

*LGAC Members Present:* Richard Baugh, Patty Bubar, Ed Bustin, Daniel Chao, Jacob Day, Mark Dobbins, Penny Gross, Michael Helfrich, Andria McClellan, Kelly Porter, Robin Rich-Coates, John Thomas, James Wheeler, Emeritus Bruce Williams representing Sheila Finlayson and LGAC Staff: Ola-Imani Davis, Jennifer Starr

*Speakers/Guests Present:* Carin Bisland (EPA), Karl Blankenship (Bay Journal), Drew Budelis (Versaw), Laura Cattell Noll (Alliance), Megan Cole (Chesapeake Research Consortium), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Mary Gattis (Bay Journal), John Griffin (Chesapeake Conservancy), Annabelle Harvey (Chesapeake Research Consortium), Caitlyn Johnstone (Alliance/CBP), John Kennedy (VA DEQ), Peter Kremers (Color on the Creek), John Maleri (DC DOEE), Melissa Matillo (Turkey Hill Dairy), Shannon Moore (Frederick County), Matthew Pennington (WV), Matthew Robinson (DOEE) Tuana Phillips (EPA), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DE DNREC)

### **Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

#### **Call to Order: Greetings and Introductions**

Ed Bustin (PA Vice-Chair), stepping in for Chair Ann Simonetti, called the meeting to order at 11:01am. He welcomed new members, guests and staff of fellow advisory committee, the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).

#### **Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Update**

*Carin Bisland*

Carin began updates by explaining the numeric 2-year milestones methodology. This methodology addresses TMDL load reductions in order to monitor each jurisdiction's progress allowing them to reach shorter-termed targets/goals. EPA charts the milestones with a tool called the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario which uses the trajectory line to assess how each jurisdiction is doing towards reaching 2025 goals. Members shared concerns over the lack of time and funding allocated for local governments to budget to install practices. Members also stressed the need for improved BMP verification and want to discuss this further at an upcoming meeting. She then discussed the Conowingo WIP. There is a plan to deal with the total new load along with a new steering committee, comprised of one person per state, who will continue to develop this plan including incorporating new finance strategies and tracking processes. Members commented on the recently proposed settlement between Maryland and the Federal Regulatory Commission and Excelon Corp. Discussion was extensive. Finally Carin addressed the Local Engagement Strategy and EPA budget. The Strategy has been developed to comprehensively consider the Bay Agreement Outcomes and their need to local engagement.

#### **Bay Journal: Local Government Edition**

*Karl Blankenship and Mary Gattis*

Karl briefly explained the history behind the Bay Journal and its side publication, the Local Government Edition. He and Mary Gattis, private contractor, sought feedback on relaunching the Local Government edition. They suggested adding an "Ask an Expert" column where LGAC members may serve as the "expert" and respond to any questions or comments submitted. The appropriate receiver of this publication would be elected officials themselves as not every office has a chief staff member. LGAC was concerned with content quality as members felt the best way to connect with elected officials is to offer an easy intake of information through the form of bulleted articles, highlights from a feature story, short videos, etc.

### **Local Government Case Studies:**

#### **Sustainable Business: Turkey Hill**

*Melissa Matillo*

Turkey Hill Dairy in conjunction with MD & VA Milk Producers and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay have formed a Clean Water Partnership to improve water quality in Lancaster, PA and throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The partnership requires all farm suppliers to have a conservation plan where they will pay participators a premium to implement certain conservation practices. LGAC appreciated the innovative initiative and was interested in techniques used to measure success. They felt this was valuable information to share in order to motivate others to adapt the same program across the watershed.

*Action: Staff to share the Alliance's Turkey Hill Partnership webpage*

#### **Forest Restoration: Frederick County**

*Shannon Moore*

The Creek ReLeaf Program is a voluntary multi-year reforestation procedure formed in Frederick County, MD to provide stormwater control, reduce stream temperatures, and provide credit towards the County's NPDES MS4 stormwater permit on both public and private lands. Along with being the winner of the 2019 Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award, Frederick County Executive, Jan Gardner, was the first elected official to win the 2019 forest champion award on behalf of Forests for the Bay.

*Action: Staff to share the Creek ReLeaf program's website along with its application.*

#### **Economic Development: Color on the Creek**

*Dr. Peter Kremers*

Peter is the director and creator of the city of Frederick, MD's non-profit downtown revitalization project, Color on the Creek. The volunteer-ran program focused on refreshing the algae-ridden waterway, initially constructed as a flood mitigation project, which flows directly through the downtown sector of Frederick. Today the creek inhabits multiple vegetative species such as lilies and lotuses. These plants have controlled water temperatures, decreased invasive species population, and beautified the creek making it a city landmark. Color on the Creek has grown the downtown sector and helped local businesses thrive by hosting local events such as Sailing through the Winter Solstice which is a community driven event showcasing brightly lit, locally constructed sailboats along the canal.

*Action: Staff to share the Color on the Creek's webpage*

### **Thursday, December 5, 2019**

Jurisdiction meetings convened over breakfast.

#### **Jurisdiction Breakfast Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates**

*Virginia* expressed support of facilitating the 2020 local elected official roundtables. Stormwater Local Assistance Funding priorities and a more balanced allotment to tidal communities was shared.

