

## **Chesapeake Bay Program Committee, Subcommittee, and Work Group Activities for STAC**

(assembled through emails of 03/28/05)

The Chesapeake Executive Council (CEC) at their January meeting announced plans for reducing pollution, improving living resource habitats, and expanding restoration funding. These measures to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed can be found at:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/2005exec.htm>

### Information Management Subcommittee (IMSC) (02-16-05)

During the Implementation committee meeting in January discussed three new directives:

Directive 04-1 calls for the Principal Staff committee to create a regional funding authority, including a concept of an investment portfolio of the Bay.

Directive 04-2 calls for the establishing cost-effective funding priorities for state and federal governments; an increased USDA presence in the Bay, possible coalition with the Gulf of Mexico advocate groups, the initiation of the Watershed Funding Network, and further progress on Urban Stormwater Strategy.

Directive 04-3 calls for the creation of a Manure Task Group within the Nutrient Subcommittee; for the CBP to measure progress toward oyster management goals, for the Living Resources SC to continue on the focus of the fish passage, and for the Communication and Education SC to devise methods of measuring progress towards meaningful Bay experience goals.

### Implementation Committee Meeting (IC) (02-17-05)

The GAO audit of the CBP began in November 2004 and will be completed by November 2005. There are many objectives to this study including:

- 1) How is progress in restoring the Bay being measured and reported;
- 2) How effective has the CBP been in evaluating and reporting actual progress made;
- 3) How much has been spent on restoration and for what purposes;
- 4) How is the restoration effort being coordinated.

Interviews are being conducted with federal, non-federal, academic and other non-profit organizations during this period. Agenda for this meeting can be found at:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/calendar/IC\\_02-17-05\\_Agenda\\_1\\_5507.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/calendar/IC_02-17-05_Agenda_1_5507.pdf)

Ann Swanson (Exec. Dir. CBC) briefed the IC on the Chesapeake Bay Commission's new cost effectiveness strategies for the Bay. She provided the IC with info and strategies for the implementation of this document, which can be found at:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.state.va.us/cost%20effective.pdf>

According to the 2004 report on smart investments for nutrient reduction, the top six most cost effective practices are:

- 1) Wastewater treatment plant upgrades
- 2) Diet and feed adjustments
- 3) Traditional nutrient management
- 4) Enhanced nutrient management
- 5) Conservation tillage
- 6) Cover crops

Jim Collier (Modeling Subcommittee Chair) and Lewis Linker (Modeling Coordinator) reviewed plans for upgrades of the modeling tools to be used in the 2007 re-evaluation decision making process. These modeling tools are the Airshed Model (CMAQ), Watershed Model (Phase 5), and Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model.

Watershed Model status:

Hydrologic calibration complete

Sediment calibration complete by 3/01/05

Water quality calibration complete by 7/31/05

Diana Esher (US EPA) discussed the reconvening of the CBP Water Quality Steering Committee for the purposes of the 2007 re-evaluation process. This committee was tasked by the PSC to make adjustments to allocations by 2007 based on the following:

- 1) The adoption of state water quality standards;
- 2) Updated information on sediments;
- 3) An understanding of water quality benefits of filter feeders;
- 4) Nutrient equivalents.

Greg Allen (Toxics Coordinator) informed the IC about the 2005 goals of the TSC and requests feedback on the new toxics keystones. For more information about the toxics of concern, toxics top ten, and toxics 2000, please contact Greg Allen at [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

Bob Campbell (CESC chair) provided the IC with a preview of the new DC media campaign: The Chesapeake Club Initiative: Bringing New Audiences to Bay Restoration. His power point presentation can be viewed at:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/calendar/IC\\_02-17-05\\_Minutes\\_1\\_5507.ppt](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/calendar/IC_02-17-05_Minutes_1_5507.ppt)

The primary goals of this program are to encourage Washington DC metro homeowners to skip spring lawn fertilizer and wait until the fall; create a greater understanding of how individual actions impact local waters and the bay; and attract new audiences to Bay restoration.

#### Tributary Strategy Workgroup Meeting (TSWG) (02-07-05)

An urban land use changes presentation was made by Peter Claggett and the powerpoint can be viewed at: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar.cfm?EventDetails=5733&DefaultView=2> (see 2000 Land Cover-Phase 5). Key points from the presentation are that there are no data for North Carolina or Tennessee, road density was used to determine land uses, and each 30m by 30m pixel has impervious percentages.

An agricultural land use changes presentation was made by CRC fellow Sara Brandt and the powerpoint can be viewed at:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar.cfm?EventDetails=5733&DefaultView=2>

(see 2002 AgCensus Presentation)

For additional information, please contact Sara Brandt at [sbrandt@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:sbrandt@chesapeakebay.net), Kate Hopkins at [khopkins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:khopkins@chesapeakebay.net), or Peter Claggett at [pclagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:pclagget@chesapeakebay.net).

