



LGAC Members Present: Markus Batchelor, Richard Baugh, Patty Bubar, Daniel Chao, Jake Day, Mark Dobbins, Sheila Finlayson, Jasmine Gore, Penny Gross, Josh Hastings, Michael Helfrich, Donna Iannone, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Don Phillips, Robin Rich-Coates, John Thomas, James Wheeler, Emeritus Phil Briddell, Emeritus Ann Simonetti, Emeritus Bruce Williams representing Kelly Porter, and LGAC Staff: Ola-Imani Davis and Jennifer Starr

Speakers/Guests Present: Carin Bisland (EPA), Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Patti Bohnsack (Alliance), Laura Cattell Noll (Alliance), Tom Damm (EPA), Diana Esher (EPA), Liz Feinberg (NFWF), Katherine Filipino (Hampton Roads PDC), Julie Lawson (DC Mayor's Office), John Maleri (DC DOEE), Shannon Moore (Frederick County), Matthew Pennington (WV), Michelle Price-Fay (EPA), Martha Shimkin (CBP), Kathy Stecker (MDE), Phil Stafford (MD DNR), Jim Sullivan (DE DNREC), Ashley White (CCAP), Justin Williams (VA DEQ)

Thursday, June 3rd, 2021

Call to Order: Greetings and Introductions

Chair Jasmine Gore called the meeting webinar to order at 10:04 am.

2021 Local Government Forum: *Developing Collaborative Watershed Partnerships*

Jasmine welcomed LGAC Members and invited guests to 2021 Local Government Forum: *Developing Collaborative Watershed Partnerships* funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The Local Government Forum is a problem solving-strategic planning event hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in collaboration with LGAC and NFWF. Through facilitated group discussion, participants identified issues that hinder or help advance local implementation of watershed protection and restoration initiatives. Findings and recommendations, developed during the forum, are documented and next steps are identified.

Participants considered the development of recommendations based upon this problem statement:

As communities face increasing challenges that exacerbate competing priorities, issues related to watershed health (habitat, storm-, waste-, and drinking water) heighten the need for local decision-makers to enhance capacity and coordination with regional and local partners to enable collaborative approaches that foster support and action.

Forum participants also clarified assumptions made on behalf of the problem statement, heard examples of current partnerships and how they overcame barriers, and formed break-out discussions to develop specific recommendations addressing barriers to collaborative local government, cross-sector partnerships.

Friday, June 4th, 2021

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Diana Esher, Acting EPA Regional Administrator

LGAC welcomed a conversation with Acting Region 3 EPA Administrator Diana Esher. Diana introduced Michelle Price-Fay, interim acting director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBP), and Martha Shimkin, the permanent Deputy Director of the CBP. She provided updates on funding and EPA priorities under the new EPA Administrator Michael Regan. Environmental justice (EJ) and climate change will be a priority under the new administration and for the CBP as a whole.

LGAC Members discussed local support from EPA and CBP including EJ data collection, resources and funding opportunities since the emergence of COVID-19. Diana clarified that in addition to the EPA and Chesapeake EJ Screen Tool which collects EJ data, the EPA will release national competitive grants to fund EJ programs over the next couple months while the Bay Program will continue to support the Diversity Action Statement, created by the Principals Staff Committee (PSC), by increasing engagement, awareness, and education internally and externally according to the statement's intention. Regarding funding, the EPA will evaluate the barriers of existing grant policies and the ways money is provided to communities.

Diana asked Members for feedback to share with the new EPA Regional Administrator and/or CBP Director to which LGAC recommended:

- Understand the various types, legal structures, and authorities of local governments in the region. It is also important to understand the varying abilities and sizes of localities as well.
- Expand dialogue with local elected officials.
- Create opportunities to engage with local governments directly.
- Consider development of a circuit rider program across sectors to build collaboration, receive technical assistance, and establish expertise at a local level. An example of expertise is applying for NFWF grants.
- Provide case study examples of EJ projects performed by localities to serve as a reference for elected officials considering EJ projects within their communities.
- Encourage regular discussions with LGAC moving forward.
- Encourage LGAC representation when discussing topics related to local elected officials.
- Encourage, track, and/or follow up with LGAC annual recommendations.

