



# CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

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## NOVEMBER 5-6, 2020 TELECONFERENCE QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chesapeake Bay Commission held its fourth quarterly meeting of 2020 on Thursday and Friday, November 5-6. The meeting was held via teleconference due to the States of Emergency in all three member states during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Commission members in attendance:

Delegate Robert Bloxom  
Delegate Tony Bridges  
Delegate David Bulova  
Senator Sarah Elfreth  
PA Citizen Member, Warren Elliott  
Representative Garth Everett  
Representative Keith Gillespie  
Senator Guy Guzzone  
Delegate Nancy Guy  
Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio  
Senator Emmett Hanger  
Delegate Sara Love  
Senator Lynwood Lewis  
Senator Scott Martin (Day 2 Only)  
Secretary Patrick McDonnell  
MD Citizen Member, Thomas “Mac” Middleton  
Delegate Dana Stein  
Representative Mike Sturla  
VA Citizen Member, Dennis Treacy  
Senator Gene Yaw

### Members not in attendance:

Secretary Matt Strickler  
RDML Charles Rock

### Staff:

MD – David Goshorn  
PA – Aneca Atkinson and Jill Whitcomb  
VA – Ann Jennings  
Navy – Kevin Du Bois

### CBC Staff:

Ann Swanson  
Jen Dieux  
Mark Hoffman  
Marel King  
Adrienne Kotula

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

**WELCOME & ROLL CALL**

Chairman Yaw called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M. and reviewed the Commission's Virtual Meeting Protocol to comply with open meeting requirements. He then asked Executive Director Swanson to call the roll. A quorum was present.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Chairman Yaw explained that the duration of the pandemic was not anticipated and in the interest of transparency and maintaining an official record, approval of the the meeting minutes from January through September was presented for approval. The January, May, and September meeting minutes were unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**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.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Chairman Yaw welcomed the return of Senator Lynwood Lewis (VA), who previously on the Commission served while in the House of Delegates.

**ELECTION RECAP & INFLUENCE ON BAY RESTORATION**

Members agreed that it was still too soon to determine what impact the outcome of the 2020 elections might have on Bay restoration. Neither Virginia nor Maryland had state races this year. In Pennsylvania, the remainder of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget is still pending, along with a potential \$5B revenue shortfall and leadership elections.

**WHAT IS PENNSYLVANIA DOING?**

***A Focus on Agriculture***

Chairman Yaw introduced Jill Whitcomb, the Director of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Program Office. Jill presented a summary of PA's agricultural conservation programs. After Jill's presentation, she was joined by Karl Brown, Executive Secretary of Pennsylvania's State Conservation Commission and Brion Johnson, Executive Director of Pennsylvania's Infrastructure Investment Authority, also known as PENNVEST. PENNVEST administers PA's State revolving loan funds. An additional \$20 million in agricultural conservation funding comes to Pennsylvania's part of the Bay watershed from USDA-NRCS.

Members noted that the conservation districts and technical assistance was important to compliance and additional implementation. Currently, in Pennsylvania there is one conservation district professional for every 1,000 farms. Private sector professionals are also available, but more trained personnel will be needed to meet the required rates of implementation. Senator Yaw suggested that with limited resources, efforts could be focused on key geographic areas first and then expanded.

The speakers further noted that most implementation efforts happen in partnership with state, local and private organizations, and that predictable funding is key to sustaining those partnerships and building staff relationships with farmers.

## **A FIELD-LEVEL VIEW**

### **PART I**

#### **PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE: A VIRTUAL TOUR**

Chairman Yaw introduced CBC PA Director, Marel King who provided an introduction to PA's agriculture industry and introduced Jeb Musser and Gordon Hoover, both from Lancaster Farmland Trust. Agriculture and related industries are the largest segment of Pennsylvania's economy, and Lancaster County is the most productive county in the state and the most productive non-irrigated county in the nation. With the intensity of agriculture in Lancaster County and its location in the Lower Susquehanna watershed, it is also the largest contributor of nutrients to the Bay.

Musser and Hoover then described a few conservation projects that have been implemented on Lancaster County farms. Keys to the projects' success have been the relationships between the partners and the farmers, and the ability of the projects to meet the needs of the farming operation.

