
LGAC Members Present: James Barnhart, Richard Baugh, Patty Bubar, Daniel Chao, Jasmine Gore, Penny Gross, Josh Hastings, Michael Helfrich, Donna Iannone, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Don Phillips, Robin Rich-Coates, Lisa Schaefer, John Thomas, Emeritus Member Ann Simonetti representing James Wheeler, and LGAC Staff: Ola-Imani Davis and Jennifer Starr

Speaker/Guests Present: Samantha Beers (EPA), Carin Bisland (EPA CBPO), Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Patti Bohnsack (Alliance), Heidi Bonnaffon (Metro-Washington COG), Katie Brownson (US Forest Service), Laura Cattell-Noll (Alliance), Megan Diehl (WV Region 9), Paul Emmart (MDE), Liz Feinberg (NFWF), Rachel Felter (CBP), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Amy Handen (EPA), Matt Lindsay (Quantified Ventures), Jason Lee (Quantified Ventures), John Maleri (DC DOEE), Shannon Moore (Frederick County), Matt Pennington (Downstream strategies), Kathy Stecker (MDE), Phil Stafford (MD DNR), Jim Sullivan (DE DNREC), Angus Walsh (EPA), Justin Williams (VA DEQ), John Wolf (USGS)

Wednesday, September 29th, 2021

Call to Order: Greetings and Introductions

Chair, Jasmine Gore, called the meeting to order at 9:36 am. Jasmine provided opening remarks and welcomed the newest LGAC Pennsylvania Delegation Member, Lisa Schaefer, Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of PA, appointed by Governor Wolf.

EPA Region 3 Environmental Justice Efforts

Samantha Beers, Director, Office of Communities, Tribes & Environmental Assessment, EPA
Angus Welch, Physical Scientist, EPA

Samantha provided an overview of Environmental Justice (EJ) efforts by EPA, reported EPA's recent funding initiatives for EJ communities including the Justice40 initiative, and outlined EPA's funding strategy for the future. Angus referenced the EJSCREEN tool as a resource for local governments and explained recent legislations around EPA's capacity to support and integrate EJ throughout the nation including funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

LGAC Members discussed involving their communities further in local projects and using the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program to encourage widespread interest in environmental careers.

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard

John Wolf, Geographic Information Systems Team Leader, U.S. Geological Survey

The dashboard is a Chesapeake-specific implementation and evolution of the national EJSCREEN tool. John described the dashboard's background, provided a tour of the tool, and offered examples of how local governments can utilize it according to their EJ goals.

Action: Staff to share the EJ Dashboard with LGAC Members.

Environmental Impact Bonds: Case Studies

Matt Lindsay, Vice President, Marketing and Operations, Quantified Ventures

Jason Lee, Associate Director, Quantified Ventures

Matt and Jason provided an overview of environmental impact bonds (EIB), differing from municipal bonds, as they quantitatively predict the metric of a project outcome, provide post-implementation evaluation, and disclose all actual outcomes to the public. With the ability to accurately access and communicate project metrics, the benefits of EIBs can include reputable boosts among peer municipalities, taxpayers, and investors, and stronger collaboration across departments.

Matt and Jason described two projects that incorporated EIBs:

- *Hampton, VA* - This project focused on increasing climate resilience of Hampton's low to moderate-income communities. The city was issued a \$12 million EIB to finance the implementation of 3 green infrastructure projects that would manage coastal and stormwater flooding. The outcome of the project was measured in gallons of added stormwater storage capacity and served as a prototype for future resilience work.
- *Washington, DC* - This project focused on the implementation of green infrastructure best management practices to mitigate pollution runoff. DC received a \$25 million EIB to install 25 acres of green infrastructure throughout the city and measured stormwater runoff reductions vs. the city's baseline metric. This project greatly impacted DC's workforce development programs.

LGAC Members discussed how they can advocate for the idea of utilizing EIBs in their local municipalities including explaining lower rates, data-driven results, and financial incentives for meeting data goals.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Carin Bisland, Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability Branch, EPA CBPO

Carin provided an understanding of the efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership for Members, gave an overview of CBP funding using FY2021's budget analysis, and reported that FY2022's budget will be delivered in October 2021.

Jurisdiction Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates

Delaware is preparing for a 1-day Peer to Peer tour of select redevelopment sites in Seaford and Laurel.

