



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

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jerry Hill, Co-President, 2007



At the end of each calendar year, the CEPA board of Trustees updates its annual plan for operations in the coming year. The plan states our core areas of interest and our concerns, and it establishes our general guidance for operations and things we would like to accomplish in the coming year. This year the plan re-establishes our interest in promoting education and awareness of local environmental issues. We believe that change occurs

when the public, individually and collectively, demonstrates a willingness to change, both by altering personal habits and behavior and by exerting pressure on the legislative process.

In the past few years I have observed a distinct swing in our personal and public awareness of issues involving the environment. Just a few of these issues are: carbon emissions potentially affecting global climate, storm water runoff from impervious surfaces, toxic and carcinogenic emissions, recycling of our consumer products, sustainability through renewable resources, and organically grown foods. More and more of us are realizing that we can't continue on the path we have been on and are demanding change. Those of us that are fortunate enough to live near the Chesapeake Bay and are able to observe and enjoy it have developed a special sense of responsibility as stewards of this fragile natural gem. This change was no more evident than in the past election. The changes in Maryland state government opened the door for a flood of environmental legislation, with generally bi-partisan support, that had stalled in previous sessions (see the article on environmental legislation addressed in the general assembly in this issue). Locally, the new Anne Arundel County Executive announced that the site in Waysons Corner near the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary slated for development as a Target store would be purchased by the county for preservation.

Although CEPA cannot claim direct credit for any of these events, it is gratifying to have been a small part of it, and we plan to keep doing what we are doing.

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RIVERKEEPER'S REPORT

Bob Gallagher, West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc.



The osprey are back, the water appears reasonably clear and the last couple of weeks of spectacular weather remind us why we choose to live here.

But several recent reports also remind us that all is not well. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation report card gave the bay a D overall. Now new scorecards bring more detailed results that indicate things may be even worse closer to home. The Chesapeake Bay Program recently released its scorecard breaking down results by regions of the bay. Our region, the lower western shore of Maryland, scored significantly lower than the bay as a whole. Most recently, watershed groups from the Magothy River south to the West River are producing river-by-river scorecards that give an even more detailed picture of our rivers.

The score card for the West and Rhode Rivers was prepared by Richard Crenshaw and uses types of data and methods generally consistent with those used for the other rivers. It should be available soon on our website.

In late May, we launched our expanded water quality monitoring program. Each Wednesday, we sample water from 12 sites for enterococci bacteria levels and we monitor 24 sites for water clarity, oxygen levels, salinity and temperature. When bacteria levels reach warning levels, we try to notify leaders in the communities affected. All results are available on our website.

On Saturday, June 30th, we will start operation of "Honeydipper", our waste water pump out boat, on the West and Rhode Rivers. The boat will be on call (VHF channel 71 or 410-533-9002) and available for scheduled service from Thursday through Monday, 9 am to 6 pm, through Labor Day. The service is FREE! Please pass the word to friends who have boats.

We will celebrate our successes and seek support for future efforts at a party and fundraiser hosted by Hartges Yacht Yard and Ava Hill on Saturday June 30th at Hartges. The party features R&B music by Riverside Drive and a fish fry and barbeque catered by Whitman's Catering. Tickets are \$30 and are available on our website or at Hartges. I hope to see you there.

See you on the river, Bob

Cell Phone: 410-533-9002

E-mail: riverkeeper@comcast.net

Website: www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org

CEPA ON TRACK TO MONITOR PST LANDFILL IN HARWOOD

A special committee formed to consider a grant for the purpose of long term monitoring of the groundwater near the PST Landfill in Harwood has recommended to the County Executive that a grant be awarded to CEPA for the monitoring. County Councilman Ed Reilly, State Delegate Bob Costa, and Mike Lofton (Harwood Civic Association President) are members of the committee, and the funds, about \$120,000. would be used to monitor already planned tests and conduct additional tests as necessary to ensure the quality of residents' drinking water.

If the County Executive agrees, a bill will go before the County Council to finalize the grant. The present owner of the landfill is required to monitor the groundwater for at least five years, so the grant will initially be used to evaluate the adequacy of their monitoring. After that, CEPA would be responsible for the monitoring, which could last for five or more additional years.

The County funds were collected as user fees at the landfill and held by the County to remedy any problems the landfill caused. CEPA would use them solely for technical support and expenses.

