



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

**CEPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ANNUAL PLAN FOR CALENDAR 2023
(Mid-Year Update)**

The following is a plan for the calendar year 2023 to be used as guidance for the Board of Trustees of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA). The plan was formulated by the 2023 Planning Committee made up of Jerry Hill (Chairman), Gary Antonides, Sally Hornor, Mike Lofton, Al Tucker, Paul Christensen, and Solange Filoso. The plan identifies CEPA's core areas of interest, consistent with the charter of the organization, and lists goals, methods, actions and planned milestone dates for the coming year. The plan does not preclude CEPA from pursuing efforts that are unforeseen or are otherwise not mentioned below, as long as those actions are consistent with the Core Areas of Interest and are supported by a quorum of the members of the Board. A five-year look-ahead is included that presents long-term goals and a general vision of CEPA five years in the future.

MISSION STATEMENT

As an educational nonprofit, CEPA will advocate for and inform the public about efforts to improve critical environmental services provided by a functioning Chesapeake Bay estuary.

CORE AREAS OF INTEREST

In general terms, CEPA will examine the hydrological, geological, ecological, and socioeconomic systems that sustain the Chesapeake Bay. Those systems encompass the Bay and its watershed.

Specific items within that Core that have been, and continue to be, issues of concern for CEPA are: source water resources (quality and quantity), nutrient and pollutant infusion, marine life sustainability, invasive species, effects of climate change, limited public access to the bay, and land development policies that are detrimental to the health of the Bay.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGIES

CEPA's objectives will concentrate on citizen awareness and education of Core issues and encouragement of citizen activism and involvement in policy, legislation, and enforcement. CEPA will continue to create and publish articles relevant to our core areas of interest to our website, social media and other outlets. Additionally, CEPA intends to collaborate with Growth Action Network (GAN) on issues of common and synergistic concern. CEPA will create articles relevant to these concerns which will be published in either the GAN newsletter or the Alliance for Livable Communities (ALC) newsletter. They will be forwarded to both GAN and CEPA members. CEPA will join forces with

other groups and events when consistent with the Core Areas of Interest. CEPA will maintain educational information and awareness materials along with background information on its web-site (www.cepaonline.org) and on social media.

Board of Trustees

Leadership of the Board of Trustees is essential in achieving CEPA's objectives. CEPA's role in education, public involvement, and advocacy requires experienced, knowledgeable, and committed individuals serving on the Board. Five seats on the Board currently remain to be filled to achieve full representation of 15 members.

Qualifications, experience, and motivation will be considered in the selection and nomination process to fill vacant positions. Experience and capabilities in the areas of environmental science, legislative process, media and communications, source water, and legal process will be desirable.

Specific Objectives for the Year

Operational Objectives:

- *Membership and Outreach* - The membership goal will continue to be 70 dues paying members in 2023. The efforts at increasing membership and public visibility in recent years have been effective and will be continued in 2023.
- *Articles of Interest* - CEPA will generate and publish articles consistent with our core areas of interest. Articles will be published on our website, on social media, and other outlets.
- *Public Information* – CEPA intends to switch emphasis from a periodic public forum to electronic means to present events of current interest and relevance. Podcasts, interviews, videos are being considered as possible means of communication. Collaboration with other organizations will also be considered as appropriate.
- *Waste Management/PST Landfill Site Groundwater Quality Monitoring* – Continued water quality monitoring oversight and review at the Waste Management/PST rubble landfill site in Harwood will be directed by the Landfill Water Quality Monitoring Committee. The committee chairman will report status changes at the monthly Board meetings. Data, test summaries, and other items of report will be posted on the CEPA website. The committee chairman will prepare an operating budget in November to be incorporated into the next CEPA fiscal year's budget.
- *Source Water Resources* – CEPA will continue to monitor the status of water availability in the confined aquifers of the Western Shore. The goal for this year will be to act as a public advocate for source water quantity and quality in the region. The groundwater informational presentations to local groups throughout the area have been effective in raising awareness and will continue. CEPA will advocate for implementation of policy and appropriate legislation in the areas of source water management.
- *Alliance for Livable Communities (ALC)* – CEPA will continue to support ALC and collaborate on efforts of common interest.