### **PART II**

#### **PANEL DISCUSSION: THE BOOTS ON THE GROUND**

Musser and Hoover were then joined by Chris Sigmund, President of TeamAg, Inc. and Chris Thompson, Manager of the Lancaster County Conservation District, for a panel discussion facilitated by Allyson Gibson, Coordinator of Lancaster Clean Water Partners. The panelists noted that funding to assist with implementation costs is extremely important, and in the case of several programs, available funds for this fiscal year are already spoken for. However, many practices also benefit the farm by improving efficiency, but technical assistance is still required.

### **MEMBER FEEDBACK**

Chairman Yaw asked the members for any feedback on Thursday's meeting or any suggestions for Friday's meeting. None was offered. He then reminded the members about the next morning's delegation meetings at 8:00 A.M.

### **ADJOURN**

The Commission adjourned at 3:43 P.M.

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020**

### **WELCOME & ROLL CALL**

Chairman Yaw called the meeting to order at 9:16 A.M., reviewed the Virtual Meeting Protocol and asked Executive Director Swanson to call the roll. A quorum was present.

### **CBC's 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

#### **Past, Present and Future**

#### **FILM PREMIERE**

Chairman Yaw introduced Tom Horton, the screenwriter of the Commission's 40th Anniversary Film which was funded by the Campbell Foundation. Members viewed the film and offered reflections. State legislative resolutions and proclamations recognizing the Commission's anniversary were presented by Delegate Bulova (VA), Delegate Stein (MD), Representative Sturla (PA) and Senator Yaw (PA).

## **SPECIAL ADDRESS**

Chairman Yaw introduced Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. Governor Northam is currently serving as the Chairman of the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC). Governor Northam congratulated the Commission on its anniversary and reiterated his desire to work cooperatively with all members of the EC toward their common vision and shared goals.

## **40TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL REPORT RELEASE NOVEMBER 10 WEBINAR**

Executive Director Swanson announced the release of the Commission's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Report, and encouraged members to distribute it widely, both electronic and hard copies.

A 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary webinar will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10. Attendees must register via the Commission's website. Delegate Bulova, Senator Guzzone, Representative Everett, and Senator Hanger will offer their reflections on Commission history and Ann Swanson will present the legislative and other achievements of the Commission.

## **CHAIRMAN'S LIGHTNING ROUND UPDATES**

- *CBC FY2020 Audit Report*  
Ann updated everyone on this year's audit report. No issues were identified. She thanked Administrative Officer Jen Dieux for her diligence and hard work to prepare for the audit and her efforts throughout the year.
- *Conowingo WIP*  
A draft of the Conowingo WIP is out for public comment through January 20. The draft focuses on the most effective best management practices in the most effective areas of the Susquehanna basin. The estimated cost is \$53 million per year and a financing strategy is expected to be developed in phases.
- *Climate Change in the WIPs*  
The latest estimates of the impacts of climate change on the Bay and its watershed will require an additional five million pounds of nitrogen to be reduced across the watershed by 2025. These reductions will need to be accounted for in each jurisdiction's next set of two-year milestones under the TMDL, starting in 2022. Looking beyond 2025, estimates are predicting a total of 10 million additional pounds of nitrogen will need to be reduced by 2035. The partnership will continue to study and refine the 2035 estimate between now and 2025.
- *Cheapeake Bay Program DEIJ Initiative*  
The Bay Program has been working to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion and justice since the adoption of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The first step was the development of a strategy which was completed in April 2020 after two years of work. The Chesapeake Executive Council signed a statement in support of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice at their August 2020 meeting. The Principals' Staff Committee has since adopted an action statement which requires the development of an implementation plan within six months.
- *Federal Policy/Appropriations Updates*  
America's Conservation Enhancement Act was signed into law on October 30. A package of

measures authorizing \$1.1 billion in conservation programs relating to wildlife and habitat, it is being hailed as a major win for conservation and sportsmen. The staff is also working diligently on FY21 Appropriations requests, the National Recreation Area Advisory Council, as well as a letter to be sent to the Presidential transition team, should one ultimately be appointed.

### **COMMISSION REFLECTIONS & DISCUSSION**

Chairman Yaw challenged the members to think about where we want to be on the Commission's 50th anniversary. Delegate Bulova noted that we should be vigilant about emerging pollutants and other circumstances that could set-back our progress.

### **NEW BUSINESS AND MEMBER FEEDBACK**

Chairman Yaw asked if there was any new business or member feedback on the meeting format. There was none.

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

Chairman Yaw asked if any members of the public would like to provide comment. Mark Rabo commented on stormwater fees in MS4 communities and the need for a comprehensive funding strategy for restoration projects.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned at 11:17 A.M.