

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION
Washington, DC
May 5-6, 2011

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its second quarterly meeting of 2011 on Thursday, and Friday, May 5-6, 2011, in Washington DC

The following Commission members and staff were in attendance:

Senator Mike Brubaker
Assistant Secretary Frank Dawson
Representative Garth Everett
MD Citizen Representative Bernie Fowler
Senator Brian Frosh
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Executive Deputy Secretary John Hines
Delegate Lynwood Lewis
Delegate Scott Lingamfelter
Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton
Representative Ron Miller
Assistant Secretary Anthony Moore
VA Citizen Representative John Reynolds
Representative Mike Sturla
Senator Mike Waugh
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.

Staff: Ann Pesiri Swanson
Bevin Buchheister
Suzan Bulbulkaya
Marel Raub
Paula Hose

Members not in attendance:

Delegate John Cosgrove
PA Citizen Representative Warren Elliott
Delegate James Hubbard

Thursday, May 6, 2011

US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Members met with Administrator Lisa Jackson at EPA Headquarters to discuss how best EPA could support the states to achieve their Watershed Implementation Plans and what the Commission could do to help. The members presented Administrator Jackson with a document describing specific requests of the agency regarding Federal Leadership and Support, Promoting Innovation, Strengthening Local Government Partnerships and Successful Completion of Ongoing Initiatives.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS

New Member Briefings:

Ann Swanson, Executive Director of the commission presented a brief introduction for new Members of Congress and their staff the Commission and the Bay restoration effort.

House Chesapeake Bay Task Force Meeting

At noon, Commission members met with members of the House Chesapeake Bay Task Force for a working lunch in the Capitol Visitor's Center. The luncheon was hosted by Representatives Rob Wittman (R-VA) and Chris Van Hollen (MD-D) and Senator Ben Cardin (D-PA) on behalf of the House Chesapeake Bay Task Force and the Senate Bay Delegation. This provided an opportunity for the Chesapeake Bay Commission members to discuss with its Congressional leadership the necessary steps at the Federal and State levels to implement the TMDL Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) and continued progress to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Jeff Corbin, Special Assistant to the Administrator of EPA presented an overview of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Watershed Implementation Plan process.

Deputy Secretary Frank Dawson (MD), Assistant Secretary Anthony Moore (VA) and Deputy Secretary John Hines (PA) briefed the members on the progress that is being made in their states' restoration efforts, the approach that each is taking and where support is needed.

Ann Swanson then outlined specific areas where Congressional leadership would be most helpful, including the Farm Bill, Land & Water Conservation Fund, Clean Water Act, and Crosscut Budgeting and Adaptive Management.

Congressman Rob Wittman announced the transformation of the Task Force into a more official *Congressional Chesapeake Bay Watershed Caucus*, which will address all issues regarding Bay restoration including water quality, land conservation, resource management, recreation, economic development, and education of members of Congress whose districts lie in the watershed. The caucus is a bipartisan effort that will build on the previous work of the Chesapeake Bay Congressional Task Force. It will be co-chaired by U.S. Representatives Rob Wittman (VA-1), Chris Van Hollen (MD-8), Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-3), and Andy Harris (MD-1).

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Members met with Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director of the northeastern Region of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Joe McCauley, Chief at the Division of Realty of the National Wildlife Refuge System to discuss The Advantages of the Federal Wildlife Refuge Designation.

John Reynolds, Virginia Citizen Representative of the Commission and former manager at the National Park Service and Chairman's of the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail Advisory Council briefed the members of the progress of the John Smith Trail and the status of Fort Monroe as a potential new National Park.

Friday, May 6, 2011

FARM BREAKFAST WITH US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Members welcomed Secretary Tom Vilsack who spoke on how USDA programs can best contribute to Chesapeake Bay stewardship and restoration and what the Commission must do to help. The members presented Secretary Vilsack with a document outlining specific asks of the agency regarding: Targeting the Public's Investment; Greater Program Efficiency; Technology, Information and Research Acceleration; Institutional Innovation and InterAgency Collaboration; and Accounting for Agriculture's Efforts in the Bay.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Brubaker at 9:00 A.M. Following roll call, the January meeting minutes and the agenda were adopted as proposed.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES

CBC Fiscal Year 10-11 Budget

The Commission's FY 2010-2011 Budget was adopted as proposed. Secretary John Griffin (MD), Delegate John Cosgrove (VA) and Warren Elliott (PA) voted for adoption of the budget via proxies.

2012 Meeting Dates

The 2012 meeting dates (January 5 – Annapolis, MD; May 3-4 – Washington, DC; September 6-7 – Virginia and November 8-9 – Maryland) were approved. The members also agreed to continue the tradition of holding the May meeting in Washington, DC and to continue meeting with Congress.

2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Senator Mary Margaret Whipple reported out on Virginia's Legislative activities which included:

- Enactment of a lawn care bill that addressed included limits on phosphorus application only, but assigned the issue of nitrogen to a study committee for potential action in 2012.
- Creation of a process to provide Certainty under the TMDL for farmers who implement a Resource Management Plan.
- Amendments to the transferable tax credit to make unused credits refundable
- Authorization of a study to evaluate expansion of the Nutrient Credit Exchange program

Delegate McIntosh reported on Maryland's Legislative Activities which included:

Commercial Dishwasher Detergents

Lawn Fertilizer

Poaching/Netting – bills on penalties on poaching oysters and striped bass

Interim off shore wind; Marcellus Drilling Standards; Septic's

Senator Mike Brubaker reported on Pennsylvania's Legislative Activities which included:

- Development of a lawn fertilizer bill that would address both nitrogen and phosphorus applications. It is likely to be introduced by Senator Brubaker in the near future.
- Introduction of several bills regarding Marcellus Shale natural gas development, including oversight of the drilling activity as well as creation and use of a severance tax or impact fee.
- Potential new funding for conservation districts
- Conservation requirements for participation in the Commonwealth's "Clean and Green" preferential farm and forest land tax assessment program.

MANURE TO ENERGY SUMMIT

Ann Swanson briefed the members on the upcoming Manure to Energy summit which will be held in conjunction with the September Commission Meeting. The Summit, similar to the Biofuels Summit held in Harrisburg in September 2008, will explore alternative uses of manure and determine what policy changes are needed to encourage the adoption of these technology opportunities.

BIG FISH AND LITTLE FISH IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Peyton Robertson, Director of the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Program Office and Bob Beal, Director of the Interstate Fisheries Management Program of ASMFC updated the members on management strategies for the Blue Catfish, an invasive species with a growing population in the Bay's tributaries, and menhaden, a native species that is important both economically and ecologically in the region.

MEMBER DEBRIEF

The members recapped the events of the two day meeting and completed a brief survey. They also considered potential topics for future meetings, including Marcellus Shale, Smart Growth, Nutrient Management Decision Tools; and Phase II WIPs.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM