



CHESAPEAKE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 117, Galesville, Maryland 20765

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lee Greenbaum, President 2005



(Photo by Rich Romer)

The fall season got off to a great start with the co-sponsorship of the public forum on stormwater control that was held at the Smithsonian's Philip Reed Center on 25 September. It was well attended with standing room only. There was ample opportunity for the attendees to ask questions that allowed the speakers to go into greater depth than the planned presentations. We are indebted to our trustee, Jerry Hill for his hard work in helping to develop the program, in collaboration with members of the South County Exchange, the South River Federation, the Alliance for Sustainable Communities, and the Maryland Aquatic Resource Coalition. An in-depth report about the forum can be found in this newsletter. I would also like to thank Brenda DeLalla for the refreshments, Bill Klepczynski for preparing the mailing labels and our secretary, Lloyd Lewis for mailing out announcements.

CEPA is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Trustees to the Board. They are Robert Gallagher and Rich Romer. Bob resides in Shady Side and has just recently retired from the active practice of law. He is now the newly appointed River Keeper for the West and Rhode Rivers. Rich Romer, retired from the Air Force, is a Past Commander of the Annapolis Sail & Power Squadron which is highly committed to water safety and the protection of the environment. Rich is our first Trustee from Calvert County.

Thanks to Vice President Gary Antonides for setting up our CEPA booth with its new banner at Discovery Village on Parish Creek for the Blessing of the Fleet on

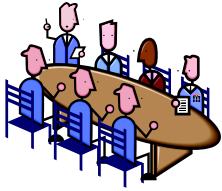
August 6. The booth also represented the West/Rhode Riverkeeper. We had a number of interested attendees who took some of our brochures and application forms.



CEPA/Riverkeeper Booth at the Blessing of the Fleet
(Photo by Gary Antonides)

During the summer, I have been in touch with some of the administrators of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission in Hagerstown and Pennsylvania, and with the Army Corps of Engineers in Baltimore in an effort to get information about sediment accumulation in the Susquehanna River dams and to find out what action, if any, is being taken to reduce the excessive sediment loading above the Conowingo Dam. The dams above the Conowingo are completely filled with sediment and during any heavy rains or storms the sediment spills over the dams. This sediment is then carried down to and over the Conowingo Dam. As of 1990, the total amount of sediment trapped by the dams has been estimated to be 259 million tons. On average, the current rate of sediment deposited behind the Conowingo Dam would be enough to fill 100 railroad cars per day. How long can this continue? Here we have another very serious source of sediment that undoubtedly contains all kinds of pollutants that eventually reach the Chesapeake Bay. Hopefully some action will be taken in the near future to remove the sediment as opposed to the continued support for new studies.

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RIVERKEEPER'S REPORT



Bob Gallagher, West/Rhode Riverkeeper

Thanks to the efforts of Lee Greenbaum, we have established our first Creek Watchers Group in Whitmarsh Creek. I have identified 20 other creeks and river segments where I would like to establish similar groups by next spring. I hope to be able to look to Lee and other CEPA people to help.

We have seen a lot of activity on critical area issues. Five stop-work orders were issued as a result of our efforts. We have an arrangement with the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic to do a scholarly study of enforcement (or lack of enforcement) of the critical area laws. My hope is this will be a first step toward forcing the county and state governments to increase enforcement activity.

We have joined forces with Richard Crenshaw of Project Oyster West River to expand regular water quality testing in the West River. We are now testing about 12 sites.

We have submitted formal comments on several regulatory issues including restrictions on golf course development in the critical area and power dredging of oysters.

I and other waterkeepers have been active on the issue of stormwater. I testified at a County Council meeting, authored a letter to the editor of the Capital, and spoke at the recent stormwater forum.

Our fundraising efforts include applications for grants from three sources, two of which would be awarded to CEPA and designated as funding for the West/Rhode Riverkeeper.

