



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

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lee Greenbaum, President 2006



Of major concern to watermen, recreational fishermen and anyone using the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, is the steady increase in pollutants from storm water runoff, commercial sources, and also pollution from the Susquehanna River following unusually heavy rainfalls.

The Susquehanna is the major supplier of fresh water, (about 65 percent) to the Chesapeake Bay, but following major storms, prolonged rainfall and hurricanes, it is also a major supplier of sediment and chemical pollutants. The Susquehanna has four hydroelectric dams that trap sediment. The largest and southernmost is the Conowingo Dam. The others are the Holtwood, the Safe Harbor and York Haven dams. All of the dams, except for the Conowingo are topped out with sediment and it has been estimated that the Conowingo will top out by the year 2015.

The Susquehanna River Basin includes 27,500 square miles of watershed, one half of it in Pennsylvania, one quarter in New York State, and the balance of course is in Maryland. With this as background, one might ask if the states that share the Susquehanna River Basin have adequate laws and regulations to regulate the various earth disturbance activities that generate soil erosion. Has the effectiveness of these programs been objectively evaluated? If so, to what extent have any recommendations been implemented?

Are we going to have to wait until 2013, 2014 or 2015 when the Conowingo Dam tops out with sediment before New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the power companies make a combined effort to remove the sediment from the dams and take more aggressive action to reduce land erosion? Hopefully our own state legislature and our appointed officials will take the lead, since the pollutants eventually wind up in the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers.

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RIVERKEEPER'S REPORT

Bob Gallagher, West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc.



In each of the past three CEPA Newsletters I have summarized some of the things we have done during the preceding quarter. This quarter, I will back up a couple of steps to describe the philosophy that guides the West/Rhode Riverkeeper program.

The job of the West/Rhode Riverkeeper is to reduce and eliminate pollution in the West and Rhode Rivers, and also the Bay to the extent that water quality in the Bay affects water quality in our rivers. The main sources of pollution are well known:

- Storm water runoff;
- Outdated waste water treatment plants and failing septic systems;
- Farm runoff;
- Siltation from construction and development;
- Water deposition of airborne pollutants from dirty power plants; and
- An ever growing number of gas guzzling cars and other sources of air pollution.

We also know how to reduce or eliminate these sources of pollution. The reason we haven't eliminated or seriously reduced them is that our elected and appointed leaders don't have the political will to do it.

The philosophy of the West/Rhode Riverkeeper is to address pollution problems from two directions. First, we must build a strong community-based organization with a voice loud enough to let our leaders know that cleaning up our polluted rivers and the Bay must get a higher priority. We will do that by using every available means to make every member of the community an activist in the cause of cleaning up our water. Those means include educational activities for all ages, involvement of the community in monitoring the rivers as Creekwatchers, expansion of opportunities for participation in clean ups, shoreline and habitat restoration, and other events such as wade-ins and watershed snapshots.

Second, we will aggressively advocate for the elimination of pollution wherever the opportunity arises, whether it is going after polluters directly, advocating stronger laws against pollution, or trying to force government to do a better job of enforcing existing laws against pollution.

In January we opened an office at Discovery Village in Shady Side. Also in January, Amy Colhoun joined us as our Program Director. We are grateful for the support we have received from CEPA including the opportunity to reach you through this newsletter.

We hope to publish our first newsletter within the next few weeks. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please call me at 410-533-9002 or drop me an e-mail at: riverkeeper@comcast.net. Or, better yet, drop by the office at Discovery Village (it is best to call first in case we are out on the river.)

See you on the river.

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CEPA ESTABLISHES WEBSITE

Gary Antonides, Trustee

CEPA recently established a website at www.cepaonline.org. At present, the site is sparse, but, having gone through the process of getting it set up, we are now in the process of developing it further. It will explain the goals of CEPA, list its officers and trustees, include an application form for membership, report on events and issues of concern, and tell how to contact us.

One of the site's most important features is that our newsletter will be posted on the site. We hope many of our readers will choose to read the newsletter on line. If this is your preference, please send an email to garyantonides@comcast.net with your name and email address. We will take you off our mailing list and send you an email when each issue is posted, so a single click will connect you to the newsletter. We feel this way works better than sending it as an attachment to an email, which may take a long time to download (particularly on dial-up connections), and may arrive at an inconvenient time. And the on-line version will have color pictures!

CONSTELLATION ENERGY PLANS NEW REACTOR—UPDATE

Rich Romer, Trustee

Late in 2005, the Boards of Directors for Constellation Energy (Con Energy) and Florida Power and Light (FPL) announced plans to merge the two companies creating the fourth largest energy producer in the U.S. The process will take approximately one year and require approval of the stock holders of both companies as well as a number of Local, State and Federal regulatory agencies. The merged company, will be known as Constellation Energy, and will be the owner and operator of seven existing nuclear power plants. In the meantime, Constellation Energy is moving forward with its previously announced plans to add an additional nuclear reactor at one of its two plants, Calvert Cliffs or Nine Mile Island in New York. To summarize the current situation:

- Con Energy's Board of Directors has approved submitting an application to the NRC in 2006 for an additional 1600 megawatt nuclear reactor. A team has been assembled in Baltimore to prepare the application.
- Con Energy will team with the French nuclear company Areva and with Bechtel in forming a new company, UniStar. Areva created a wholly owned U.S. subsidiary for this purpose and has begun an advertising campaign.
- Areva is currently constructing a nuclear power plant in Finland--the first ever application of the technology they propose to introduce in the US partnership with Con Energy.

- Con Energy has not yet decided whether to locate the new reactor at Calvert Cliffs or at Nine Mile Island in Upper New York State, which they also own. That decision is expected this Spring.
- The proposed reactor cooling method will be “once through” water cooling. The environmental effects of “once through” water cooling are considered by many experts to be minor. The impingement effects (due to the construction of the necessary facilities) would probably have a greater impact.
- The effects of using Bay water to cool the two current reactors at Calvert Cliff have been studied exhaustively, and there is a huge amount of data available. A 1987 book by Kenneth L. Heck, *Ecological Studies in the Middle Reach of the Chesapeake Bay--Calvert Cliffs* published by Springer-Verlag captures much of the data.
- Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources has been involved with Calvert Cliffs since 1974 and is the State Government Point of Contact for the regulatory and permitting process. They and the NRC will be involved in the formal licensing process of any third reactor at Calvert Cliffs.
- DNR plans to oppose the use of Bay Water to cool a third reactor at Calvert Cliffs. They will encourage the use of a dry cooling method. Viable technologies are emerging which can provide Con Energy the option of not using surface water to cool the new reactor.
- If additional power lines are required in Maryland, Con Energy has sufficient expansion room in their existing rights of way.

CEPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES BRIEFED ON SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE

Rich Romer, Trustee

The guest speakers at the December meeting of CEPA’s Board of Trustees were Delegate Tony O’Donnell, Minority Whip of Maryland’s House of Delegates and Don Statter, President of the Lake Lariat Clam Project, LLC.

Statter discussed the science behind a new approach to oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay--shellfish aquaculture. Using native oysters, it uses proven technology which results in a larger, faster growing, healthier oyster which can be brought to market at a competitive price. Instead of being raised on traditional oyster reefs on the floor of the Bay, oyster aquaculture raises them near the surface in floats where more of the nutrients and oxygen are located on which they thrive. The oysters perform their natural function of removing nutrients from the water, reducing pollution in any area where they are grown.

Statter is involved with Richard Pelz in the Circle C Oyster Ranch on St. Jerome’s Creek in St. Mary’s County where 100,000 oysters are being raised in an area covering about 1/10 of an acre of water. In addition, he has recently installed a number of clam floats in Lake Lariat, one of the most polluted lakes in Calvert County. A beneficial impact on water quality is already being observed.

Delegate O’Donnell is one of the General Assembly’s foremost environmental advocates and has been a proponent of shellfish aquaculture since becoming aware of it more than 10 years ago. He is active in finding funding and support for demonstration projects and increasing awareness about this promising new approach.