CEPA SUPPORTS COUNTY PROPOSAL ON NAVAL ACADEMY PROPERTY IN GAMBRILLS

Earlier this year, CEPA studied the Maryland Stadium Authority's proposal for a horse park on the old Naval Academy dairy farm property, and felt that it was very responsible with respect to the environment. We felt that, in the long view, this use would be better than the other proposals that we knew about for the property. Gravel mining would certainly not be as environmentally friendly, and the long term economic viability of raising crops on property leased from the government was questioned. We feared that would make the property vulnerable to development at a later date, whereas the establishment of a horse park would be more permanent.

Recently, however, the Stadium Authority withdrew their proposal for a horse park, and it now appears that Anne

Arundel County's proposal will be accepted. That proposal would maintain part of the property as an organic farm, but also would include community gardens, a botanical garden, education programs, and possibly a solar energy farm (tied into the BGE system), and a farm museum, according to County Executive John R. Leopold, who wants a long-term lease of the site. Events at the park could include hayrides, festivals, pick-your-own produce days and a corn maze. The Navy selected the County's proposal and negotiations to determine the terms of the lease will begin June 25.

According to the Baltimore Sun, six parties have expressed interest in the property, including Chaney Enterprises and Reliable Contracting Co. Inc., which have a joint proposal to create a sand-and-gravel mine; Maryland Sunrise Farms LLC, the current leaseholder; Chesterfield Farms, which also wants to maintain an organic farm; and Halle Cos., which has not elaborated on its plans.

CEPA had written a letter to the Navy department responsible for the decision on the future of this property and we urged that the present federal restriction that requires the property to remain agricultural in nature be honored. We believe that the other activities suggested by the County for the site will help to establish the property as a public location, and that will make future development less likely.

2007 LEGISLATION REPORT "A GREAT YEAR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT"



(Most of the information in this article was taken from the Maryland League of Conservation Voters website www.mdclc.org)

In the 2007 General Assembly Session, new legislation was passed that will reduce pollution from vehicles, control stormwater runoff, increase the state's use of solar energy, and eliminate phosphorus from dishwashing detergent. "This truly has been a great year for the environment so far. What a difference an election can make!" said Maryland League of Conservation Voters Executive Director Cindy Schwartz. "In 2006, voters sent a message loud and clear: the environment matters. And in the 2007 General Assembly, our elected officials delivered on their promise to protect our air, land, and water. From the Governor to new and returning legislators across the state, this legislative session saw bi-partisan support for tackling big issues like global warming and a polluted Chesapeake Bay. The environment is an issue that's here to stay in Maryland." Ms. Schwartz continued: "Although some important legislation failed to make it this year—like the 'Green Fund' and the Global Warming Solutions Act—we've made great strides in educating legislators and the public.

Among the big environmental winners this session:

Clean Cars Act (SB 103/HB 131) reduces emissions from vehicles. Three years ago, this bill did not make it out of committee and was opposed by the Ehrlich Administration. This year, strong support from Governor O'Malley gave Clean Cars a huge boost and the bill received bi-partisan

votes in committee and the House and Senate floors. O'Malley has signed this act into law.

Stormwater Management Act (SB 784/HB 786) limits polluted runoff from development by requiring developers to use environmental site design to manage stormwater and requiring cities and counties to update archaic local zoning codes. This will be the strongest stormwater bill in the nation. This has also been signed into law by Gov. O'Malley.

Solar energy bill (SB 595/HB 1016) adds solar energy to the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, requiring Maryland utilities to get 2 percent of their energy from solar power.

Phosphorous bill (SB 766/HB 1131) lessens pollution in Maryland waterways by banning the sale of dishwashing detergent containing phosphorous, and it was signed into law by the Governor.

Energy Efficiency Standards (SB 674/HB 909) sets energy efficiency standards for 7 new products sold in Maryland, saving Marylanders a projected \$1 billion while reducing global warming pollution.

Full Funding for Program Open Space: The budget proposed by Governor O'Malley and passed by the legislature includes full funding for Program Open Space in FY2008. Between 2002 and 2006, Maryland's governors and legislators raided \$480 million from this dedicated fund.

Legislation that did not pass this session includes:

The Chesapeake & Coastal Bays "Green Fund" (SB 901/HB 1220) would create a dedicated revenue source for cleaning up the Bay through a fee on impervious surfaces in new development. This bill had strong public support and passed in the House but the Senate committee did not act on it.