Bob Gallagher, West/Rhode Riverkeeper
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PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

Rich Romer, Trustee
(With contributions from Jerry Hill and Lloyd Lewis)

The issue of stormwater runoff as a significant source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay is getting increased attention in Anne Arundel County. As development converts wooded buffers and farmland into houses and shopping centers, an increasing amount of open land is being covered with impervious surfaces -- buildings, parking lots, roads and streets, and other forms of infrastructure. These cause storm water to be collected and channeled unimpeded into natural streams which flow directly into the tributaries of the Bay. Natural filtration is eliminated which would remove chemicals and polluting elements introduced to the environment by people, vehicles, industry and commerce. In addition, the rush of water seriously erodes stream beds and carries the combined pollutants and silt directly into the Bay with the effects of smothering plants and immobile animal species and blocking light. More development brings more pollutants deposited on more impervious surfaces and less ability to control it. According to recent science, a significant environmental threshold is reached when a watershed area's impervious surface reaches 9%.

On September 25th, CEPA joined four other local groups in presenting a forum to highlight the growing problem and discuss possible solutions. Co-sponsoring the Forum, called "Stormwater: An Unnatural Disaster" were the South County Exchange, the South River Federation, the Alliance for Sustainable Communities, and the Maryland Aquatic Resource Coalition.

7th District County Council Member Ed Reilly (R-Crofton) served as the forum's moderator which was held in the Phillip Reed Education Building at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) which is off Muddy Creek Road and located on the Rhode River. A number of groups had set up exhibits

in the Reed Building's lobby and volunteers provided light snacks and nonalcoholic beverages for the 100 people in attendance.

CEPA trustee and SERC Deputy Director Dennis Whigham started the presentations with a brief description of how SERC is filtering stormwater runoff in a bog/wetland in conjunction with recent expansion of their research complex. He then provided the results of recent research that studied several biological stream and estuarine indicators versus the amount of watershed development. The amount and diversity of stream invertebrates decreases with an increase in the amount of development in a watershed. There is a significant decrease when the level of development results in approximately 9% coverage with impervious surfaces. Dennis then showed the amount of impervious area in the various sub-watersheds which make up the South River watershed. Some of these areas exceed this 9% threshold.

Next, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works Director, Ron Bowen, used a PowerPoint presentation to scope the problem of stormwater runoff. Without validating the figure, Bowen conceded that remediation has been estimated to cost as much as \$400 million.

Phil Davenport, the Business Manager for the City of Virginia Beach provided an overview of a municipal initiative his city had taken in 1992 to establish a stormwater utility. The utility is provided dedicated funds for stormwater control and remediation projects within the municipality. They are raised by the levy of an annual fee on every residence and business.

Following a break, seven different community representatives presented a more local focus on the problem, some using photographs and Power Point to depict broken stormwater management pipes and eroded stream beds badly in need of repair.



CEPA Trustee Sonny Tucker
(Photo by Rich Romer)

There was no question in the minds of the 100 attendees at the Forum that a proposed stormwater runoff management fee of \$60 per household per year was acceptable and necessary to generate the funds to address the problem.

Reilly, however, made it clear that broader support would be required from the Anne Arundel electorate before the County Executive and County Council would have the

political will to impose such a fee, particularly with 2006 being an election year. He suggested that it would be necessary to work with candidates for County Executive to raise their level of awareness of the problem and to persuade them to support such an initiative. He feels that the upcoming election campaign provides an improved opportunity to perform this "missionary work".



Riverkeeper Bob Gallagher
(Photo by Rich Romer)

Bob Gallagher, the Riverkeeper on the West and Rhode Rivers, and also a CEPA trustee, called for leadership from the County Council on the issue. Reilly pointed out that he was just one of six members on the Council, that the County Executive set the spending priorities in the budget, and that broader support was required from the public.

At the end of the afternoon, the attendees of the stormwater runoff management forum departed SERC with a heightened awareness of the problem and a sense of mission about what needed to be done to craft a community-wide solution. CEPA intends to be active in working for a solution to this very important issue.

EXPANSION OF CALVERT CLIFFS PROPOSED

Rich Romer, Trustee

When Baltimore Gas & Electric built a nuclear power plant at Calvert Cliffs in the 1970s, Calvert County was a sleepy rural backwater with fewer than 40,000 people. Its main economic engines were the growing and selling of tobacco and commercial fishing and crabbing, just as they had been for its 300+ year history. Calvert was a popular choice for the power plant throughout the rest of Maryland because of its relative remoteness and the relatively small population upon which any adverse impact would fall.