- *Climate Change Effects* - CEPA will strive to raise awareness of the expected effects of climate change and the resultant environmental shift.
- *Legislative Activities* – CEPA will endeavor to be more active and visible in the State and County legislative process. CEPA will track developmental and pending legislation. CEPA will advocate for appropriate legislation through testimony, meetings, letters, or other means as appropriate.
- *Website* – The website has been completely redesigned and mobile phone accessibility has been enabled. CEPA will continue its maintenance support in 2023. CEPA will continue to maintain current information on the website in 2023 including information about CEPA, biographies of current Board members, the current Annual Plan, past newsletters, links to relevant websites and elected officials, and past forum presentations. Additional postings may include positions on current issues of interest, reference data on the PST/WM Landfill Groundwater Monitoring project, references from the Alliance for Livable Communities, regional source water reference data, pending state and county environmental legislation information, and other relevant topics.
- *CEPA Booth at Public Events* – CEPA has exhibited with a booth at local events of interest in past years to present CEPA materials and discuss environmental issues. CEPA will continue to participate in relevant events as they are scheduled.
- *Media Communication* – CEPA will consider alternative methods of utilizing media outlets for communication on topics in the Core Areas. The board has noted the effectiveness of the CEPA Facebook page in reaching interested parties and will increase utilization of that media for posting items of interest including articles.

Administrative Objectives:

- *Dues and Election of Members of the Board of Trustees* – Membership dues will be collected at the beginning of the calendar year. A letter will be mailed to the mailing list in November requesting dues for the following year. Basic annual membership will be \$30 with additional suggested levels of *Sponsoring Member* (\$50) and *Sustaining Member* (\$100). A ballot for electing Trustees will be included with the dues letter. Trustees will be elected by the members for two year terms beginning in February.
- *Elections of Officers of the Board of Trustees* – For 2024 elections of officers of the board of Trustees will be held in January. A nominating committee will be appointed by the President in December 2023. Candidates will be identified before the January Board meeting, and officers will be elected at the January Board meeting. In 2024 the President’s duties will be rotated among the active Board members. Each selected member will serve as the president for two successive months beginning in January. Selection of five Board members to preside as President for 2024 will be made at the December 2023 Board meeting.
- *CEPA Operating Budget* – A budget for the following year will be prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the Board at the November Board meeting. The budget will be approved at the December Board meeting.

- *CEPA Financial Statement* – An Annual Financial Statement will be prepared by the Treasurer and approved at the February Board meeting. A Financial Review Committee will be appointed by the President in November and will conduct a financial review of CEPA prior to presentation of the Financial Statement to the Board. The Financial Statement will include a statement of results of the financial review and will be signed by the chairman of the Financial Review Committee. Periodic (no less than quarterly) financial statements will be prepared by the treasurer and submitted to the Board.
- *Committee Members and Other Assignments* – The President will establish committees, appoint committee members, and make other assignments as appropriate and necessary to conduct operations efficiently and address any new issues before the Board.
- *Visiting Speakers* – The Board will continue to invite qualified speakers for the monthly board meetings on subjects of interest to CEPA.
- *Track Progress and Update Plan* – The Planning Committee will meet to assess progress on the specific objectives of the plan in July and will redirect efforts and/or modify the objectives as necessary. A new one-year plan will be prepared at the beginning of the calendar year and approved at the February Board meeting.

FIVE-YEAR LOOK-AHEAD

Five years out (2028), CEPA intends to be a larger organization with similar Mission and Core Areas of Interest. CEPA will expand and evolve in the following areas:

- CEPA will have an expanded membership base. This will be achieved through increased public awareness of CEPA and its activities and its public advocacy and education on relevant environmental issues.
- CEPA will concentrate on developing its stature as an advocate for source water (quality and quantity) in the Bay region. Since air, water, and ground pollution, essentially any uncontrolled toxicity, eventually affects source water availability, and since regional ground hydrology is inexorably connected to the Bay, CEPA will maintain its interests and connections to these traditional issues.
- CEPA intends to collaborate with other organizations to enhance environmental policy awareness. Issues will be aligned with the Core Areas of Interest.
- As climate change effects increase and create more visible impacts on the environment and the Bay region, this issue is expected to become a dominant environmental concern. CEPA will continue its role to disseminate relevant factual public information and education.
- Progress and accomplishment of objectives is dependent on the leadership of the Board of Trustees. CEPA will be led by a full board of enthusiastic, capable, and committed trustees.