There was extensive interest by the CEPA Trustees in this fresh approach, and Shellfish AquaCulture will be of continuing interest to the organization with a long term goal of establishing a demonstration project in the West/Rhode River area.

CEPA’S 2006 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jerry Hill, Trustee

In January 2006, the CEPA Board of Trustees approved a plan for the activities and objectives of the organization for the year. This is the second year we have done this on a formal basis. We considered where we have been effective in the past and how we can change to be a more effective organization. In 2006, we will dedicate more of our energies to fostering public awareness and encouraging public activism on issues affecting the health and recovery of the Chesapeake Bay. We recognize that in order to do this, we need to maintain relationships and lines of communication with the many groups and associations in the bay region with similar concerns. In 2005 we attended meetings of 4 other organizations to foster these relationships, and we will continue this effort as the opportunities arise. 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.

The 2006 Planning Report sets the following specific objectives for the year

- *Newsletter* – The CEPA Newsletter will continue to be a high priority. The goal for 2006 will be to produce three newsletters.
- *Public Meeting* – CEPA will continue to present at least one public meeting per year. CEPA co-sponsored a very successful public forum on stormwater runoff in 2005 in addition to its own public meeting and will seek to join others in presenting other public meetings in 2006. A Public Meeting Committee will be appointed.

- *Outreach Program* – CEPA will continue its outreach program in 2006 in order to increase awareness of CEPA and its activities and to learn of the activities and concerns of other local environmental and community groups.
- *West/Rhode Riverkeeper* – CEPA endorses the waterkeeper program, and will attempt to participate in any local efforts to support the West/Rhode Riverkeeper. Working with the West/Rhode Riverkeeper in our outreach program has been very effective, and CEPA will continue to do so.
- *Website* – CEPA will complete efforts to establish a website in 2006. A web manager will be appointed from the board.
- *Water Resources* – Currently, CEPA is monitoring activities of the Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources.
- *Other Current Issues* – Other issues of interest identified by the CEPA Board of Trustees for involvement in 2006 include: plans for a new reactor at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear generating plant, the stormwater utility initiative for Anne Arundel County, silt material buildup behind the Susquehanna River dams, and stormwater management at the Parole development site.
- *Track Progress and Update Plan* – The CEPA Board will assess progress on the specific objectives of the plan and will redirect efforts and/or modify the objectives as necessary at mid-year. A new one-year plan will be prepared for the following calendar year prior to the start of that year.

PROFILE OF A TRUSTEE



CEPA's president, Leon Jack Greenbaum, Jr. was born in Baltimore in 1923. He got his BS from Loyola College and his MS from the University of Maryland. He also earned a

PhD in physiology from the U. of Maryland's School of Medicine in 1962.

He had an unusual 30-year career with the Navy, serving during WWII and the Korean War as a Naval aviator. In 1963, he qualified as a Naval diver, and worked in diving and submarine research at the USN Experimental Diving Unit, and as Chief of Diving Research, Naval Medical Research Inst. He retired from the Navy in 1971 as a Captain.

He worked at the National Institutes of Health, where he was responsible for scientific review of grants in the areas of stroke, head and spinal cord injury, MS, and Parkinson's Disease. He is the author of about 30 scientific publications, co-authored two texts on diving and submarine medicine, and was editor of three texts on diving and undersea warfare.

He and his wife Betty live on Whitemarsh Creek off the Rhode River. He organized the Carr' Wharf Community Association and served as its first president. He was appointed to the Small Area Planning Committee for Edgewater/Mayo. He joined CEPA in 1999, and was elected President in 2005.

He has been an avid sailor for many years. He organized and was Commodore of the Chesapeake Tartan 30 Association. He organized the Annapolis Naval Sailing Association and served as its first Commodore. He was Cruising One Design Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association.

CEPA is fortunate to have a leader with his knowledge of the Bay and his and passion for restoring and maintaining its quality, as well as his organizational skills and experience.

2006 CEPA MEMBERSHIP / RIVERKEEPER CONTRIBUTION



If you would like to support CEPA or 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)

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Enclosed is: \$20. for my CEPA membership.
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