

*LGAC Members Present:* Markus Batchelor, Richard Baugh, Ruby Brabo, Ed Bustin, Daniel Chao, Sheila Finlayson, Ron Fithian, Jasmine Gore, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Don Phillips, Ann Simonetti, James Wheeler, John Thomas, Bruce Williams, Emeritus Phil Briddell representing Leo Lutz, and LGAC Staff – Monica Billig, Ola-Imani Davis, Jennifer Starr

*Speakers/Guests Present:* Carin Bisland (CBPO), Jake Day (Mayor of Salisbury, MD), Rachel Felver (Alliance), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Marcia Fox (DNREC), Shawn Garvin (DNREC), Victoria Jackson-Stanley (Mayor of Cambridge, MD), Danny Lapin (Otsego County Conservation Association), Matthew Pennington (WV), Robert Palmer (DNREC), Tuana Phillips (EPA), Jake Reilly (NFWF-CBP), John Schwed (Mayor of Laurel, DE), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC), Jessica Trimble (PA DCED)

### **Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Bruce Williams called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He welcomed members and guests, and gave a special welcome to Ron Fithian, who was attending his first LGAC meeting, and a special thank you to Don Phillips for hosting the first LGAC meeting in Laurel, DE. Bruce then introduced Delaware's Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Shawn Garvin who also welcomed LGAC to Delaware and shared thoughts on investing in local governments and supporting joint efforts in the Delmarva Peninsula.

#### **Chesapeake Bay Updates**

*Carin Bisland, Rachel Felver*

Carin provided updates on EPA staffing changes introducing, Dana Aunkst, the new Chesapeake Bay Program Director to the EPA, and Tuana Phillips, the new Diversity and Local Engagement Coordinator. She discussed 2019-2020 priorities including engaging local governments in the strategy review system efforts, the Conowingo WIP proposals and unliquidated obligations. Rachel reported the Chesapeake Bay Barometer will be released April 2019. She also shared that the WIP Engagement Action Team is looking into a collection of case studies of co-benefits. She spoke about Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, June 1-9, celebrating all things Chesapeake Bay.

*Action: Chesapeake Bay Program to provide a list of funding allocated under CBRP and share the collection of case studies assembled to interested LGAC members; Staff to draft a Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week proclamation template for LGAC members*

#### **Business Meeting**

*Approval of November 2018 Minutes* - Ann moved to approve the LGAC November 2018 meeting, Sheila seconded and passed unanimously.

*Officer Elections* - LGAC members met with each of their delegation partners to discuss the elections of the new LGAC Chair and Vice Chairs. The outcomes were as follows:

- **Chair: Ann Simonetti** - Nominated by John Thomas, seconded by James Wheeler
- **Pennsylvania Vice Chair: Ed Bustin** - Nominated by James Wheeler, seconded by John Thomas
- **Maryland Vice Chair: Bruce Williams** - Nominated by Sheila Finlayson, seconded by Ron Fithian
- **Virginia Vice Chair: Jasmine Gore** - Nominated by Ruby Brabo, seconded by Andria McClellan
- **DC Vice Chair: Daniel Chao** - Brianne Nadeau assured the DC delegation are all in favor
- **At-Large Vice Chair: Don Phillips** - Nominated by John Thomas, seconded by Ron Fithian

### **LGAC Strategic Priorities Discussion**

Jennifer presented LGAC's accomplishments over the past five years and asked for input on future focus. Members discussed needing to consolidate and improve local budgeting to share resources and improve communication. Members also discussed consideration of dual benefits when engaging on local flooding concerns. In addition, members want to have more opportunities to meet with Governors and members of the Principal's Staff Committee (PSC). Finally they recommend a FEMA representative on the PSC to ensure Army Corp investment into compliance. Staff will draft these four items as recommendations by LGAC to the Chesapeake Executive Council for presentation at the annual meeting in September. James Wheeler moved to adopt the 2019 recommendations, Ed Bustin seconded and passed unanimously

*Action: Staff to draft LGAC EC recommendations for dual benefit, budget needs, regular meetings with leaders and adding a FEMA representative to the PSC.*

### **2019 Local Government Forum Topic for Consideration**

Jennifer discussed the possibility of workforce development as a topic for the September Local Government Forum. LGAC members expressed support.

*Action: Staff to work with Jasmine on VETS, Matt on DLI, CBP staff, and others to develop the Forum.*

### **MOST Center Dig Once Course**

Monica introduced the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center's Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Dig Once Course. This educational series of videos focuses on educating elected officials and local leaders on the benefits of implementing green infrastructure practices. This curriculum is written by LGAC staff, designed by the EFC, and reviewed by several LGAC members and jurisdiction representatives. Although it is oriented to stormwater, this class is developed generally enough to work for a wide-ranged use. The Dig Once course is divided into four 15-minute modules:

- Module 1: Introduction to Capital Planning
- Module 2: Setting Up for Success
- Module 3: The Process of Integrating Green Infrastructure
- Module 4: Pulling It All Together

The MOST Dig Once Course is set to release by end of April 2019.