Global Warming Solutions Act (SB 409/HB 890) would reduce global warming emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020 and place a greater reliance on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Neither version of bill was voted out of committee. However, Governor O'Malley signed an Executive Order last month which establishes a Climate Change Commission charged with developing a plan to address the causes of climate change, prepare for the likely consequences in Maryland, and establish benchmarks and timetables for the Commission's recommendations.

Program Open Space loophole (SB 616/HB 475) would close the loophole allowing Limited Liability Corporations to transfer real estate without paying the transfer tax that goes to Program Open Space for land conservation. The state loses countless sums of money each year due to this loophole. HB 475 passed the House but SB 616/HB 475 were not voted on in the Senate Committee.

Energy Efficiency through utilities (SB 562/HB 631) would restore energy efficiency programs for electric utility customers. The House bill passed the House with a vote of 136-0, but both bills were killed in the Senate committee.

Energy Efficiency through tax incentives (SB 615/HB 595) would give tax breaks to individuals who install high efficiency heating and cooling equipment. SB 615 was never heard by committee and HB 595 was given an unfavorable committee report.

BEA POULIN SPEAKS TO TRUSTEES

Bea Poulin, Community and Constituent Services Specialist from the office of the County Executive, spoke to the CEPA Board of Trustees at the May meeting. She served the previous County Executive and was retained by John Leopold after his recent election. Mr. Leopold has shown his commitment to preserving the environment by purchasing the Wayson's Corner property previously considered for a Target store.

However, he has now submitted his first budget revealing some of his priorities. CEPA supported a dedicated fund for stormwater runoff during the last campaign, which Mr. Leopold claimed was not necessary, and stormwater does not appear to be a priority in his budget. CEPA asked Ms. Poulin to register our concern about that issue with Mr. Leopold, and will follow up with a letter, perhaps in conjunction with other local environmental organizations.

Another issue discussed was the funding for CEPA to monitor the PST landfill in Harwood. That task has been recommended by a special committee, but has to be approved by the County Executive and County Council. Although not an environmental issue as such, the Trustees also inquired about the progress of the improvement to the intersection of Rt. 214 and Muddy Creek Road. The Trustees expressed their appreciation for the access to the County Executive available through Ms. Poulin.

PROFILE OF A TRUSTEE

Bob Gallagher, West/Rhode Riverkeeper



Bob Gallagher and his wife Cate live on the West River in Shady Side. He grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania. He first developed his interest in the water during visits to the New Jersey beaches where he fished and surfed.

Bob went to college and law school in Washington D.C. where he kept a small sailboat on the Potomac River. After graduation he prosecuted civil rights cases with the

Department of Justice.

In the mid 1970s he became director of an office of the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation in the Palau islands of the western Pacific. In Palau he learned scuba diving and spear fishing and traveled to remote islands of the western and south Pacific. In Palau he first became involved as an advocate for the environment when he brought to the attention of the press and the people of Palau secret plans of American and Japanese oil interests to build a large oil transshipment port on the fragile reefs of Palau. The public scrutiny that followed caused the oil interests to abandon their plans.

After returning to Washington, Bob joined a law firm specializing in pension and employee benefits law. He litigated cases in federal courts around the country and eventually became managing partner of the firm.

When Bob and Cate bought their house in Shady Side in 1994, Bob became more interested in competitive sailing. He has raced in Wednesday night races on the West and Rhode Rivers, and weekend races on the Chesapeake ever since. He also became interested in offshore racing and has raced to New England, Bermuda, the Caribbean, across the Atlantic and in regattas in the Caribbean, Ireland and Thailand.

In 2005, Bob retired from his law firm and started West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc., becoming one of a dozen Waterkeepers working to protect and restore Maryland rivers. As Riverkeeper, he is engaged in education and restoration efforts around the West and Rhode Rivers and advocacy efforts in Annapolis and Washington to advance our right to clean water. To learn more about West/Rhode Riverkeeper go to www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org.

HOW TO GET ON CEPA'S MAILING LIST

CEPA distributes its newsletter primarily by electronic means, but if you prefer to get it by mail, just let us know. Either way, to get on our mailing list, please contact Gary Antonides (410-956-6378, garyantonides@comcast.net or go to www.cepaonline.org and click on [Contact Us](#). The newsletters are posted on www.cepaonline.org in a .pdf file. This requires Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded free. We send emails when a new newsletter is available and provide the link to go directly to it.



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