

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION
JANUARY 2-3, 2020 QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its first quarterly meeting of 2020 on Thursday and Friday, January 2-3, 2020 in Annapolis, MD.

Commission members in attendance:

- Delegate Robert Bloxom
- Delegate David Bulova
- Senator Sarah Elfreth
- PA Citizen Member, Warren Elliott (day 1 only)
- Representative Garth Everett
- Representative Keith Gillespie
- Senator Guy Guzzone
- Secretary Haddaway-Riccio
- Senator Emmett Hanger
- Senator Scott Martin (day 1 only)
- Secretary Patrick McDonnell (Represented by Aneca Atkinson)
- MD Citizen Member, Thomas “Mac” Middleton
- Delegate Dana Stein
- RDML Charles Rock
- Secretary Matt Strickler
- VA Citizen Member, Dennis Treacy
- Delegate Tony Wilt
- Senator Gene Yaw

Members not in attendance:

- Senator John Cosgrove
- Representative Michael Sturla

Staff:

- MD – David Goshorn
- PA – Jill Whitcomb
- VA – Ann Jennings

CBC Staff:

- Ann Swanson
- Jen Dieux
- Mark Hoffman
- Marel King
- Adrienne Kotula

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

CALL TO ORDER

Senator Guy Guzzone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the Commission members to Annapolis, MD.

WELCOME

Senator Guy Guzzone stated that he was excited to share the state capitol with everyone. He announced that the Maryland Delegation has two new members that will start their work with the Commission during the legislative session and join the full Commission for the May meeting. They are Delegate Sara Love from Montgomery County and Delegate Tony Bridges from the City of Baltimore.

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES & AGENDA

Executive Director Swanson then called the roll and a quorum was established. By unanimous consent, the Commission approved the minutes from the November meeting and the agenda for the January meeting without change.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LIGHTNING ROUND UPDATES

Ann Swanson provided a status report on the federal budget. During 2019, the Commission made a concerted effort to pursue additional federal funding to support the restoration of the watershed, and our efforts were rewarded. Each of the three priorities of the Commission were enhanced: 1) the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program was increased by \$12 million; 2) the Chesapeake Gateways Program was increased by \$1 million; and 3) the US Army Corps of Engineers oyster restoration work was restored at the \$5 million level.

Ms. Swanson also outlined potential priorities for FY 2021, with which the Commission concurred: 1) continue to ask for \$90 million for EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program; 2) enhance DOD's REPI program for land conservation within the Bay watershed; 3) increase funding for agricultural technical assistance in the USDA budget; and 4) continued federal support for oyster restoration.

Commission members were also provided an update on the EPA's EFAB Stormwater Finance Workgroup, the actions of Virginia and Maryland to address the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's required 18% harvest reductions of striped bass, as well as the status of the potential menhaden moratorium.

LEGISLATIVE IDEAS THAT WORK

State Constitutions & the Environment: A Watershed Comparison

Martin Siegel spoke to the Commission regarding the protections for the environment embodied within each state Constitution and how they differ from one another. Termed "Environmental Rights Amendments" the provisions provide certain rights, duties, or policy statements related to managing or protecting the quality of the environment. Both Virginia and Pennsylvania have such amendments in place, but Maryland does not.

LAND CONSERVATION: PROGRESS & EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

Marking Milestones: Progress in Conserving Land in the Bay Watershed

Jonathan Doherty spoke to the Commission about the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, the consortium of groups and states across the watershed working to advance our Bay Agreement goal of land preservation. The Partnership recently published *Marking Milestones* which details progress in conserving land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. As of 2018, partners have achieved 68% of the land conservation goal from the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. State and federal funding is well-documented, but improvements need to be made in the capturing of local, private and philanthropic funding.

REPI & Sentinel Landscape Initiatives

Kristin Thomasgard-Spence detailed for the Commission the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program which links communities, land preservation and national defense. She also detailed the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership which is a collaborative between the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense and the Interior. She stated that there is an opportunity to grow investments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed through partnerships bringing match dollars to the table.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission Members adjourned for the day at 3:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Guzzone called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He asked Executive Director Swanson to call the roll. With a quorum present, the Commission moved on to the substance of the morning.

A LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE ON BAY RESTORATION

Chairman Guzzone welcomed Annapolis' Mayor Gavin Buckley to the Commission. Chairman Guzzone then introduced Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman to the Commission. Senator Guzzone asked them to detail their local priorities as it relates to the Chesapeake Bay.

Mayor Buckley discussed how the City is adapting to climate change and the recurrent flooding they are facing, including 52 days of nuisance flooding in 2019. He detailed some of the projects that are being undertaken to address these issues such as the City Dock pumping system. He closed by stating that the only way to move forward in solving these issues is through collaboration.

Mr. Pittman is no stranger to the issues of Bay restoration having grown up on a farm and previously served at a Soil Conservation District. He stated that one of the most important things the state can do to assist localities in keeping their local waters clean is to strengthen erosion and sediment control standards. Anne Arundel County has done so, but they are only one piece of the puzzle. He also stated the growing concern of failing septic systems in more rural areas with

rising water levels. He stated that state level assistance is going to be needed to address this moving forward.

FUNDING AND CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PHASE III WIPS

Chairman Guzzone then introduced Evan Isaacson from the Chesapeake Legal Alliance who facilitated a panel discussion between Dana Aunkst, Director of EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program and speakers from each member state - Director Lee Currey from Maryland, Deputy Secretary Aneca Atkinson from Pennsylvania and Deputy Secretary Ann Jennings from Virginia. EPA released its evaluations of the states' Final Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans in December, identifying strengths and recommended enhancements for each plan.

Director Aunkst discussed the expectations and contributions of EPA in the process moving forward and the states discussed their funding and capacity needs as they begin implementation of their Phase III WIPs. Agriculture is a focus in all three states moving forward.

Following the discussion between EPA and member states, the Commission heard from John Bell of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau as well as Lisa Feldt of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Mr. Bell detailed the primary needs of agriculture in Phase III. He stated that fostering positive perspectives from all involved is of vital importance. He also stressed the need for funding to fill the gaps in agricultural implementation. Finally, he stressed the need for technical assistance providers for the farmers that are willing to step up and do the necessary work.

Ms. Feldt also stressed the need for continued partnership to reach our mutual goals. She stated that their priorities will be a recommitment to the 2025 deadline, increasing funding in Pennsylvania, update state statutes to promote cost-effective natural filters, increasing technical assistance and addressing the long-term risks of climate change.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman asked if anyone had any new business and whether anyone in the audience wished to provide comments to the Commission. There was no new business or public comment provided.

ELECTION OF 2020 OFFICERS

The 2020 Officers and Executive Committee for the Chesapeake Bay Commission were elected as follows:

Officers

Chair [PA]: Senator Gene Yaw

Vice-Chair [VA]: Delegate David Bulova

Vice-Chair [MD]: Senator Guy Guzzone

Executive Committee

[PA] Representative Michael Sturla

[VA] Senator Emmett Hanger
[MD] Delegate Dana Stein

COMMENTS OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING CHAIRS

Senator Guy Guzzone noted that he enjoyed his time as Chairman and is looking forward to working with the new members of the Executive Committee.

Senator Yaw stated that he is excited to take on the role of Chairman and navigating the Commission in the year ahead. He said that he is looking forward to the next Commission meeting in May being held in Charlottesville, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn and unanimously agreed to at 12:30 p.m.