

**STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**August 3, 2007**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members/Alternates:** Michael Clar, Dave Duree, Senator Dyson, Jan Graham, George Hanson, Kevin Koepenick, Louise Lawrence, Shannon Lucas, Bob Mitchell, Matthew Pajerowski, Anne Pearson, Vince Piccinini, Fred Samadani, John Scarborough, Mark Symborski, Karen Wiggen, George Wilmot, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

**Excused Absences:** Ed Singer, Burt Sklar, Bill Stack

**Others:** Secretary Shari Wilson (MDE), Jay Sakai (MDE), Jack Bowen (MDE), Dave Goshorn (DNR), Sherm Garrison (DNR), John Backus (MDE), Ed Larrimore (MDE), Laura Haynes (MDE), George Harmon (MDE), Danielle Lucid (MDE), Carrie Decker (DNR), Karen Milman (MDE), Jay Prager (MDE), Theresa Black (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), Terry Matthews (Charles Co.), Fred Jacobs (AKRF), Neil Jacobs, Emery Cleaves, Vince Berg (WRP-F&C), Jaclyn Long (SRWA)

Victoria Woodward opened the meeting with introductions at 9:30 a.m. **Motion** to approve the June 1, 2007 minutes **approved**.

Moment of silence for current and past SWQAC members who recently passed away: Mary Marsh, Ilia Fehrer and Jo Owen.

MDE's new Secretary Shari Wilson attended the meeting. She briefly told SWQAC about herself, what was going on in the Department and asked to hear from the members. Secretary Wilson said she was looking forward to working with SWQAC.

**Membership** – New members to be considered for appointment to SWQAC:

- Dr. Emery Cleaves – formerly worked for Maryland Geological Survey; active on various committees on water quality and quantity issues. Recommend appointment as Private Citizen.
- Terry Matthews – Chief of Utility Operations in Charles County. Recommend appointment as Private Citizen.
- Neil Jacobs – currently with Trout Unlimited. Recommend appointment as a Public Interest member.
- Fred Jacobs - currently Senior Vice President at AKRP, an environmental consulting firm. Recommended for appointment as Economic Interest.

**Motion** made to approve this slate of individuals for appointment as SWQAC member – **unanimous approval**.

- The following members' term will expire in December 2007:
  - Linda Hanifin Bonner, Mike Clar, Dave Duree, George Hanson, Jan Graham, Ed Merrifield, Nancy Pentz, Karen Wiggen, Frank Wise, Victoria Woodward.

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## News from MDE – Jack Bowen (*attachment*)

- **Groundwater Symposium**
  - MDE is sponsoring Groundwater Symposium
  - Registration is \$15. and deadline is September 5, 2007
  - Email will be forwarded with registration information
- **Capital Programs**
  - Annual Capital Project Solicitation
    - Pre-applications far exceeded the amount of available funds
    - Only 33 projects were funded out of 187 applications received.
- **Nutrient Trading Cap Policy**
  - Coming close to being finalized
  - Phase II is getting started – release expected by the end of the year

Discussion on municipal wastewater treatment plants (POTWs) paying fees to help support MDE's permitting program. **Motion** made for the Executive Subcommittee to send a letter to Secretary Wilson to encourage implementing fee structure for POTWs – **motion approved**.

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

- **Reorganization**
  - Creation of Office of Sustainability
  - Dave Goshorn will be moving to Office of Sustainability
  - Changes in naming and identifying new boating unit will be put together.
- **BayStat**
  - Sixth meeting was held Wednesday with Governor and Secretaries.
  - Initial meetings were on background
  - Goal is to publish initial website before next BayStat meeting
  - Agencies to report on progress at next meeting
  - Dave Goshorn has been sitting in on meetings
- **Chesapeake Bay – Summer 2007 Forecast**
  - Dissolved oxygen – 2007 conditions expected to be slightly worse than 2006
  - Bay grasses – no significant change predicted
  - Harmful algal blooms – likely to be average compared to previous years
- **Drought**
  - Mean monthly precipitation below normal range for last 5 of 7 months
  - Reduced freshwater to Bay can mean fewer nutrients, which result in fewer algae blooms and higher dissolved oxygen.
  - There have been more algae blooms than expected
  - Bloom conditions have resulted in record number of fish kills.

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## **Vertical Profile Monitoring**

- Vertical profiler is small, pontoon platform with sensor array and data storage device
- Collection of data began June 29 in the lower Potomac River
- Sensors are raised and lowered every 3 hours measuring and recording water quality conditions
- Will give another dimension into vertical movements of algal blooms and wind-related mixing events.

## • **Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS)**

- The three-buoy system meets several goals: providing historical and cultural information about the Bay and provide key monitoring information to help assess water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen.
- Information can be viewed online at [www.buoybay.org](http://www.buoybay.org).

## • **Maryland Forest Conservation Goals**

- State's long-term goal is to retain existing levels of forest cover and expand it in areas of higher benefit.
- Maryland working to establish Baywide goals

## • **Corsica River Update**

- There has been some progress

## **SSA Administration** – John Backus

### • **Intermittent Streams**

- This is a draft document
- It will be sent up the chain for internal review

### • **Water Quality Assessment**

- Report is complete

### • **Tier II Waters**

- HB 1141 - Putting together user-friendly packet for counties
- Identifying where Tier II waters are
- What the regulations mean

## ***Special Presentations***

- **Maryland Mining Program Bureau of Mines** – Ed Larrimore (*Powerpoint attached*)
- **Aaron Run Watershed** – Laura Haynes

## ***Subcommittee Reports***

### **Watershed Subcommittee** – Mike Clar

- Stormwater Act stakeholders' meeting was held July 30<sup>th</sup>
  - MDE was there to listen and will be reporting back sometime in September
  - Report to House and Senate committees in December
  - Structuring of new regulations will take longer than thought
  - Environmental site design is new
  - Coalition of environmental groups put together some principles
- Meeting right after today's meeting -

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**Wastewater** – Dave Duree

- Have contact with Jay Prager on BRF as it relates to septic fund
- CPP – look at comments and give feedback
- Submitted draft memo to Jim George
- Intermittent Streams
  - Regulations allowed wastewater discharges into streams
  - Allowed several plants to discharge into dry ditches
  - Several changes on draft done in legislative format
  - Subcommittee negotiated with MDE on the intermittent stream regulations
  - **Motion** to approve MDE’s intermittent stream regulations as presented. Motion approved.

**Water Resources** – Frank Wise

- Primarily keeping track of Governor’s Advisory Committee
  - Overall Committee has one year left
  - Funding/financial subcommittee – on water quality initiatives looking into various options; fee structure and other ways to fund initiatives
  - Water Quality subcommittee –drafting overview report; what can be done to protect quality of resources
  - Final report due July 2008
- Trying to rejuvenate Subcommittee – meet for 5 minutes after meeting

*Miscellaneous*

**SWQAC Application**

- Remove DNR name from SWQAC application on DNR website
- Remove Date of Birth and Social Security Number

**Website**

- Steve Witt to take over maintaining SWQAC website.

*Meeting Adjourned 12:15 p.m.*