## **Filling Gaps to Advance WIP Implementation**

Monica shared the draft report summarizing the 2018 Local Government Forum. The final overarching recommendation is: *To address both insufficient staff capacity and technical assistance provider capacity limitations, LGAC recommends the establishment of a Circuit Rider Network, or set of networks, tailored to regional and/or state needs across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Furthermore, LGAC recommends additional analysis be conducted as to whether a formalized Technical Assistance Collaborative is feasible, realistic, and necessary.*

Members were generally pleased with the report which will be finalized by mid-April.

*Action: Staff to incorporate comments and finalize the 2018 Forum report.*

## **Linking Local Priorities to Watershed Protection and Restoration on the Delmarva Peninsula**

*Mayor John Schwed, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Mayor Jake Day*

Mayor of Cambridge, MD, Victoria Jackson-Stanley; Salisbury, MD, Mayor Jake Day; and, Laurel, DE, Mayor John Schwed were invited to speak on their local community priorities. Each mayor gave a brief synopsis of their locality, processes for environmental and structural redevelopment, and their specific local priorities. Mayor John Schwed was accompanied by members of the Laurel Redevelopment Center, Brian Shannon and Ed Lewandowski, who spoke on Laurel's current project for community redevelopment entitled "The Ramble." LGAC members shared their revitalization efforts and discussed innovative partnership ideas.

## **Thursday, March 21, 2019**

Jurisdiction meetings convened over breakfast.

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

Chair Bruce Williams called the meeting to order at 8:36 am. Each jurisdiction provided updates from their breakfast discussions:

*Pennsylvania* has two stormwater 101 sessions during the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Conference in April, and the PA State Association of Boroughs Conference in June, as well as a meeting with the PA DEP and members of CAC on April 18, 2019 in Harrisburg to discuss PA's draft WIP. Pennsylvania wants to continue to meet with the PA DEP regularly and have conversations with the Secretary quarterly.

*New York* is currently drafting its Phase III WIP. Choose Clean Water Coalition is a resource to inspire interest in the Bay. Because funding is also an issue, maintaining a regional planning technical assistance provider will continue to be a priority.

*The District of Columbia* will continue to provide analysis and recommendations on the federally mandated stormwater fee.

*Maryland* hopes to meet with the Governor to discuss the draft WIP, the two open spots on LGAC, and the Conowingo WIP.

Virginia discussed topics presented by John Kennedy and plan to meet with the VA Governor to share local priorities.

West Virginia is on schedule for WIP delivery and should submit for public comments in April. They are also focused on asset management for infrastructure, financing strategies, and how localities and local governments will have access to funding.

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

Items for discussion included:

1. The hiring process of future LGAC Coordinators- potentially involving the LGAC executive committee.
2. Army Corp of Engineers- Daniel could potentially give a presentation
3. Climate resiliency- Addressing the amount of flooding

### **Joint LGAC/CBP Local Leadership Workgroup Meeting with Working Lunch**

*LGAC Chair Bruce Williams, LLWG Chair Matt Pennington*

Matt Pennington described the Local Leadership Workgroup's (LLWG) purpose to increase the knowledge and capacity of elected officials on the Watershed. The LLWG seek to enrich local governments on the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) 31 outcomes, how local governments like to be engaged, and how to analyze what resources are already present (this also aids the LLWG in developing a curriculum on how to meet the 31 outcomes). LLWG also seeks to organize conversations between different sectors, i.e., urban vs. rural. Matt proposed the idea of the LLWG constructing an elected officials' handbook. Matt asked LGAC to be advisors of this handbook, and its potential demonstration, to identify hits and misses. LLWG reported that their next meeting is in July, so they intend to present this project as it develops at the next LGAC meeting in September 2019.

Jennifer announced plans for the LLWG to hold an inaugural 2-day bus tour for VA elected officials from non-tidal parts of the Watershed to tour tidal parts of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. LGAC's VA delegation is excited and would like to offer support.

*Action: Staff to work on a newly elected official handbook; Staff to work with VA delegation to coordinate bus tour*

### **Partnering Engagement in Planning and Executing the 2019 Grants Programs**

*Jake Reilly*

Jake Reilly announced that proposals are out for grant programs. In building these programs, NFWF has refreshed it to reflect the need to build a diverse high capacity program thus increasing the role of stakeholders, and the role of the ability of programs to fulfill CBP outcomes. NFWF plays the role of supporting "boots on the ground" efforts through NFWF goals, an EPA partner, field-based staff support, and an entity in support of the circuit rider program. Jake believes that NFWF could be an essential asset in the deployment of circuit riders. Jake finished by explaining that NFWF further supports the work of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Forum Plus, and LGAC.

LGAC meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.