

Minutes

**CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION**  
**Washington DC**  
**May 12-13, 2005**

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its second quarterly meeting on Thursday and Friday, May 12 - 13, 2004 in Washington DC and Alexandria, Virginia.

The following Commission members and staff were in attendance

Assistant Secretary Russ Baxter  
Delegate John Cosgrove  
MD Citizen Representative Bernie Fowler  
Senator Brian E. Frosh  
Assistant Secretary Ron Guns  
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
VA Citizen Representative Irvine B. Hill  
Delegate Scott Lingamfelter  
Secretary Katie McGinty  
Deputy Secretary Cathy Myers  
Delegate Albert Pollard  
Senator Nick Rerras  
Senator Michael L. Waugh  
PA Citizen Representative George B. Wolff  
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.  
Representative Peter J. Zug  
Rear Admiral Stephen A. Turcotte

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

**Thursday, May 12, 2005**

**Meeting with the Congressional Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force**

Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (Md.) and staff  
Congressman Chris Van Hollen (Md.) and staff  
Congressman Rick Boucher (Va.) and staff  
Congressman Tim Holden (Pa.) and staff  
Congressman Dutch Ruppersburger (Md.)  
Congressman Steny Hoyer (Md.) dinner  
Congressman Todd Platts (Pa.) and staff  
Congressman Ben Cardin (Md.) and staff  
Congressman Bob Goodlatte (Va.) and staff  
Congresswoman Thelma Drake (Va.) and staff

Staff representative for Congressman Bobby Scott (Va.)  
Staff representative for Congressman Elijah Cummings (Md.)  
Staff representative for Congressman Michael Castle (De.)

### **Friday, May 13, 2005**

The meeting was convened by Commission Chair Mike Waugh who asked the members to give their thoughts on the previous days meeting with the Congressional Chesapeake Bay Task Force And congressional delegations.

Rerras-Reinforced government will have very limited funds that states are going to have to share a bigger load; farm bill see potential relief and help, but are only going to get so much bang for the buck

Pollard-opportunities are limited but they are still there. Impressed by the large number of congressmen stopped by to allow the commission to put their issues on the table.

Fowler-nice to have the socializing. But told us what we're not supporting that we should be supporting, staff mainly doing the talking. Need to re-examine the reason for the visits....a bit embarrassed by the absence of so many commission members, didn't have the full force there.

Chair agreed that low attendance was a bit unusual . Told the members to think about the issue. The topic of the DC meetings would be re-visited at the next meeting.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Roll Call,  
January meeting minutes were adopted as presented.  
Agenda also adopted without changes.

### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES**

Ann -Commission publications were distributed to the members: Annual report, National Treasure insert, the blue crab report and the Farm Bill Materials that will be used at outreach meetings.

Ann-Watertrail update, two things have occurred since the last meeting- on behalf of the Chesapeake Executive Council, the Commission collected all of the signatures of the EC members minus the administrator (federal level, can't get involved) including the state of Delaware Governor on a joint letters in support of the John Smith Water Trail and the senate legislation calling for a study of the feasibility of the watertrail. In addition a letter was sent on the day of introduction of the bill from the commission giving their support. A house version of the bill will be introduced as well.

Senator Waugh also mentioned the upcoming version National Geographic's article about the Chesapeake Bay. A copy was padded around.

Admiral Turcotte spoke to the members about the responsibilities of Department of Defense facilities related to the Maryland restoration fund, working with the Justice Department to somehow change the language requiring the DOD to pay the fees just like anyone else. Looking at all the permits they currently have for all of their installations, some old. There is a piece of

federal money that they can use for sewage upgrades particularly nitrogen loading, some of which are very old and antiquated. Progress is expected to be made fairly quickly.

## **CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION FY 2005-2006 BUDGET**

The Commission's Fiscal Year 05-06 operating budget was approved by unanimous vote as presented.