District of Columbia discussed a potential Peer to Peer event in 2022 which may include a boat tour of the Anacostia.

Maryland reported cancellation of their 2-day Peer to Peer bus tour in favor of a 1-day tree planting in Jugs Bay.

Pennsylvania reported the postponement of their 2-day Peer to Peer event until spring 2022 and discussed the capacity, funding, and outreach of local projects.

Virginia is optimistic for a Peer to Peer event on the Eastern Shore in 2022. They also discussed sending a letter of appreciation to Secretary Ann Jennings, drafting a letter introducing LGAC to incoming Virginia leadership, and updating their Watershed Implementation Plan's 3-year milestones.

Annual Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Jennifer discussed LGAC's role to annually advise the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) on actions needed to support local government's role in watershed restoration efforts, provided updates on the December 2021 EC meeting where Advisory Committee Chairs are invited to share their recommendations, and reminded Members of LGAC's recommendations from 2013 - 2020.

LGAC discussed possible 2021 recommendations to the EC:

- *Flooding and climate change impacts* - Flooding continues to challenge local governments in a number of ways. Members are seeing significant impacts from increasingly severe rain events including interior flooding (basements, offices etc), downstream impacts from upstream flooding and onerous permitting regulations.
- *Stormwater management* - LGAC Members discussed insufficient pipelines to satisfy state stormwater mandates, outdated transportation precipitation models, and local responsibilities for separate MS4 guidelines placed on state highways.
- *The implementation of local projects* - LGAC Members discussed the capacity of contractors and recommitting to green jobs training to influence a qualified or certified workforce.

Action: Staff to draft and share 2021 LGAC Recommendations to the EC with Members.

Draft Recommendations from the 2021 Local Government Forum

Jennifer provided a background of the 2021 Local Government Forum: *Developing Collaborative Watershed Partnerships* and reported the recommendations derived during the event. Andria McClellan motioned to approve the Forum recommendations, seconded by Josh Hastings, all in favor.

Action: Staff to finalize the 2021 Local Government Report and share widely.

American Rescue Plan Discussion

Jasmine gave an overview of the LGAC and Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG)-sponsored American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Webinar hosted by LGAC on September 14th. LGAC Members were invited to have an open discussion about the ARPA and its impact locally.

- *District of Columbia* has implemented ARPA-funded projects but has concerns around spending according to the FY2022 Federal EPA budget.
- *Maryland* reported access to \$20 million in ARPA funds yet, insufficient access to knowledgeable consultants to implement projects.
- *Pennsylvania* questioned the availability of consultants to be able to complete projects by 2026. They discussed concerns around projects extending past the funding deadline.
- *Virginia* expressed difficulty in prioritizing environmental issues due to challenges arisen since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *West Virginia* has plans to prioritize environmental issues using ARPA funds.

LGAC Members continued to share thoughts around potential projects. They also discussed capacity for reporting and tracking as well as federal support post-ARPA funding to aid in the longevity of these projects

Action: Staff to re-share materials from ARPA Webinar.

Business Meeting

- *Approval of June 2021 Minutes* - Richard Baugh motioned to approve the June 2021 minutes, seconded by James Barnhart, all in favor.
- *Approval of 2022 LGAC Quarterly Meeting dates* - Richard Baugh motioned to approve the 2022 LGAC Quarterly Meeting dates, seconded by Andria McClellan, all in favor.
- *Executive Committee Report (Chair)* - Jasmine shared her involvement as LGAC Chair including attending monthly CBP Management Board meetings, ARPA Webinar, and Principal's Staff Committee (PSC) meetings.

She will be attending the first EC meeting of 2021 on October 1st, hosted at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, VA.

- *Coordinator's Report (Coordinator)* - Jennifer reported LGAC Member involvement, the coordination of fall 2021 activities, and analytic updates on the LGAC-driven local government newsletter: *Watershed Currents*.
- *Local Leadership Workgroup Report (Chair)* - Shannon Moore discussed future Peer to Peer events, and updates to the LLWG-developed, "A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay." LGAC Members shared that they would like to see future modules on flooding, outdoor recreation, agriculture, trash, and rural vs. urban priorities.

Final Thoughts/Actions from this Meeting

- *New Business* - no new business
- *Future Agenda Items* - precipitation modeling
- *Action Items from this meeting* - Jennifer shared action items from this meeting

Adjourn at 2:30pm