*West Virginia* reported that Berkley County will adopt the state's first ever stormwater management fee "rain tariff" by enforcing rain/stormwater tariffs according to MS4 permits. This was not a popular decision by constituents and officials received a fair amount of bad press so many lessons were learned.

*Maryland* announced that Patti Bubar's participation in the upcoming MACo Winter Conference Dec 4-6,2019, flooding panel; three proposals relating to flood mitigation and planning for water quality were accepted for

the Maryland Municipal League summer 2020 conference; Kathy Stecker will be speaking at the Rural Maryland Council to increase circuit rider capacity; and LGAC MD is interested in planning a 2-day Peer to Peer bus tour in May of 2020 from non-tidal to tidal communities (possibly Frederick to Eastern Shore) with a focus on large-scale urban structure.

*Action: Staff to share the National League of Cities Leadership Workgroup Summit Application.*

*District of Columbia* discussed the Stormwater Workforce Development Roundtable held on October 24, 2019 where an appointed workforce development workgroup was formed to foster next steps in expanding green jobs.

*Pennsylvania* discussed planning for the upcoming LGAC Quarterly Meeting June 4-5, 2020, member attendance at the PSATS Stormwater 101 panel, and opportunities for Peer to Peer 2021 where there is interest in focusing primarily on PA's clean waters delineating from the Chesapeake Bay.

*Delaware* continues to work with agricultural communities on installation of practices as well as the development of an outreach campaign on sewer hookups.

### **Business Meeting**

- Approval of September 2019 Minutes - Bruce Williams moved to approve LGAC September 2019 minutes, seconded by Richard Baugh, all in favor.
- Executive Committee Report (Chair) – Jennifer (for Ann) reported the Principal's Staffs Committee (PSC) will meet in January 2020 and Management Board will meet on December 12, 2019 where the CBP milestones will be presented.
- Coordinator's Report (Coordinator) – Jennifer shared on October 3rd, 2019, the VA delegation met with Secretary Matt Strickler and Ann Jennings and discussed funding and support for the Phase III WIP. On October 24-25, 2019 LGAC VA also hosted the inaugural Peer to Peer bus tour to good reception. Finally LGAC staff has added a part-time administrative assistant, Patti Bohnsack, who will help with future Peer to Peer bus tours and an upcoming Finance Forum.

*Action: Staff to share the Wandering Virginia's Waterways Bus Tour blog and photos.*

- Local Leadership Workgroup Report (Chair) – Matt updated members that the LLWG has developed a framework of trusted sources to foster local engagement and is interested in distributing content that would be beneficial to local elected officials through trusted sources with tree canopy as the proposed pilot. LGAC advised keeping content easily digestible, relatable, and unbiased. Members also recommended that encouraging/outsourcing content from county organizations may be a good assisted delivery method and could be a means to gain original content from those who have the budget to get it.

### **Workforce Development Local Government Forum Follow-up**

*Jennifer Starr*

Jennifer reported the draft forum report has been completed and sent to the planning team for review with the deadline to receive comments by December 2, 2019. The next forum will be held in Norfolk and will focus on climate resilience. Recommendations will be sent to the PSC and Executive Committee.

### **STAC Workshop Report: Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals**

*Matt Robinson*

Matt introduced LGAC to the STAC Microplastics Report briefly defining microplastics as any plastic entity smaller than 5 millimeters. The report gives an overview of microplastics in the bay, explains its impact on local

wildlife, reviews microplastic reduction recommendations to CBP and describes current efforts to reduce microplastics, including the implementation of trash traps within the Anacostia River watershed. Members asked about policy changes local governments can produce to address this concern.

### **Healthy Watershed Forest Retention Study: Phase III**

*John Griffin*

John presented the Healthy Watershed Forest Retention project which is designed to research and offer alternative practices for forest and agricultural conservation, through incentive programs. Phase I and II have already been completed with phase III underway to be completed by summer 2020. Phase III of this project will include: using two pilot counties in VA to develop incentives by revising policies and ordinances, creating a financial model to help incentivize private sector investment and coordinating with CBP workgroups to integrate findings and make usage of the program across the watershed. Members of the Healthy Watersheds workgroup are actively pursuing landowners to gain their interest and encourage them to pledge this work in the future.

### **New Business/ Future Agenda Items**

- New Business - Michael called LGAC's attention to the Conowingo Settlement Agreement between the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and Exelon. He suggested LGAC make comments against the agreement and urges members to do so by the deadline of January 19, 2020.  
*Action: Staff to send the Conowingo Settlement Agreement information and Riverkeeper 1-pager to members*
- Future Agenda Items:
  - Have the EPA explain the trading and offsets of sediment in the Watershed, and explain how they will allow/review these programs.
  - Discuss the DC trash traps which are holding 620 tons of trash from going into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
  - A possible boat tour of the Anacostia River
  - Include a tutorial on why mussels, oysters and other mollusks are important to water quality and maybe invite an expert from the EPA or USGS to talk about the value/impact of aquaculture.
    - James Sullivan added that DE is building a mussel hatchery to reintroduce native mussels back into the headwaters.

Adjourn at 11:56am