

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
MEETING SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 21-22, 1999
LANCASTER, PA

Attendance Joseph Bachman, Don Boesch, Dave DeWalle, Ted Graham, Ed Houde,
Members/Alternates: Dick Jachowski, Waldon Kerns, Jonathon Kramer, Doug Lipton, Garry Mayer,
Jonathon Phinney, Harry Pionke, Cliff Randall, Alan Taylor, Dick Weismiller
Guests/Liaisons: Rich Batiuk Owen Bricker, John Capacasa, Judith Freeman, Lisa Kier, Mike Langland,
John Milliman
Staff: Caryn Boscoe, Grant Gross, Jaclin Schweigart, Gordon Smith

September 21

CALL TO ORDER

Dick Jachowski, STAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. After review of the September agenda, it was adopted.

BNR EVALUATION AND IMPACTS FOR THE FUTURE

Cliff Randall, VA Tech, discussed an evaluation of wastewater treatment plants for BNR feasibility and cost of implementation at plants throughout the watershed. The Chesapeake Bay Program sponsored this evaluation. The presentation highlighted the relatively inexpensive reductions in nitrogen possible through BNR as well as potential increases of 20-30% cost savings, 50% or more in chemical savings, and 5-15% reduction in the amount of sludge.

STAC MODEL REVIEW

Gordon Smith, CRC, discussed the ongoing process of STAC's model review with the full membership. Gordon reviewed the problems with the model that the Model Review Team has documented. The updated model run data that was sent by the model technicians will be reviewed and the final report will be presented to STAC at the December meeting.

STAC BUSINESS

- The members adopted the June 24-25, 1999 meeting summary. Approved STAC meeting summaries are available on STAC's website at: www.chesapeake.org.
- Dick Jachowski also gave the membership updates from the IC, PSC, and the BSC.
- Representatives from Panama will be attending an Integrated Watershed Management seminar in Annapolis at the end of October. STAC members have been invited to present some of their research. Anyone interested should contact Caryn.

SEDIMENT ISSUES RELATED TO CONOWINGO DAM

Owen Bricker, USGS, discussed the impacts of increased sediment loads from the Susquehanna River basin to the Chesapeake Bay. After the reservoir behind Conowingo Dam reaches its sediment storage capacity (steady state), sediment loads from the Susquehanna into the Upper Bay are expected to double. This increase is expected to have a significant impact on the living resources (benthics, SAV, larval fish, etc.) above the turbidity maxima.

Bricker's measurements project that the Conowingo will reach steady state in 2500 years. This estimate differs from the projections made by Langland, which estimate that steady state will occur in 17-20 years.

Mike Langland, USGS, gave a presentation on sediment monitoring and control at the Conowingo Dam. He highlighted a study that looked at the effects of the January 1996 flood event on the dams. Langland projects that steady state sediment loading over the dam will increase N loads by 2% and P loads by 40-70%, severely impacting the Chesapeake Bay Program's phosphorus reduction goals.

CHESAPEAKE RENEWAL

Lisa Kier, ACB, discussed the results of the Alliance's public questionnaire "Listening to the People." Managing growth was listed as the top priority in the questionnaire results. Other priorities include a greater emphasis on communication and education to promote behavior change, nutrients and sediments in the Bay, concern about multi-species management approach to living resources, local watershed focus, governance, and a need for vision in the Bay Program. In response to the questionnaire, the ACB made its own set of recommendations for broad areas that should be in the new Bay agreement including vision, managing growth, water quality, protect natural resources, and enhance the governance of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

CHESAPEAKE 2000

John Capacasa, EPA, gave an overview of the New Bay Agreement and STAC's role in that process. The focus of the Bay agreement is currently major goals and what directions both research and management should proceed in. Issues being considered for inclusion into the draft agreement are in the form of working papers that include water quality, living resources, government by example, management of the CBP, stewardship of the land, natural infrastructure and vital habitat, and engaging citizens, schools and communities. These working papers continue to be revised in light of PSC comments and will also be reviewed by the EC in December. The draft agreement will be released early January 2000. STAC will be asked to review and comment on the draft agreement from Jan-March 2000.

Action Item: STAC will provide a timely report of the Futures findings. STAC will also consider specific needs for science and technology support to the CBP, consider specific tools that the signatories should adopt to advance resolution of an issue, and develop a short list of priority needs. Dick Jachowski will work with the STAC staff on calling on STAC members for their input to give to the C2K committee prior to the EC meeting in December. The C2K committee needs time to secure signatory consensus for suggestions to be included into the agreement.

CHESAPEAKE FUTURES

Don Boesch, UMCES, discussed the ongoing scientific assessment of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the year 2030 and beyond called "Futures." This project will not establish goals, but will give credible alternative futures and the forces that could create them. It will provide a basis for making long-term choices. Issues that will be highlighted in the report will be BNR, growth, and living resources. The report will be released in October for peer review, there will be a presentation of major findings to EC in December, and the release of the final reports in Spring 2000.

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY

September 22, 1999

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Dick Jachowski, Chair, discussed several issues that are facing STAC such as amendments of bylaws, adoptions of protocols, and nominations for new members.

CHANGES TO PROTOCOLS & BYLAWS

Dick discussed changes to the expense voucher protocol, the workshop protocol, and the review protocol. Slight changes were suggested in each of the protocols and bylaws.

