

**STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Maryland Department of the Environment**  
**June 2, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members/Alternates:** Vince Berg, Linda Hanifin Bonner, Sue Chappelle, Jay Charland, Senator Roy Dyson, Shannon Lucas (for Mike Clar), Lou Etgen, Janice Graham, Jason Groth, George Hanson, Louise Lawrence, Mary Marsh, Ed Merrifield, Anne Pearson, Fred Samadani, Joan White (for Bill Stack), George Wilmot, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

**Excused Absences:** Thaddeus Graczyk, Nancy Pentz, Antoinette Sebastian

**Others:** Virginia Kearney (MDE), Sherm Garrison (DNR), Frank Dawson, (DNR), Dave Goshorn (DNR), George Piotrowski (DNR), Jim George (MDE), Joe Beaman (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), Alexander Duran (DAHB Research Center), Mark Symborski (MNCPPC), Ramona Trovato (Visitor), Megan Berg (student visitor)

Victoria Woodward opened meeting with introductions at 9:30 a.m. **Motion** to approve the April 7, 2006 minutes - approved. Request made to members that all emails be sent to Chair for approval and then to Chris for distribution to all members. Also, Chris' tape is the official record, anyone else desiring to tape a meeting needs to advise group prior to doing so.

**News from MDE** – Ginny Kearney (*attachment*)

- **State Programmatic General Permit**
  - Timeframe and public meeting on June 14, 2006 – 6:30-8:30 PM in Annapolis
  - Any additional information can be requested by contacting Amanda Sigillito
  - SWQAC to request an extension
  - Motion made to send letter to request extension to comment period. Mary Marsh & Subcommittee to draft letter submit to Executive Subcommittee to approve & send out - approved
  - Ginny to check with Gary regarding whether or not there is flexible in granting an extension
  - Have Gary Setzer or someone from his Program at August meeting
  
- **McDonald Mine Update**
  - EPA had encouraged the Department to apply for a Brownfield's grant to used for possible treatment alternatives and clean up. In late May 2006, the Department was informed that the potential grant of \$200,000 was denied. Still looking for additional funding.
  
- **WMA Staff Change**

Recently reassigned Jack Bowen, a senior staff member, to work directly with Bob & Ginny on major project. He has over 30 years experience and is an expert in erosion and sediment control and compliance and enforcement issues.

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### News from DNR – Sherm Garrison

Frank Dawson introduced himself as the new Director of Chesapeake Bay Program at DNR. He gave briefing on his background and what all is covered under this Program.

- **Water Quality Monitoring**
  - Continuing monitoring and data mapping
  - Completely underway
  - 37 of 45 monitoring sites are up and running
  - 8 remaining sites are awaiting installation
  - Results are available on DNR's Eyes on the Bay website
- **SAVs** – Dave Goshorn
  - 2005 annual report on SAV numbers
  - up 7% from 2004
  - 32% of Baywide goal to be reached by 2010
  - Maryland did not increase as much
  - Worst die off in 30 years of 2 main eelgrasses
- **Bay Report Forecast**
  - Blue grass blooms – expected to not be as severe as last year
  - Copy of forecast – Sherm will get to Chris
- **Oyster Harvesting**
  - Better harvest this year than last
  - Twice as much as last year
  - A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared on using native and non-native oysters
  - There will be a 45 day public comment period
  - If there are no non-native oysters in the State's option, there will be no federal review
- **Regulations**
  - There have been extensive regulation changes regarding hunting & trapping

### TARSA – Joe Beaman

Victoria stated that the Executive Subcommittee had a very fruitful meeting with TARSA and they have agreed to regularly attend meetings.

- **Beaches Program**
  - Submitted all 2005 monitoring data to EPA – available publicly
  - Workshop held in April – most of the beaches counties attended
  - Will be participating in an EPA Beach event in OC later this month
- **Water Quality Steering Committee**
  - Next week is a State meeting with senior water quality managers from each state
  - Looking at outstanding TMDL issues, allocation issues
  - July 7<sup>th</sup> Public meeting on DECA and accepting comments
  - Establishing system of notifying Chris re: TMDLS to pass on to SWQAC
  - Will try to get dates out as soon as possible

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- **Triennial Review**
  - Poor public participation in the past even though fairly well advertised
  - Series of public meetings
  - Have had 4-5 public hearings with comment period
  - Process will take 6-12 months

Victoria asked that a written copy of TARSA's news be submitted for inclusion with minutes.

### *Presentations*

- **TMDL Implementation Guidance for Local Governments** - Jim George, TARSA  
Jim was asked to attend the next SWQAC meeting.
- **"Draft" DNR Water Leasing Policy** – Gene Piotrowski, Director of Public Lands Policy and Planning (copy of "draft" policy attached)
  - Discussion on SWQAC putting together an ad hoc committee discuss issues
  - Frank suggested sending out email requesting comments on draft policy
  - Linda suggested subcommittees meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup> to address issues. Chris to schedule room -All members are requested to attend.

### *Subcommittee Reports*

#### **Water Resources** – Frank Wise

- Governor's Advisory Committee - Interim report due to Governor by June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Bringing back in integrated to draft report
- Current report does look at water supply on a regional basis
- Section in the report on assessment and planning, education, outreach and funding

#### **Wastewater Subcommittee** – Linda Hanifin Bonner

- Not going to meet today
- Will have number of issues before July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### **Legislative Subcommittee** – Jay Charland

- Interest in getting working group together this summer composed of various interests
- Bay Restoration Fund – pursuing policy on how is flush tax money being spent?
- Standing legislation – see if there is interest in this
- Will put together a list of bills

Suggestion that a presentation on Green Buildings by DNR be on the October agenda.

### *Other Business*

#### **Nominations** – Louise Lawrence

- Three members have not responded whose membership is expiring
- Need resumes from Dave Bancroft and Sue Chappelle and Antoinette Sebastian

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#### Issues – Victoria Woodward

- Recruiting new members
- Article in Alliance
- Final Report of Interagency Technical Assistance Committee – can obtain a copy from Ginny's office or MDE website

#### Elections – Dave Duree

- Passed out slate with 3 candidates
- Current Chair is not up for reelection
- Vice Chair Antoinette Sebastian is not up for reelection
- Antoinette nominated Frank Wise for Chair
- Dave Duree nominated Jay Charland for Vice Chair
- Frank Wise nominated Steve Witt for Vice Chair
- Decided to call Vice Chairs as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair
- Motion that nominations be accepted – open the floor to nominations – since no nominations from the floor – unanimous approval of slate.

***Meeting Adjourned 12:40***