

Minutes

**CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION
Cambridge, MD
November 12-13, 2009**

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its third quarterly meeting on Thursday and Friday, November 12-13, 2009 in Cambridge, Maryland.

The following Commission members and staff were in attendance

Senator Mike Brubaker
Delegate Virginia Clagett
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
Delegate Lynwood Lewis
Delegate Scott Lingamfelter
Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton
Representative Mike Sturla
Representative James Wansacz
Senator Mike Waugh
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
PA Citizen Representative George Wolff
Delegate John Wood, Jr

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

Members not in attendance:

Rear Admiral Mark Boensel
Secretary Preston Bryant
Secretary John Hanger

Thursday, November 12, 2009

FIELD TOUR: HORN POINT LABORATORY

Members assembled at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences. Leading scientists discussed Bay issues with the Commission and members toured Maryland's oyster and finfish hatcheries at Horn Point Laboratory research facility where in the past decade over one billion oyster spat have been produced and deployed in the Chesapeake Bay.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Cosgrove after all members arrived to Horn Point by bus. Chairman Cosgrove provided a quick overview of the day and then introduced Dr. Don

Boesch, President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Dr. Boesch welcomed the Commission and guests, thanked the Commission for choosing Horn Point as the site of the meeting's first day, and described the University of Maryland center for Environmental Science's history, work, and relationship with the Maryland General Assembly.

Chairman Cosgrove acknowledged the hard work of Dave Nemazie, Associate Vice President for External Affairs at the University's Center for Environmental Science and thanked him for his assistance in organizing the Commission's meeting. Dr. Boesch recognized Mr. Nemazie for the essential role he plays in the Center's success.

Chairman Cosgrove then introduced Dr. Russ Brinsfield, Executive Director of the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology and Director of the Wye Research and Education Center. Dr. Brinsfield gave a presentation to Commission members on his extensive research of phosphorous runoff from agricultural fields in Maryland's Wye River watershed. Dr. Brinsfield also provided an overview on P-based nutrient management. He also gave policy recommendations on how to better manage phosphorus application and runoff in certain areas of the watershed.

Chairman Cosgrove thanked Dr. Brinsfield for his presentation and then introduced Dr. Josh McGrath, Professor at the University of Maryland's Department of Environmental Science & Technology, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. Dr. McGrath provided an overview of a phosphorous management tool, the P-index. Specifically, Dr. McGrath explained his research and provided examples from the field, on what the P-index is, what it is intended to do, and how it is working in managing phosphorous runoff in the Bay's watershed.

Chairman Cosgrove thanked Dr. McGrath for his presentation and then introduced Dr. Don "Mutt" Meritt, and Dr. Andy Lazur. Dr. Meritt provided an overview of native oyster restoration efforts in the State of Maryland and explained the oyster aquaculture facilities at Horn Point. He emphasized partnerships with multiple stakeholders as a cornerstone of the hatchery's success. Dr. Meritt then lead the Commission members on a tour of the Oyster Hatchery Program and Finfish Aquaculture Program facilities.

When the tour of Horn Point's oyster hatchery was concluded, members where lead on a tour of Horn Point's finfish aquaculture hatchery by Dr. Andy Lazur. Members were shown various species of finfish, highlighted by a focus on the Atlantic sturgeon.

Members were then bused back to the hotel to prepare for dinner.

THE BAY IN IMAX

Preceding dinner, members were addressed by Mr. John O'Connell of the Trinity Group on behalf of the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. Mr. O'Connell briefed members on the pre-production work that has begun on a documentary conveying the beauty and challenges of Chesapeake Bay, focusing on the role of individual residents in its watershed. To be filmed in IMAX, this documentary has the potential to bring the story of the Bay to new audiences in the region and across the country.

Friday, November 13, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman John Cosgrove at 9:15 A.M. Following roll call, the September meeting minutes and the agenda were adopted as proposed.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES

Marel Raub, Pennsylvania Director for the Commission, briefed members on the Next-Generation Biofuels Project. A final report is being prepared by the Biofuels Advisory Panel and will be presented to the Commission at its January 2010 meeting.

Matt Mullin, Maryland Director for the Commission, followed with a briefing on the status of EPA's development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL to date.

Executive Director, Ann Swanson, updated the members on the latest version of the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystems Restoration Act of 2009 as introduced in Congress.

MERCURY SWITCH LEGISLATION

Maryland Delegates Tom Huckler and Anthony O'Donnell, sponsor and co-sponsor of HB1263/09 *Mercury Switch Removal from Vehicles*, discussed the specifics of the legislation with the members, and highlighted the effort to get the bill passed as an example of a bi-partisan approach towards resolving an important environmental issue.

Delegate Huckler discussed pertinent background information and reasons for his legislation, explaining that scrapped cars are one of the largest sources of mercury in our waterways. When used cars are scrapped, mercury is released to the environment from various pieces of equipment found in the vehicles. Delegate Huckler went on to explain that this mercury is relatively easy to capture, but scrap yards do not have the incentive because of time and cost restraints. Delegate Huckler concluded by noting that the 2009 Maryland legislative session brought together many stakeholders and by working together, the group was able to come up with a solution.

Chairman Cosgrove thanked both Delegates, complimented the bi-partisan effort and noted the importance of quantifying the effects of mercury pollution.

USDA ARS REMOTE SENSING COVER CROP RESEARCH

Dr. Dean Hively, Research Soil Scientist with USDA-ARS Hydrology and Remote Sensing Laboratory, explained the use of innovative monitoring and satellite imagery to assess the rate of cover crop use and the rates of success in reducing nutrient runoff through remote sensing technology to the members. Dr. Hively used research data collected from his field sites located in the Choptank River watershed. His project is the only one of its kind in the Chesapeake Bay region.

NEW BUSINESS

Representative Russ Fairchild (Pa.) motioned to add the Secretaries of Agriculture from each of the three states to the Chesapeake Bay Commission. Commission members requested the Executive Committee look into the issue and report back at the January meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

The next meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Commission will be held at the Loews Hotel, Annapolis, MD on January 7, 2010