Action Item: The suggested changes to the Bylaws and Protocols will to be reviewed by STAC members. If there are any changes to be made, please contact STAC staff.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

Several membership issues were discussed.

- Jonathon Phinney is now a full STAC member representing Washington D.C. and Jack Sobel is his alternate.
- Ted Graham identified Larry Coffman as his alternate.
- Larry Minocke has agreed to help in getting VA appointees.

Action Item: Dick Jachowski will send a letter to Larry Minocke asking for his assistance in recommendations for Virginia appointments.

- The Ex-Officio category of membership was suggested to be eliminated and move those appointments to the At-Large appointments. This would effectively reduce the ex-officio category of membership from 12 to zero members and inflate the at-large category of membership from 4 to 16 members. Each ex-officio member will be asked if they wish to remain on as a member of STAC. Any ex-officio that is active and wishes to continue serving STAC would be grandfathered and become an at-large member. The grandfathered appointments will have terms for only 1-2 years upon which they will be evaluated to see if they remain active in the membership. These changes would allow STAC to evolve more with the relevant issues as they arise. The procedures for appointing at-large appointments need to be formalized and followed.

Action Item: The Executive Board will further develop proposed changes to membership structure and update the membership as the process proceeds.

IDEAS FOR PROACTIVE WORKSHOPS

Ideas for FY00 Proactive workshops were suggested at this time. Jonathon Phinney suggested that STAC use the "Activities" budget to leverage for additional funds for proactive workshops.

Workshop examples:

WATER QUALITY MODEL WORKSHOP (Jachowski)

A workshop focusing on possible future enhancements and uses of the water quality model.

NITROGEN WORKSHOP (Taylor)

A major workshop discussing nitrogen and involving 150 people in one year.

GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES (Kerns)

A workshop or series of workshops to take the land growth studies from Futures out to the local management and planning commissions. Joe Bachman will write a proposal for a more technical growth workshop.

INNOVATIVE FISHING REGIONS AND FISHING QUOTAS (Lipton)

A workshop discussing innovative fishing regimes and fishing quotas. Doug Lipton, Ed Houde and Judith Freeman will be the steering committee that will flesh this out for December meeting.

SANCTUARIES - DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION (Houde)

A workshop discussing sanctuaries, protected areas, etc. and how they should be designed and implemented in the Chesapeake Bay.

PREDATOR/PREY INTERACTIONS (Freeman)

A workshop discussing the predator/prey relationships of organisms within the Chesapeake Bay.

Action Item: STAC members will develop and submit their workshop proposals at the STAC meeting in December, 1999.

FY99 WORKSHOPS

SEDIMENT TASK FORCE

Alan Taylor, CRC, gave an overview of the first Sediment Task Force meeting. John Milliman, VIMS, gave his input regarding the range of storage life and he believes that this is the first question that STAC should address. Milliman asserts that the sediment storage capacity is several hundred years and it is relatively easy to determine with the right testing.

Action Item: STAC will appoint a steering committee and a member to lead the planning effort of the Sediment Task Force. Dick Weismiller was suggested as the lead on the project, with John Milliman and Owen Bricker possibly on the steering committee. If any other STAC members are interested in participating on this project please contact STAC staff.

LIVING RESOURCES DATA ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

Ed Houde, UMCES CBL, gave an overview of the LRSC Data Analysis Workshop that is focused on how the existing monitoring data pool can be effectively used. Oyster and oyster ecology, menhaden, and benthos are three issues along with important linkages that were suggested to be discussed at a workshop. A pre-workshop will be held to gather the data and then there will be a 2 day workshop three months later discussing what were successes and failures and possibly a formula for how it was done.

EXPERT PANEL REVIEW OF THE MONITORING STRATEGY

Caryn Boscoe gave an overview of the Expert Panel Review of the Basin-wide Monitoring Strategy. STAC will conduct a first order review of the strategy and then will assist CBP in identifying outside experts for further review and recommendations.

Action Item: Rich Batiuk will provide an updated draft of this strategy within 2 weeks. The Executive Board of STAC will develop a charge for this review process.

NUTRIENT TRADING WORKSHOPS

Waldon Kerns, VA Tech, gave an overview of the ongoing nutrient trading being coordinated by Allison Weideman and Katrin O'Connell. The objective of this workshop is to develop guidelines for trading for implementation by the states. This project will be finished by March.

TMDL PROCESS

Rich Batiuk, EPA, presented the CBP plan for approaching Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) requirements within the Bay watershed. TMDL's arise from a provision in the Clean Water Act, which takes a regulatory approach to establishing and maintaining water quality for impaired water bodies. CBP plans to develop and achieve it's own water quality endpoints prior to 2010, effectively delisting the Bay as an impaired water body. The IC may request that STAC: (1)convene an expert panel to review the proposed endpoint, (2)participate on the TMDL technical workgroup and (3)host a symposium on the TMDL issues.

Action Item: STAC Executive Board will work with the CBP to insure STAC involvement in this project, tapping specific STAC members as it proceeds. Interested members should contact STAC staff.

MEETING ADJOURNED

LITITZ RUN WATERSHED TOUR

Dan Zimmerman, Lititz, PA Township Manager, took STAC on a tour of his award winning restoration sites throughout the town of Lititz, PA. Dan discussed the obstacles and successes of the restoration project.