

---

*LGAC Members Present:* Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Phil Bridell, Daniel Chao, Jasmine Gore, Penelope Gross, Brianne Nadeau, Ann Simonetti, John Thomas, Bruce Williams and LGAC Staff - Mary Gattis and Jennifer Starr

*Speakers/Guests Present:* Monica Billig (Alliance), Carin Bisland (CBPO), Cassandra Davis (NYDEC), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Alana Hartman (WV DEP), Caitlyn Johnstone (Alliance), Les Knapp (MACo), Matt Pennington (WV), Phil Stafford (MD DNR), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC), Emily Trentacoste (EPA Region 3)

### **Call to Order**

Chair Bruce Williams call the web meeting to order at 1:10 pm. He thanked everyone for the flexibility to rearrange their schedules due to the extreme weather and participate on this web meeting.

### **Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**

*Carin Bisland, Associate Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)*

Carin provided an overview of 2018-19 CBP Priorities including Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) schedule, the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) decisions on Conowingo (a separate WIP will be developed), climate change and growth impacts and well as Best Management Practice (BMP) verification and Local Area Goals.

Members discussed the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) decision for planning goals to be set on a countywide basis but not putting counties in charge of local area projects. PA DEP made some decisions about how they'll track efforts at the county level identifying people from each county to oversee projects.

Members urged Jurisdictions to consult with local governments before making their two-year milestone commitments as there seems to have been little coordination.

Carin explained there is a group being formed to coordinate development of the Conowingo WIP and funding is being pulled from various jurisdictions. Overall potentially \$1 million as seed money will be needed to get the Conowingo WIP moving forward.

Members discussed climate change and looking at existing strategies already in place. Many BMPs would also be good for climate resilience. Carin shared that not only is the Bay Program looking at how it factors increased pollutant load into WIPs, also trying to get better at recommending BMPs that would be best suited also for climate change. Members suggest using the language climate resilience rather than climate change as it will receive less pushback and resistance.

With regard to climate change and the question of how to handle preliminary load estimates, members suggested it would be helpful to have at least a ballpark number for budgeting. On the question of who is responsible for BMP verification, Carin explained each jurisdiction has developed its own BMP verification guidance. Programs must be in place for reporting December 2018 milestone progress. When asked if they are hearing any discussion about this most members said no.

Lack of staff at CBP dedicated to work on local government issues is a big issue. The Alliance has proposed to provide staff support for the Local Leadership Workgroup because CBP is unable to backfill Reggie Parrish's position. Members expressed the importance of staff support for local government.

*Action: Staff to prepare letter to CBPO regarding lack of staff support for local government priorities.*

## **Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP Development: Communications and Local Engagement**

*Emily Trentacoste, Environmental Scientist, CBPO and Rachel Felter, Communications Director, CBPO*

Rachel and Emily co-presented on communications efforts and engagement. Rachel reviewed fully customizable tools for states to use when talking to their stakeholders. Emily reviewed a menu of options being developed for states.

Member comments included the following:

- Confusion over acronyms,
- With such a diversity of municipalities how do you make a resource guide applicable to different kinds of communities? (rural/urban; economic status; etc.) How will it be received by different communities?
- Small, rural communities are not involved,
- Proximity to the Bay itself makes a difference in what people care about,
- Concern over all the tools being created – too saturated.
- How are the local needs being met? How are tools being created that will get to them and will help them?
- Who is the “who” that is supposed to give this info to local officials? Who from the State?

Emily then shared a developing storylines example on integrating technical information to help inform local planning efforts around Phase III WIP development for Member input. Comments included the following:

- Great idea and information,
- How does this fit into local jurisdictions being able to use CAST?
- Do you have local targets? Cannot do these storylines everywhere, so need prioritization. Will there be several case studies representing different areas and priorities?

Emily and Rachel will take comments into consideration as engagement efforts continue.

Rachel then shared Phase III WIPs co-benefit outcome template presentation for jurisdictions to use for Phase III WIP planning.

### **LGAC Strategic Priorities Discussion**

Mary Gattis described current initiatives staff are working on, including Pennsylvania and Virginia Roundtables, the annual Local Government Forum, Local Government Engagement Initiative, Chesapeake Legal Alliance Barriers to Pay for Success in Pennsylvania and a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Fish Habitat Workshop. She asked that members begin thinking about how resources should be prioritized in the coming year.

Members expressed concern about possibility of future funding cuts and the impact on local governments if there is no longer a Partnership. There was a brief discussion of the Chesapeake Bay Commission’s Federal Agency Budget Request. Members agreed that staff should gather stories from members about how these funds have been used to support local action.

*Action: Staff to gather stories of federally funded programs.*

### **Business Meeting**

The December 2017 meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Ruby Brabo and second by Phil Bridell.

*Annual Election of Chair (MD) and Vice Chairs (one per jurisdiction)*

The chair opened the floor for nominations.

Ann Simonetti nominated Bruce Williams to the Chair position and John Thomas seconded.

John Thomas nominated Ann Simonetti as PA vice-chair and James Wheeler seconded (via email).

Ruby Brabo nominated Richard Baugh as VA vice-chair and Penny Gross seconded.

Brianne Nadeau nominated Daniel Chao as DC vice-chair and Markus Batchelor seconded (via email).

Bob Willey nominated Kelly Porter as MD vice-chair and Bruce Williams seconded (via email).  
All nominations were approved unanimously.  
The At-large vice chair position is vacant.

**Coordinators Report (Mary Gattis)**

See Strategic Priorities item above.

**Executive Committee Report (Bruce)**

Bruce is actively representing LGAC in all PSC and MB meetings.

**New Business / Future Agenda Items/Open Discussion**

- New Business: None
- Future Agenda Items
  - CBF/World Resources Institute Three-County Stormwater Nutrient Trading Project
  - Financing Stormwater Programs
  - Integrated Water Resource Management
  - Virginia Coastal Policy Center study on Stormwater management for rural areas
  - VA Delegation meeting needed – try to coordinate for June or sooner

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.