

**STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Maryland Department of the Environment**  
**April 7, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members/Alternates:** Vince Berg, Linda Hanifin Bonner, Jay Charland, Mike Clar, Lou Etgen, Thaddeus Graczyk, Janice Graham, Jason Groth, George Hanson, Louise Lawrence, Mary Marsh, Ed Merrifield, Anne Pearson, Vince Piccinini, Fred Samadani, John Scarborough, Burt Sklar, Bill Stack, George Wilmot, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

**Excused Absences:** Sue Chappelle, Dave Duree, Nancy Pentz, Antoinette Sebastian,

**Others:** Bob Summers (MDE), Sherm Garrison (DNR), Dave Goshorn (DNR), Emory Cleaves (DNR/MGS), Ken Pensyl (MDE), Fred Jones (MDE), Jay Prager (MDE), John Boris (MDE), John Backus (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), Jennifer Dangel (MaryPIRG), Terri Sullivan and Paul Saiz (Gold Leaf Group)

Victoria Woodward opened meeting with introductions at 9:30 a.m. **Motion** to approve the February 3, 2006 minutes approved with notation that Water Resources Subcommittee deferred their time at meeting.

**News from DNR** – Sherm Garrison (*attachment*)

- **Eyes on the Bay**
  - Reddish brown colored water reported in the upper Bay – found to be a nontoxic algae that thrives in cold water and low light conditions.
  - Algae Blooms
    - mild weather with very little ice
    - higher levels of algae
    - able to collect all samples
- **Corsica River Project**
  - Many activities planned, meetings restoration and education activities, etc.
  - Goal of putting 6,000 acres of cover crops
  - Oyster shell planting – 56% of 10 acre goal planted
  - None of the SAVs survived from last year – 9 sites had been planted
  - Working on website
- **Regulations Development**
  - A summary of proposed and final regulations was handed out
  - No new regulations have been proposed
  - DNR fisheries has developed a webpage on proposed fisheries regulations
- **State of the Bay Report – Chesapeake Bay 2005**
  - Open for public comment – for next year thru May 31
- **Non-Native Oysters** – Sherm asked to give update at next meeting.

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### News from MDE – Bob Summers

- **Bay Restoration Fund**
  - Eight proposals – additional coming in
  - Deadline is April 10, 2006
  - 60% onsite systems & 40% cover crops
  - Agriculture bill changed to: 60% cover crops & 40% onsite systems
  - Cover crops is a more cost effective way to reduce nitrogen
  - Most money is nonpoint source
  - Problem for some people is that think the fund to pay for basic systems and not just the upgrade
  
- **Board of Public Works**
  - Scoring system for prioritizing capital projects required by federal law
  - Nutrient loading cap
    - Virginia has law that deals with it
    - Pennsylvania is in the process
    - Maryland needs to do likewise
    - Offering a preliminary discussion draft
    - Email to go out today
    - Meeting on April 11, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. – Vince Piccinini to attend
    - MAMWA asked them to do this effort over the next 9 months
  
- **Elevated Radiation Issue**
  - Talked to Senator Dyson regarding his letter on this issue
  - Does not represent a water quality problem
  - Radionuclides were monitored at point of distribution
  - Federal changes water is now monitored at more appropriate location
  - Not just a Southern Maryland issue
  - Information fact sheets are out
  
- **McDonald Mine**
  - Something shifted and released something acidic
  - Drainage has slowed and has diminished somewhat
  - Going to be expensive fix
  - Working with EPA to get funding
  - Experts have been brought in

### TARSA – John Backus

- Anacostia River Health Advisory –Press Release  
Recommendation for Southern River bullhead species  
refined consumption recommendations

### Response Letter on 303(d) List – Victoria Woodward

- Relatively favorable response
- Would like attendance from TARSA at meetings
- Executive Subcommittee would like to meet with Rich Eskin – **Motion** for representative from SWQAC to meet with Rich on role of SWQAC – approved.

# State Water Quality Advisory Committee

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### Well Regulations Update – Eric Daugherty

- Review of draft – have working draft – version #13
- Starting review process with stakeholders
- Will email draft to Chris for distribution to SWQAC
- Any volunteers – let Frank know

### Maryland Geological Survey – Emery Cleaves

- FY 07 DNR funds for monitoring network are underway
- MGS remains under DNR
- Draft letter on “Water Monitoring Network Funding” from SWQAC for supporting continuing funding – **Motion** to send approved.

### *Presentations*

#### Erosion & Sediment Control - Ken Pensyl (3 handouts)

### *Subcommittee Reports*

#### Watershed Restoration – Mike Clar

- Watershed Restoration
- Looking at wetlands issue

#### Water Resources – Frank Wise

- Attending monthly Governor’s Advisory Committee meetings
- Discussion on moving to mandatory State assessments
- Need for interagency coop efforts
- Statewide water quality
- USGS flyer
- Leasing water rights DNR to local jurisdictions

#### Wastewater Subcommittee – Linda Hanifin Bonner

- Four bills introduced – were defeated in committee
- Attends Bay Restoration Advisory Group

#### Legislative Subcommittee – Jay Charland

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- Agriculture stewardship passed each house – 1 of 2 will pass

### *Other Business*

#### Elections – Victoria deferring Chair re-election

Chair – delegate duties

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – fills in Chair’s absence

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – fills in both Chair & 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairs absence

#### Nominations:

Frank Wise for Chair

(Antoinette Sebastian wrote in nomination & is resigning as Vice Chair, but would like SWQAC to back her staying on Committee.)

Jay Charland for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Steve Witt for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Nominations are open until June Meeting when elections will take place

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Nominations for Members – Louise Lawrence

- Members whose terms are expiring this year were sent letters
- Resumes due as soon as possible
- Vacant positions – need to get resumes to Louise copy to Chris
- Slate of nominations will be ready by October at the latest

***Meeting Adjourned***