

Cecil Land Use Alliance  
General Meeting Minutes  
June 24, 2010  
Elkton Public Library

Attendance: 7 members, 3 guests

Meeting began at 7:06 with introduction by Rupert Rossetti of Terry Cummings of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Terry is the Grassroots Advocacy Manager. He was in Cecil County to explore the agricultural concerns with next steps in Chesapeake Bay clean up and spent his evening helping CLUA understand current activity in support of Chesapeake Bay health.

Summary of Presentation:

1. Description of the range and activities of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)  
Foundation is active in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia with headquarters in MD. The organization educates, does restoration, and develops and advocates for policy changes and funding to assure Bay clean up.
2. Successful suit by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation required the federal government to enforce the Clean Water Act to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay.
3. Executive Order issued by President Obama requires federal agencies to develop and implement plans that meet goals of the clean water act. This has resulted in the approach of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of pollution input at various watershed levels. It is currently being modeled and can be viewed on line. (Site available?) The TMDL is a pollution budget that will translate into steps needed to achieve clean water. The modeling and numbers are to be complete by the end of 2010.
4. Since the Executive Order cannot provide funding, legislation has been drafted to implement the TMDL and provide funding to assist states in meeting objectives for reduction of point-source and non-point-source pollution. The Chesapeake Clean Water Act:
  - a. Enforces science-based pollution limits from all nutrient sources.
  - b. Allows states freedom to develop the plan that fits their needs as long as they meet targets.
  - c. Provides funding for technical assistance for farmers and for storm water control. (The Agriculture Bill already provides implementation funds for farm best management practices.)
  - d. Encourages market based approaches which can reward those who clean up beyond their requirement with the right to sell pollution credits.

5. Status of the Bill.

Mark-up in the Senate is hoped for before the August recess. There is stiff competition for Senate committee time for what is considered a regional bill.

A provision (Safe Harbor) has been added to protect those who have done all that they were required to do per the plan, even if the TMDL is not met. About 15 years is allowed for the full implementation of the plans.

6. Questions:

- a. Stormwater requirements and suggestions. There's a great need for best practices at the residential and developer level.
- b. Development of Total Maximum Daily Load model. How well-accepted is the model?
- c. Effect of other states on Maryland farmers. Discussed the Safe Harbor provision as protection here. Also noted the progress that farmers like Bill Kilby have made in cleaning up streams through vegetative buffering and fencing that have brought back fish and cleaned the stream to better than adequate quality.
- d. Adequacy of funding for things like "best available technology" septic systems. Noted that septic systems result in four times the pollution of wastewater treatment processes.

Action: CLUA board agreed to sign on to support the CCWA in a letter to committee chair Barbara Boxer.

Next CLUA board meeting 7 pm Thursday, July 15 at Elkton Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.