



**Regional Environmental Managers Technical Committee**  
 FY19 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant  
 CY20 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) Program Grant

February 25, 2020  
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**GWRC**  
 406 Princess Anne St, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**NOTES**

**Attendees:** David Nunnally (Caroline), Chris Clarke and Michael Newchok (King George County), Scott Rae and Chantz Ballard (Fredericksburg), Trent Funkhouser, John Saunders, and Chris Stevens (Stafford County), Jacob Pastwik (Spotsylvania County), Coleman Goad (Stantec for VDOT), Brent Hunsinger, Adam Lynch, and Bryan Hofmann (FOR), Pat Coady (Northern Virginia Conservation Trust), Jim Lynch (Friends of DRHT), Kevin Utt (DIR), Jeff Flood and Virginia Witmer (DEQ CZM), Linda Millsaps (GWRC), and Denise Nelson (Berkley Group).

**Outcome 1.** Name GWRC’s current environmental management projects and describe initiatives to coordinate projects for synergistic results (**Attachment A**).

- a. Chesapeake Bay WIP
- b. CZM Regional training and coordination
- c. CZM Regional environmental strategic planning

**Outcome 2.** Kick off annual Chesapeake Bay WIP project, identify the required and selected optional project tasks, and discern the responsibility for tasks between GWRC staff and the larger stakeholder group (**Attachment B**).

Task	Stakeholder Responsibilities	Staff Responsibilities
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly meetings</li> <li>• 2021 scope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update commissioners</li> <li>• PDC collaboration</li> <li>• Attend meetings</li> <li>• WIP marketing</li> <li>• BMP marketing</li> <li>• Share grant opportunities</li> </ul>
BMP reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use BMP Warehouse</li> <li>• Fill reporting gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide assistance</li> <li>• Consider regional reporting</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop BMP project proposals and fees</li> <li>• Support forest conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support on developing projects</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share BMP training needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support adoption of conservation policies</li> <li>• Provide grant writing assistance</li> <li>• Fill BMP training needs</li> </ul>
Regional activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support 2 stream cleanups</li> <li>• Support tree planting on public land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support 2 stream cleanups</li> <li>• Support tree planting on public land</li> </ul>
Project admin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting</li> </ul>

**Outcome 3.** Notes of attendees’ questions and comments.

- King George County has an old quarry and other large tracks of privately owned land without trees. How can we educate/incentivize landowners to plant trees?
- Need to track/inventory green infrastructure such as urban trees and properly installed living shorelines to ensure maximum credit received in WIP before new solutions are identified.
- The departments in the City of Fredericksburg still seem to work in a very siloed fashion. How can we promote cross-department collaborations on environmental topics? One suggestion was to invite local government staff to meetings like this one to introduce themselves and give a short talk on what they do. NGO’s welcome too.
- Opportunities for joint grant writing between localities should be pursued.
- A future meeting will be focused on Comprehensive Plan text and potential amendments relevant to WIP goals. Localities are encouraged to send planning and zoning staff to that meeting. The Healthy Watersheds Forest Initiative How-To Manual will be discussed at the meeting (**Attachment C**).
- How can we encourage developers to clear land as needed or in sections instead of all at once in order to minimize erosion and sediment control issues?
- Private landowners seem hesitant to timber land or replant after timbering if they think they have a difficult time dealing with endangered species on the property.
- The General Assembly is discussion several bills related to planting and protecting trees. These may be implemented next year.
- We suspect the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program will agree to investigate opportunities related to septic sewer systems at their November meeting or as part of the upcoming 5-year grant on creating enforceable policies.

**Outcome 4.** Kick off the environmental management strategic plan development project and identify project steps, role of localities, and relevant resources (**Attachment D**).

**Outcome 5.** Notes of attendees’ questions and comments.

- King George County would like to add more sites for river access. Use Rural Coastal Virginia’s Water Trails website as a guide for ways to promote ecotourism in the rural areas of GWRC.

- Caroline County stated they (and the other localities) send a summary report to DEQ annually. There is interested in learning how the information in the report is used.

**Outcome 6.** Collaboratively review and revise environmental management strategic plan development project draft survey. Recommendations were recorded.

**Follow up actions:**

- Denise will update the survey and send the second draft for review and comment.
- After comments are received and addressed, Denise will construct the survey and distribute a weblink for participation.
- Meeting attendees will distribute the weblink and encourage participation by many people at various levels, departments, etc. from each locality and major stakeholder groups.

**Future meetings:**

- March 23 10am-12pm: joint strategic planning and WIP – project identification
  - This meeting has since been **canceled** due to temporary state restrictions on number of meeting attendees.
- April 17 10am-12pm: joint strategic planning and WIP – project identification
- May 14 10am-12pm: joint strategic planning and WIP – Comprehensive Planning
- June or September TBD: training and coordination – nutrient credits
- July 9 10am-12pm: training and coordination – CBPA Local Gov Assistance
- August 25 1pm-3pm: WIP

**Other events of interest:**

- DEQ Online Courses (**Attachment E**)
- CAST model [Free Training Videos](#)
- Free webinar April 23 at 2 pm on [Reimagining Public Engagement for Planning During COVID-19:A Peer-to-Peer Exchange](#)
- Free webinar April 29 at 2 pm “[Functional Recovery: Designing for Community Resilience](#)”
- Free webinar April 30 at 12 pm “Civic Engagement in the World of Social Distancing” <https://virginia.planning.org/>
- International Low Impact Development Conference, July 19-22, 2020, Bethesda, MD. <https://www.lidconference.org/>