The nuclear power plant was constructed on 2300 acres of land located in the southern one third of Calvert County on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay just to the north of historic Cove Point. The first of two reactors was put on line in 1975, and the second in 1977, bringing the plant's total production capacity up to 1700 megawatts. The original design for the facility provided for an eventual expansion to a total of four nuclear reactors.

Both of the plant's current reactors use Bay water, rather than cooling towers, for their cooling. The water is drawn in, passed through the reactors' cooling loops, and returned to the Bay.

In 2000, Calvert Cliffs became the first nuclear power plant in the United States to receive a 20 year license extension from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The first reactor is now licensed through 2034 and the second through 2036. Over a two year period ending in 2002, the two reactors were taken off the line, one at a time, so their steam generators could be replaced.

Over the past two decades, people throughout the area discovered the pleasant life style in Calvert County, and it became the fastest growing jurisdiction in Maryland, and the current population approaches 80,000. It is predominately a bedroom community, with an increasingly affluent populace. There are, however, very few white collar employment opportunities in the County and most of the people who live there commute to Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. The Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant was, and is, the largest employer in Calvert County with a permanent workforce of about 3500.

The population explosion placed an increasing demand for capital investment funds as the County government found themselves required to build and improve roads, increase recreational facilities and expand government services. The most expensive cost associated with development was the need to build one new school every year and then incur the annual costs of the teachers, administrators, staff and the maintenance. The nuclear power plant's annual property tax of more than \$15 million permitted this to take place without the imposition of increased taxes on the rest of the electorate, and also allowed the County to amass a Rainy Day Fund surplus which grew to as much as \$50 million.

In the late 1990s, the generation, distribution, sales, and marketing of electrical power was deregulated. To maximize the opportunities offered by deregulation, Baltimore Gas & Electric reorganized itself into a number of separate wholly owned operating entities under a newly created holding company, Constellation Energy Group. In a marketing driven decision, the name BGE was given to the wholly owned company which sells electricity directly to residential and commercial users. The nuclear power plant at Calvert Cliffs was reorganized into its own operating company. To make Constellation Energy competitive as it sold electricity outside Maryland, the General Assembly provided Calvert County an annual \$6.1 million subsidy, thereby permitting the County to provide the power plant a tax reduction of almost \$9 million. Constellation Energy also purchased an existing nuclear power plant located in New York State which they integrated into the holding company.

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington have raised the level of concern at Calvert Cliffs. In addition to severely restricting public access to the site and building a layered defense around the plant, the private security force has been augmented by the Calvert County Sheriff's Department and the Maryland State Police. Land, air, and water approaches to the plant are constantly monitored.

Two months ago, President George W. Bush spent a morning at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, accompanied by Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Nils Diaz. Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich and Constellation Energy Group Chairman Mayo Shattuck were also there. After a tour of the facility, Bush addressed a group of 500 people made up of Calvert Cliffs employees, local elected officials, and supporters. In the presence of a cadre of national and local media, Bush used Calvert Cliffs as the backdrop to urge the Congress to pass his proposed Energy Bill before their August recess. They did so, and Bush has since signed it.

The new Energy Bill provides significant tax and financial incentives for development of new nuclear power capacity to further a stated goal of "energy independence from foreign sources." The underlying objective is to reduce the growing dependence on imported oil by committing its use to mobile applications -- cars, trucks, buses, trains, and airplanes, while power generation and other fixed applications are increasingly powered by coal and nuclear power. According to Bush, "We have a 250 year supply of coal within our borders, and only 20% of our current electricity is generated by nuclear energy".

Calvert Cliffs has been working for some time on expanding its generating capacity. Several years ago, they proposed to install two additional generators on the site powered by fossil fuel. More recently, they entered into the so-called Nu-Start competition where six different locations were competing for license to construct two new nuclear power plants. They worked with Calvert County government to develop a \$200 million package of incentives and tax breaks. Without holding any public hearings, Calvert County's Board of Commissioners unanimously provided their unqualified endorsement of Calvert Cliffs Nu-Start proposal. If awarded, the plant was expected to bring in an additional 1500 jobs and add significantly to the annual property tax payments to the County.