Action: Staff will follow up with CBPO leadership on LGAC feedback opportunities. Share the Chesapeake Bay Commission webinar discussing types of local governments and legislation processes and one-pager.

2021 Local Government Forum Debrief

Jasmine asked for thoughts on the 2021 Local Government Forum. Members enjoyed the Forum structure, variety of case study presentations, networking capabilities, and breakout sessions. Several suggestions were made regarding the breakouts and Members requested for case study presentations be led by local officials to offer a perspective that resonates with local governments. Jennifer Starr shared next steps for the Forum including development and editing of the draft report by fall 2021.

Trash Initiatives: Case Study DC

Julie Lawson, Director, DC Mayor's Office of the Clean City

Julie described trash initiatives in Washington, DC presenting a brief history of trash legislation from 2006 to present, various community engagement campaigns, development of trash traps and other infrastructure, and goals for the city's trash TMDL. LGAC Members found this information helpful as they continue to work with their Public Works Departments to reduce trash buildup in their communities since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business Meeting

- Approval of March 2021 Minutes – Penny Gross moved to approve the March 2021 minutes, seconded by Donna Iannone, all in favor.
- Executive Committee Report (Chair) – Jasmine reported the meetings she has attended since being elected Chair including Management Board, Principal Staff Committee, and the Biennial Strategy Review meeting.
- Coordinator's Report (Coordinator) – Jennifer reported proposed LGAC Quarterly Meeting 2022 dates, LGAC Member involvement, and updates to the Watershed Currents Newsletter.

Action: Share proposed 2022 LGAC Quarterly Meeting dates.

- Local Leadership Workgroup Report (Chair) – Shannon Moore shared updates on the Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay modules.

Action: Share the module location, editable files, and module survey.

Jurisdiction Lunch Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates

Maryland welcomed Jake Day's return from army reserve deployment and reported the current development of the Wandering Maryland's Waterways bus tour scheduled for fall 2021 to visit areas between Baltimore and Tilghman Island.

District of Columbia discussed considerations around a potential bus tour in DC where staff will be perusing funding at a later date. They shared no concerns about meeting in person for the September 2021 LGAC Quarterly Meeting. MD and DC met alongside *Delaware*.

Virginia considered locations for a 2022 Wandering Virginia's Waterways including venturing from Norfolk to the Eastern Shore. They continued discussions around the varying sizes of local government and how federal money (such as the American Rescue Plan) is complicated and new VA also suggested a hybrid meeting option, but in full support of meeting in person this September. VA met alongside *West Virginia*.

Pennsylvania discussed a fall 2021 Peer to Peer Learning Exchange Bus Tour identifying who should be invited, and where to go. They expressed concern over stalled projects due to the pandemic and where they will be by the end of this year since funding opportunities have moved and constructions costs have become more expensive. Finally, PA agreed with the idea that future Quarterly Meetings should incorporate a hybrid option. PA met alongside *New York*.

Final Thoughts/Actions from this Meeting

- New Business – September approval of 2022 LGAC Quarterly Meetings, and development of Annual Executive Council (EC) recommendations (to be shared with the EC in December 2021).
- Future Agenda Items – Resources for municipalities to understand American Rescue Plan Act funding options (NACo has great resources), follow up on a circuit rider concept, the rise of invasive species, Per-and Polyfluoralkyl Substances (PFAs), and touring and discussing Conowingo Dam.
Action: Patty Bubar to share Montgomery County's memo for why to do stream restorations.
- Action Items from this meeting – Ola recounted the action items formed from this meeting.
Action: Staff to share action items with Members

Adjourn at 1:03pm