### **BLUE CRAB UPDATE**

Delegate Wood spoke of the 2004 Blue Crab Report produced by the Commission's Blue Crab Technical Advisory Committee. Wood said that what we did in the late 90's early 2000 to the crabbing industry was the right thing to do as it is proving that the changes that were made has helped the industry. It has improved; however, we're not there yet. A big concern is the female crabs...we are not limiting female crabs like we should...one state can't address the issue by itself. Wood reflecting on past issues that Maryland & Virginia working together had accomplished a lot during BBCAC.

### **SUPPORTING OUR MOST COST EFFECTIVE NUTRIENT REDUCTION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL STRATEGIES**

Pennsylvania Marel Raub updated the members on the support and current levels of funding on our most cost effective nutrient and sediment control strategies in the commission's Cost Effectiveness Report. The Farm Bill provides the majority the main source of support to federal programs. Raub identified what the current levels of funding are on the five strategies. Most of the federal programs do not support the five practices due to the structure and the eligibility requirements and even the purpose itself of the programs. All five practices can be funded under EQUIP (conservation tillage, cover crops, grassed waterways; nutrient management planning and implementation practices). A lot of the funding decisions are made by the State Technical Committee which is comprised of representatives State, Federal and Private entities. State funding is appropriated via individual programs, for example, Growing Greener in Pennsylvania, MD Agricultural Water Quality Costs Share Programs in Maryland, and VA Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Programs.

### **A STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING MANURE**

Kelly Shenk, Tributary Strategy Coordinator for the U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office gave the members a preview of what is likely to be in the manure strategy that will be presented to the Principals Staff Committee in late summer. Shenk reported that agriculture is responsible for 41% of the nitrogen coming into the bay this year. Consequently, agriculture offers the greatest opportunities to improve water quality in the Bay & rivers, also the cheapest way to achieve reductions. Manure management manure is responsible for 1/2 of the nutrient load. A series of meetings were given involving the Dairy Sector, Poultry Sector, Swine Sector, and Shenandoah Waste Solutions Forum was held. Feed management was the number one issue in the Dairy Sector. The swine sector focus was alternate uses: bio-energy and composting. The number one issue in the Poultry Sector is to create markets for alternative uses such as fertilizer. The information from these meetings was used in developing manure strategy to be presented at the PSC who will in turn present to the Executive Council.

### **BLUE PLAINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Jerry Johnson, General Manager of the District of Columbia's Water and Sewer Authority presented to the members the significant improvements that have been attained at the Blue Plains and what future project are currently planned, including egg shaped digesters which would

reduce bio-solids by 40-60%; combined sewage overflow control by the Fabri-Dam rehabilitation, new tide gates on the Anacostia River.

## **NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Delegate Lingamfelter spoke to the members the Virginia passed a bill on enhanced tax credit , no till equipment and additional language to expand the list of no till type things that will be available to include soil.

Helpful to have a better understanding of when we get to the tipping point where the Bay begins to get to a point where healing can begin to take place naturally throughout the Bay. We are trying to sell the public a strategy to get interested and excited about fixing the Bay. To have a discussion at a future meeting to discuss when we can have some expectation of that we are going to be getting to that tipping point and get the public focused on it..

Bernie Fowler the bay is no better of than it was thirty five years ago. Somewhere along the line we have to establish a success story- we need a victory to show the world that yes this can me done. Patuxent River is no better today than it was 35 years ago too. Patuxent river is a 110 mile river and is doable and it wouldn't take long to do it. Use this river as a demonstration that it can be done. We can't convince the policy holders and decision makers. If they can use this as a success story and our chances then on obtaining more federal dollars make go up. Public needs some good news and concrete evidence.

Hanger. Follow up on Blue Plains – clearly in terms of achieving our goals it is necessary to form a partnership with them. All ready have a sub-committee and I think we should focus on how we can best with the Blue Plains Folks lobby the congress. Senator Waugh asked that the sub committee give a brief overview in the next meeting or sometime this year.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00