In the past month, Constellation Energy announced that it was withdrawing from the Nu-Start competition. It has instead formed a joint venture with the French energy company Areva to go forward with a third reactor on the Calvert Cliffs site. In a very success oriented schedule, they have stated that they are seeking NRC approval in 2006, expect to start

CEPA'S OUTREACH PROGRAM

Jerry Hill, Trustee

construction in 2010, and put the new generating capacity on line in 2015. According to their local government liaison, Bonnie Johanson, "The incentives contained in the new Energy Bill are more supportive of this approach." In response to a direct question about how the new reactor would be cooled, Johanson replied, "As with the two existing reactors, we plan to use Bay water."

Areva has already started a series of high level marketing and advertising initiatives to get their name known. Targeted ads designed to familiarize the public with their name as an energy company have already begun to appear on television programs viewed by financial investors, government officials, and decision makers.

There are two primary areas of environmental concern about the proposed construction of a third nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs -- the method of cooling the reactor and the disposal of spent nuclear waste. Although the NRC has spent billions of dollars constructing a national depository for spent waste at Nevada's Yucca Mountain, a combination of politics and environmental concerns has prevented its opening. Calvert Cliffs currently stores spent nuclear waste in concrete caskets on site, an area which they will be expanding in the near future. There are also the environmental concerns associated with the 40% expansion of the plant's workforce and its impact on roads, traffic, schools, housing, and the transformation of a rural landscape into proliferating subdivisions needing water and sewer infrastructure.

Representatives from Constellation Energy and their Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant will soon be invited to discuss their expansion plans and the associated environmental impacts at a meeting of CEPA's Board of Trustees.

At the beginning of 2005, the CEPA Board of Trustees prepared a plan for the activities and objectives of the organization for the year. The plan is the result of a review of our resources, our strengths, and our objectives as an organization. This process included some introspection into where we have been effective in the past and how we can change to be a more effective organization. Our operating plan for 2005 has us dedicating more of our energies to fostering public awareness and encouraging public activism on issues affecting the health and recovery of the Chesapeake Bay and our local environment. We recognize that in order to be effective in these goals we need to improve relationships and lines of communication with the many groups and associations in the bay region with concerns about the local environment and preserving our quality of life.

CEPA has been conducting outreach visits to local environmental groups and organizations to help us establish these relationships. In the past several months we have visited the Davidsonville Area Civic Association, the Severn River Association, the South River Federation, and the Mayo Kiwanis Club to introduce ourselves, talk briefly about CEPA, and learn about the organizations visited. We also had a booth at the South County Festival in Deale and at the Blessing of the Fleet at Discovery Village. We are continuing to contact groups to request visits. If we do not contact your group or organization and you would like to learn about CEPA, please contact CEPA Board member Jerry Hill at jhill@jjma.com.

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Our by-laws require trustees to be elected for two year terms and this year we have seven vacancies. The following are the nominees for the CEPA Board of Trustees for 2006. They are completing their two year terms or are new nominees.

If you are a member of CEPA, please vote for up to 7 trustees and mail this ballot to CEPA, P.O. Box 117, Galesville, MD 20765 by Dec. 1, 2005.

_____ Gary Antonides
_____ George (Jerry) Hill
_____ Stuart Pittman
_____ Charles (Sonny) Tucker

_____ Brenda DeLalla
_____ Anson (Tuck) Hines
_____ Rich Romer
_____ Write-in _____

(The Trustees whose terms are not expiring are: David Casnoff, Bob Gallagher, Leon Greenbaum, Bill Klepczynski, Lloyd Lewis, and Dennis Whigham.)

2006 CEPA MEMBERSHIP / RIVERKEEPER CONTRIBUTION

If you would like to support CEPA's efforts, or support the West/Rhode Riverkeeper, please use the form below. Donations to both are tax deductible. A CEPA membership for 2006 is \$20., and entitles you to our newsletters, and to vote for our Trustees. Mail to: CEPA

PO Box 117
Galesville, MD 20765.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ (Optional)

Email _____ (Optional)

Occupation _____ (Optional)

Enclosed is: \$20. for my CEPA membership. (Or other amount: \$ _____)

\$ _____ Contribution to the West/Rhode Riverkeeper



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