



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary-DRAFT

January 17th, 2025

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2025/1/17/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Boddye welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

The approval of the November 2024 meeting summary was postponed until the March CBPC Meeting.

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ryan Losak, Banner Public Affairs

Ryan Losak from Banner Public Affairs provided a federal legislative update on the impacts of the 2024 election and the agenda for the new congress and administration in 2025. He touched on the finishing of FY25 appropriations, confirming new cabinet officials, the Farm Bill, reconciliation, and other relevant legislation.

Federal Legislative Update:

- New Congress – Mr. Losak noted that members are being oriented and introduced to their responsibilities. This includes new MD Senator Alsobrooks who was added to the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) committee.
- Appointments – Mr. Losak shared that Secretary of State was likely to be appointed quickly but other Cabinet appointments may take longer.

Congressional Priorities and Appropriations:

- Appropriations Bill- Mr. Losak brought up the looming continuing resolution (CR) deadline of March 14th when funding for the government expires. He noted that it is likely that a new funding bill will be a mix of last years House and Senate budgets.
- Farm Bill- Mr. Losak explained that the Farm Bill would be a big priority for this Congress.

Reconciliation Process and Policy Priorities:

- Mr. Losak addressed the potential for the reconciliation process to be used for tax and energy policies, and the possibility of expanding its scope to include other policy priorities. He believes that reconciliation won't be passed until fall given the differing priorities and structures proposed by the House and Senate.

4. MD/VA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lisa Ochsenhirt, Aqua Law

Ms. Ochsenhirt presented on environmental topics relevant to the 2025 Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies, including legislation on climate change, the Chesapeake Bay, and dam safety. She also commented on the status of state and federal budgets and the potential impacts budget negotiations may have on legislative priorities such as natural resources.



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In the Maryland General Assembly key topics included:

- The Maryland budget faces a significant deficit, impacting new projects and programs.
 - Concerns around potential cuts to Climate Change programs
 - RENEW Act which secures payments from fossil fuel businesses
- Employment guidelines, Dam safety, Water Advisory Day

In the Virginia General Assembly key topics included:

- [Executive Directive 10](#) regarding Chesapeake Bay Restoration
- State funding for wastewater and stormwater projects.
- Potential expansion of PFAS regulations.
- Chesapeake Bay related bills
- Storm risk, Flooding, and Dam safety
- The Virginia budget is in good shape, with excess revenues exceeding forecasts.

5. POTOMAC SECONDARY SOURCE STUDY

Steve Bieber, COG

Mr. Bieber provided an overview of the feasibility study for a secondary source of water supply for the Washington DC Metropolitan Area (WMA). The study aims to ensure a reliable backup water source in case the primary source, the Potomac River, becomes unusable due to contamination or prolonged drought. Mr. Bieber covered the study authority, originating from the 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), the study plan and status, the study area, existing conditions and alternatives evaluation, and logistical aspects going forward.

6. MEMBER & STAFF UPDATES

- Ms. Bolton reminded members about the COG's 2025 [Legislative Priorities](#) and summarized the Water Resources General Updates document.

If CBPC Members are interested in joining a Legislative Tracking Committee they should email Caitlin Bolton (cbolton@mwkog.org).

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next CBPC meeting will be [March 21st, 2025](#)



CBPC Meeting Summary-draft
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PARTICIPANTS:

Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Montgomery County
Kenny Boddye (**Chair**), Prince William County
Adam Van Grack
Andrea Lewis, Fairfax County
Bob Weir, Prince William County
Brian Nolte, Fairfax County
Christopher Clark, Prince George's County
Heather Gewandter, City of Rockville
Jacinta Green, Alexandria
JD Spain Sr., Arlington
Jenni Pompi, Greenbelt
Jessica Landman, Takoma Park, MD
Kishia Powell, WSSC
Kyle Redden, Charles County
Laura Downs, Falls Church
Lisa Ochsenhirt, AquaLaw
Maria Mackie, College Park, MD
MC Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County
Michele Blair, Laurel, MD
Monta Burrough, Laurel, MD
Myles Cooper, AlexRenew
Nasser Manazani, Montgomery County
Normand Goulet, NVRC
Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
Penny Gross
Ryan Losak, Banner Public Affairs
Susan Cunningham, Arlington County Board
Susan Whitney, College Park, MD

COG Staff:

Caitlin Bolton
Christine Howard
Lisa Ragain
Steven Bieber