should be made transparent to readers of the report, especially since state trading programs differ and may not align with all of the assumptions made. Members also advised that the report be written in "plain English" so this complex issue will be understandable to our readers.

Several members volunteered to serve as a review subcommittee for the Report: Del. Lingamfelter, Del. Hubbard, Rep. Sturla, Frank Dawson, Anthony Moore, Sen. Middleton, Andrew Zemba, John Reynolds, Sen. Brubaker.

## **WORKING DELEGATION LUNCH**

Commission members were given 20 minutes to briefly meet with their delegations to hold elections for their Chair and second member of the Executive Committee for the 2012 calendar year. Members then collected their boxed lunches and returned to the meeting room.

## **LIVING RESOURCE VIGNETTES**

The next portion of the meeting focused on living resources, specifically crabs, oysters and menhaden.

**CRABS-** Jack Travelstead, Deputy Commissioner & Chief of Fisheries Management with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, reported that crabs continue to rebound but that the 2010 numbers were down slightly due to the cold temperature in the Bay during the winter stock assessment. The new stock assessments will focus entirely on the female crab population.

**OYSTERS-** Tom O'Connell, Director of Fisheries Service with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, reported that we have lost 80% of our oyster population in the past 25 years due to flattening reefs, sediment and disease. Although Maryland has bushel limits and restricted seasons, to date we have no management framework for oysters. We are developing new restoration metrics to determine success. These include an oyster density target of 50 oysters/ sq.meter on 30% of the oyster bars, and a minimum threshold of 15 oysters/ sq.meter, and restoration of 50% of the oyster bars in tributaries.

**MENHADEN-** Bob Beal, Director of Interstate Fisheries Management Plan Program with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASFMC), reported that ASFMC will develop new thresholds and targets for menhaden based on Addendum V which will go into effect in 2013, and will result in a 37% reduction in catch from 2010 numbers. States must implement ASFMC measures regardless of which body in the state makes the management decisions.

### **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER – Precision Agriculture at its Best**

David Hula is a farmer in Charles City, Virginia who has won countless awards, this year winning the National Corn Growers Association Yield Contest in the No Till/Strip Till Irrigated Category by placing a remarkable 400+ bushels/acre. Mr. Hula advised members on precision agriculture opportunities to protect agriculture and water quality. Using precision ag equipment, farmers can reduce up to 20 pounds of nitrogen per acre on corn and increase their yield. Sen. Brubaker noted the link between better productivity and a cleaner Bay.

### **ELECTION OF 2012 OFFICERS**

Prior to the elections of the 2012 officers, the Commission members then bid a fond farewell to Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, who retired from the Senate of Virginia. Senator Whipple was a member of the Commission from 2008-2012.

The following officers were approved for 2012:

VA: Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Chair; Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter, Vice-chair.  
MD: Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair; Delegate James Hubbard, Vice-chair.  
PA: Representative Ron Miller, Chair; Senator Mike Waugh, vice-chair.  
Senator Emmett W. Hanger was elected Commission Chairman for 2012

### **OUTGOING/INCOMING CHAIR REMARKS**

Senator Brubaker, the outgoing Chairman, made remarks on his tenure and thanked the staff. He submitted his remarks for the record.

Senator Hanger thanked Chairman Brubaker and gave incoming remarks. He noted that bi-partisan efforts are the trademark of the Commission, and outlined an ambitious agenda for 2012.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

The next meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Commission will be held at the Beacon Hotel in Washington D.C. on May 3 & 4, 2012.