GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

July 9, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Digital Meeting and Conference Call

NOTES

Attendees: David Nunnally (Caroline County), Michael Newchok and Chris Clarke (King George County), Scott Rae and Tyler Gelles (Fredericksburg), Trent Funkhouser, Ben Foster, and Joe Fiorello (Stafford County), Linda Jensen (Spotsylvania County), Gef Fisher (Fort A.P. Hill), Adam Lynch (FOR), Pat Coady (Northern Virginia Conservation Trust), Les Johnson (UMW), Marta Perry (Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District), Mikel Manchester (VCE), Ashley Hall (Stantec for VDOT), Daniel Moore (DEQ CB), Jeff Flood (DEQ CZM), Kate Gibson (GWRC), and Denise Nelson (Berkley Group).

Outcome 1. The Office of Local Government Programs staff at DEQ provide education (upon request) and online resources supporting the prevention and reduction of non-point source pollution in addition to conducting Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) compliance reviews. The presentation slides by Daniel Moore are a great summary reference (**Attachment A**).

Outcome 2. The CBPA requirements apply locality-wide to all localities crossing and/or east of I-95. The CBPA areas are:
- All GWRC localities have delineated Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) and Resource Management Areas (RMAs).
- King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford Counties designated all areas of their jurisdictions outside the RPA as Resource Management Areas (RMAs).
- The City of Fredericksburg has delineated an Industrial Development Area (IDA). The City holds development outside the RPA, RMA, and IDA to generally RMA standards.
- Caroline County delineated the RMA as a 300 ft buffer around the RPA. The County holds development outside the RPA and RMA to generally RMA standards (excluding the 5-year septic system inspection/pump out requirement).

Outcome 3. The Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) is concerned that the City of Fredericksburg's IDA may no longer meet the qualifications of an IDA in some locations.

- **Follow up action:** FOR will contact the City of Fredericksburg to investigate.

Outcome 4. DEQ is required to conduct compliance reviews of local programs every 5 years, but reviews may be less frequent due to limited capacity. DEQ looks at policies, POD procedures

and approved projects. If the locality is not in full compliance, recommended conditions are imposed with timeframes for the locality to get into compliance.

- DEQ has done the second round of reviews for all GWRC localities (the most recent was Fredericksburg).

- The third round will begin next year, and the first localities in GWRC to be reviewed will be the Town of Bowling Green and Town of Port Royal.

Outcome 5. There was a question about the number of miles of RPA in Virginia and in GWRC as well as about the quality/functionality of the RPAs and RPA program.

- **Follow up action:** Daniel Moore will investigate and share this information.

Outcome 6. The ConserveVirginia mapping database does not show RPAs, RMAs, or IDAs, but it does show many of the features that make up those areas (wetlands, rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay). Additional information for determining RMAs is available elsewhere:

- Floodplain mapping is available at the Virginia Flood Risk Information System

- Mapping of permeable and erodible soils is available from Virginia Soil Surveys

Outcome 7. A site-specific RPA designation is required when the landowner submits a site plan involving potential impacts to the RPA as part of a Plan of Development (POD) application.

Outcome 8. The local government must strive to be consistent when reviewing POD applications.
- If the local government has questions during the POD application review process, they can reach out to DEQ for assistance.
- DEQ will provide assistance and make note of the local government's effort to understand and enforce the requirements consistently.

Outcome 9. DEQ Hanover-Caroline SWCD has been providing agricultural conservation assessments in Caroline County. Tri-City/County SWCD has been providing them in King George and Stafford Counties and is ready to work with Spotsylvania County and the City of Fredericksburg.

Outcome 10. DEQ has provided guidance on designating RPAs has been updated over three decades. This article discusses the challenges Henrico County faced in updating the process for designating RPAs. Participants requested guidance on grandfathering previous determinations.

- **Follow up action:** Daniel Moore will investigate and share this information.

Outcome 11. Virginia's CBPA Regulatory Assessment Panel (RAP) in 2019 investigated expanding the CBPA geography to include localities west of I-95. Participants requested a summary of the outcomes and potential future plans.

- **Follow up action:** Daniel Moore will investigate and share this information.

Outcome 12. GWRC's localities would like continued training and peer engagement the CBPA requirements and best practices.

- Daniel Moore is willing to provide a follow up training going into more detail.

- Daniel Moore is willing to provide an updated training prior to the third round of compliance reviews in our region.

- GWRC will keep the CBPA as a discussion item on future environmental meeting agendas.

Outcome 13. Virginia's CZM program received a Section 309 Project of Special Merit grant for "New Guidance to Build Resiliency and Mitigate for Sea Level Rise as Elements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act." The project team, consisting of VIMS, DEQ, and VCPC, will explore actions compliant with the CBPA that property owners can take to both preserve water quality from polluted runoff and protect shorelines from recurrent flooding. Project elements include geospatial analysis, legal analysis, stakeholder input, and development of a new guidance document. The project is anticipated to run from October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022.

Outcome 14. CZM Strategic Plan draft will be shared on August 3 for review. Comments are requested by August 28. GWRC will be discussing the draft at the GWRC Board meeting on August 17. This project ends September 30, 2020, and the final deliverables are due November 15, 2020.

Outcome 15. The GWRC CZM special project for FY21 starting October 1, 2020 will be a Flood Risk Communication Program.

Outcome 16. The deadline for comments on the [2020 Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report](#) was July 9.

Outcome 17. The Water Quality Management Planning Regulations [regulatory advisory panel](#) established to assist in the development and formation of proposed amendments concerning nitrogen and phosphorus waste load allocations met July 9 and is scheduled to meet July 23.

Outcome 18. The Turbidity Water Quality Criteria [Stakeholder Advisory Group](#) established to develop numeric standards for turbidity is meeting on July 20 to inform a diverse stakeholder group about existing science and current DEQ programs addressing turbidity/sediment.

Outcome 19. You and your colleagues are invited to our August 25 meeting from 1pm-3pm to discuss prioritization of the project wish list and the WIP FY21 workplan scope.

- **Follow up action:** Denise will send meeting agenda and associated files.

Future meetings:

a. August 25 1pm-3pm: project prioritization and WIP workplan for 2021