Tributary strategy and implementation updates:

VA – Statewide document is available on the Secretary of Natural Resources website.

PA – Statewide documentation for 13 watersheds is complete and can be found at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us>

DC – A timeline has not been set for their implementation plan.

MD – The implementation plan is in draft form and a timeline has not been set.

DE – Strategy for Nanticoke is complete.

WV – Proceeding with the Potomac implementation plan (two parts) and the next step is to draft watershed plans and prioritize tasks with funding.

NY – Several straw man tributary strategies are being analyzed.

The communication team is working on explaining the difference between modeling and monitoring on the CBP website. The Monitoring and Assessment Subcommittee (MASC) task force will be working on a guideline on how the CBP effectively communicates how the Bay is doing versus how restoration efforts are proceeding.

#### Toxics Subcommittee Meeting (01-14-05)

The next Businesses for the Bay Work Group meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2005 at the CBPO. The meeting is open to the public and for more info please contact, Mary Lynn Wilhere at [wilhere.marylynn@epa.gov](mailto:wilhere.marylynn@epa.gov)

Mark Cohen (NOAA/Air Resources Lab) presented “Atmospheric Fate and Transport of Mercury in the Chesapeake Bay Region: Recent Modeling and Measurement Results” which can be viewed at: <http://arl.noaa.gov/sstransport/cohen.html>. Results from the 2004 mercury monitoring program in MD and his atmospheric mercury model for the Bay in 1999 were presented. There are limitations to the model but is useable and its results are comparable to similar models. The Bay is unique as a mercury receptor as compared with other bodies of water in terms of the amount of mercury deposited and the source apportionment of this output.

Joseph Beaman (MDE) presented “Maryland Perspectives on Mercury in Fish Tissue and Advisory Issues” which can be viewed at:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar.cfm?EventDetails=5700&DefaultView=2>

#### Toxics Subcommittee Meeting (03-03-05)

The TSC will continue the mercury discussion from their previous meeting to determine the state of knowledge of mercury in the Bay, research needs, and what the role of this subcommittee should be. It was recommended that the “Mercury in the CB watershed” draft paper be updated and combined with the draft “Mercury Fact Sheet”. For comments or suggestions on this toxics matter, please contact Greg Allen at [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

#### Living Resources Subcommittee Meeting (03-03-05)

Howard Townsend (NOAA) gave a presentation on the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Ecosystem Model (FEM) at this meeting and can be viewed at the site listed below.

Ben Longstaff (Oxford Coop. Lab) gave a presentation on redesigning the CBP indicators on the web. His presentation can be viewed at the same site listed below. Any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding this proposal can be directed to Ben at [ben.longstaff@noaa.gov](mailto:ben.longstaff@noaa.gov)

Nancy Wallace (Menhaden FMP coordinator) with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission gave a presentation on menhaden management. Her presentation can be viewed at the same site listed below.

Bob Wood (director, Oxford Coop. Lab) gave an update on menhaden populations, trophic interactions, fisheries, climatic forecasting, and management issues. His comments can be viewed at the same site listed below.

For all of the above presentations, please visit the following:

<http://chesapeakebay.net/calendar.cfm?EventDetails=5936>

Copies of the *Crassostrea ariakensis* Ad Hoc Panel Review Report regarding the 2005 Virginia Seafood Council proposal, entitled “Feasibility study on one-year grow out of triploid *Crassostrea ariakensis*, a request for approval to the Marine Resources Commission” can be obtained from Kenna Oseroff at [oseroff.kenna@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:oseroff.kenna@epamail.epa.gov)

#### Communication Education Subcommittee Meeting (03-08-05)

The agenda, background information about the Chesapeake Club Initiative, and e-newsletter guidelines can be found at:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar?EventDetails=5647&DefaultView=2>

#### Announcements:

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Plan (MARP) on aquatic nuisance species organizational meeting will take place on March 31 and April 01; for more information contact Julie Thompson at [Julie\\_Thompson@fws.gov](mailto:Julie_Thompson@fws.gov). For agenda and draft management plans for the mute swan, nutria, purple loosestrife, water chestnut, and zebra mussel, please visit the following site:

<http://chesapeakebay.net/calendar.cfm?EventDetails=6079&DefaultView=2>

The Maryland House bill on fertilizers by Delegates Sossi, Smigiel, and Walkup requires retailers to display a sign advising consumers of the damaging effects of overuse of fertilizers on state waters and the Chesapeake Bay. It would require specific language to be written on the bag labels. For more info about this important bill, please contact Adam Zimmerman at [azimmerm@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:azimmerm@chesapeakebay.net)

Copies of the 2004 State of the Bay poster with watershed notes can be obtained by contacting Shelby Laubhan at [slaubhan@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:slaubhan@chesapeakebay.net)