



# CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

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## MAY 7-8, 2020 TELECONFERENCE QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its second quarterly meeting of 2020 on Thursday May 7th. The meeting was held via teleconference due to the States of Emergency in all three member states during the COVID-19 pandemic. An optional, informational webinar was held on Friday, May 8th.

### Commission members in attendance:

Delegate Robert Bloxom (Day 1 only)  
Delegate Tony Bridges  
Delegate David Bulova  
Senator Sarah Elfreth (Day 1 only)  
PA Citizen Member, Warren Elliott  
Representative Garth Everett (Day 1 only)  
Representative Keith Gillespie  
Senator Guy Guzzone  
Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio (Day 1; Represented by David Goshorn Day 2)  
Senator Emmett Hanger  
Delegate Sara Love  
Senator Scott Martin (Day 2 only)  
Secretary Patrick McDonnell (Represented by Aneca Atkinson)  
MD Citizen Member, Thomas “Mac” Middleton  
RDML Charles Rock (Day 1 only)  
Delegate Dana Stein  
Representative Mike Sturla (Day 1 only)  
Secretary Matt Strickler (Day 1 only)  
VA Citizen Member, Dennis Treacy  
Delegate Tony Wilt  
Senator Gene Yaw

### Members not in attendance:

Senator John Cosgrove

### Staff:

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

### CBC Staff:

Ann Swanson  
Jen Dieux  
Mark Hoffman  
Marel King  
Adrienne Kotula

## **THURSDAY, MAY 7**

### **WELCOME & ROLL CALL**

Chairman Yaw called the meeting to order at 10:00A.M. and asked Executive Director Swanson to call the roll. A quorum was present.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

In order to comply with open meeting requirements, the approval of the minutes from the January meeting was deferred to the September meeting of the Commission.

### **ADOPTION/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Yaw asked for comments or questions on the agenda from the members. Hearing none, the adoption of the agenda was moved unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Yaw asked if any members of the public would like to provide comment on the agenda as presented. Hearing none, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

### **COVID-19 – IMPACTS ON WATERSHED RESTORATION**

Chairman Yaw opened with a discussion of the COVID-19 impacts on the watershed.

Executive Director Swanson shared that the impacts most directly occur within the seafood and agricultural industries, but also on items such as conservation construction of best management practices, including tree plantings.

Delegate Bulova shared that they have seen a lot of issues with open construction sites and sediment runoff in his suburban and urban areas.

Secretary Strickler shared that Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality has developed field protocols for staff and is ramping up site inspections again accordingly.

Rear Admiral Rock stated that they have had to cancel many of the awareness events for Earth Day, Bay Awareness Week and Arbor Day, but that many compliance related activities were still happening even while training and outreach could not.

Representative Sturla closed the conversation on a positive note by stating that anecdotally, he has seen extremely clear water in the Bay during recent weeks.

### **CBC ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

Chairman Yaw now turned the Commission's attention to the items necessary to continue operations, the approval of the FY21 Budget and the 2021 Meeting Dates.

Noting that no additional appropriations request would be necessary from any of the member states at this time, Chairman Yaw asked for a motion to approve the budget. The adoption of the budget was moved unanimously by a roll call vote.

The following dates were presented for the Commission's 2021 meetings:

January 7-8 in Annapolis, Maryland  
May 6-7 in Washington, D.C.  
September 9-10 in Maryland  
November 4-5 in Irvington, Virginia

The adoption of the 2021 meeting dates was moved unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES & FUTURE PROJECTIONS**

Delegate David Bulova, Virginia Delegation Chair, provided the update for the delegation. He discussed the importance of Virginia adopting legislation that balanced voluntary conservation with timelines and implementation targets for livestock stream exclusion and nutrient management plans. Regarding fisheries, the general assembly passed legislation to have the Virginia Marine Resources Commission manage the menhaden fishery, which was previously managed by the general assembly itself. Also, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act was updated to focus on tree conservation. Virginia DEQ will develop standards.

Finally, Delegate Bulova discussed the “unallotment” process that the General Assembly underwent during the April reconvened session, wherein they amended the previously approved budget to highlight the items that would need to be reconsidered after updated revenue forecasts. This process impacted much of the natural resources funding that had been secured for Bay restoration during the regular session.

Senator Guy Guzzone, Maryland Delegation Chair, discussed the role of the Maryland General Assembly in regards to the budget and how it differs from Virginia. The Maryland Governor has the discretion to adjust the budget by 25% (except for education) so they likely will not need to reconvene in the near future. He also noted four pieces of environmental legislation that were key this session and called on his delegation members to discuss them. Delegate Stein shared his natural filters bill which works to incentivize such practices through the cost share program. Senator Elfreth shared that they were successful in moving forward PFAS legislation similar to that adopted in Virginia during the 2019 session. She also shared details on her resilience authority bill which provides bonding authority to localities for projects related to sea level rise and recurrent flooding, such as those the Commission heard about in January. Finally, Senator Elfreth mentioned the legislation related to reconvening the Oyster Advisory Commission and the development of the required fishery management plan.

Senator Gene Yaw, Pennsylvania Delegation Chair, stated that they are just entering the budget portion of their session. He stated that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, he felt there was a significant amount of momentum on environmental bills that has sadly been lost to other priorities at this time. Nevertheless, he shared that the delegation was successful in moving forward PFAS legislation similar to that adopted in Virginia. He also highlighted his Conservation Excellence Grant Program bill as well as Representative Everett’s Keystone Tree Fund which allows for voluntary donations while obtaining a driver’s license towards tree planting programs. Finally he shared that he is hopeful that the fertilizer bill, which has been worked on for over a decade, would be moving from the Senate to the House next week.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Yaw asked for public comment. No members of the public requested to speak.

**ADJOURN**

The Commission adjourned at 11:15A.M.

**FRIDAY, MAY 8 (Optional)****WELCOME & ROLL CALL**

Chairman Yaw called the meeting to order at 10:00A.M. and asked Executive Director Swanson to call the roll. A quorum was present.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY MODELING WEBINAR**

Chairman Yaw introduced Gary Shenk, Hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and Jeff Sweeney, Integrated Analysis Coordinator from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their presentation on Chesapeake Bay modeling.

Mr. Shenk began by discussing how we often refer to the Chesapeake Bay model as one model, but it is really a suite of sophisticated models like nothing else in the world. He discussed how it has been developed through time with increasing complexity via collaboration among numerous scientific experts from a variety of agencies as well as how it is often checked against monitoring inputs. Mr. Sweeney discussed the various input data that goes in to the models, how it has been updated through time, as well as how equity is applied within the models to determine the areas with heavier pollution responsibilities.

A discussion regarding the development of the model, updates on progress, as well as local impacts followed the presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned at 11:20 A.M.