

Minutes

Maryland Coastal Bays Program Implementation Committee Meeting

Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Lab
November 16, 2015
10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Attending:

- Roman Jesien, MCBP
- Jen Rafter, MCBP
- Bill Killinger, CAC
- Jen Didinger, UMD SeaGrant Extension
- Carolyn Cummins, CAC
- Steve Doctor, DNR
- Brian Sturgis, NPS
- Keith Lackie, MDP
- Amanda Poskaitis, MCBP
- Katherine Phillips, MCBP
- Dave Mister, MDA
- Joe Fehrer, TNC
- Steve Taylor, MCBP Board
- Kathy Phillips, ACT
- Heather Barthel, MDE
- David Greaves, EPA
- Ed Ambrogio, EPA

Introductions, Updates, Announcements

The Executive Director position is open until Dec. 12th; the job description can be viewed at mdcoastalbays.org.

Dave Mister, MDA - Poultry and cover crops

Maryland had record cover crops this year - 654,000 acres with 14,450 acres last year in the coastal bays.

Tillage radish is become more common and is usually aerially seeded. Radish breaks up soil compaction.

Currently there are 40 recent chicken houses completed in Maryland, with over 300 in the pipeline. MDA recommends initial meeting with the grower, site planner, Soil Conservation and the poultry rep. Communication needs improvement for beginning stages of siting and building poultry houses. Worcester County is unlikely to run in to some of the problems experienced in Somerset because Somerset has a combined ag/residential district while Worcester does not. In Somerset, poultry houses with a footprint of 200,000 square feet or more (the equivalent of about 6 chicken houses) are subject to a higher level of review by the Planning Commission. There is a bonus offered from the integrator for 6 or more houses.

Newark has an upcoming case with an adjacent property owner involving a blue line stream on property's edge.

When planning farmers may chose between submitting a Conservation Plan (CP) and a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Dave Mister advocates for the CNMP as this is the only option that covers all nine elements required for permitting. Complete information for permitting may be found at MDAs website at

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/AFO/Pages/index.aspx>.

There is a new source document. Previous setbacks were 100 feet from waters of the state and this was a guideline, not a rule, applying to only new buildings. A mandatory 100-foot setback now applies to all buildings, new and existing.

MDA suggests designing manure shed and composter first, then adding poultry houses, to allow adequate space for necessary buildings. MDA sheds are built for 180 days storage of manure. Total cleanouts are limited due to shortage of bedding materials and need to dispose of nutrients. Manure may be stored for 14 days uncovered. Chicken bodies cannot be composted in manure sheds.

Manure sheds are inspected once per year. The AFO NOI must be submitted to Gary Kelman and has a 180 day turnaround. Sometimes growers do not realize there are two NOIs required and may already have the house occupied by poultry before the second NOI is submitted.

The fees for poultry houses have been waived again under the current Secretary. Kathy Phillips, ACT, stated that Maryland is currently receiving chicken waste from Pennsylvania. In the case of avian influenza, composters would be needed and must be self-contained. She stated she believe the proximity of the chicken houses would be a problem for contamination in the case of avian influenza (AI). On Backbone Road, there are 70-80 houses in a three mile radius. Kathy requests that the IC work with the county to separate industrial operations by more distance. AI will also affect school bus routes. There was discussion that in traditional farming the farmer lived on the property, while this is not the case in newly proposed large-scale operations (“non-traditional” operations).

Roman Jesien requested approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Carolyn Cummins motioned, Heather Barthel seconded. Unanimous approval.

Roman Jesien, MCBP - Release of Report Card

(The Report Card is now available at

<http://www.mdcoastalbays.org/content/files/report%20card%202014%20FINAL.pdf>)

The overall grade for the coastal bays was a C+, identical to 2014. Changes in indicators did occur.

There was a significant increase in sea grass in Chincoteague Bay. Assawoman lost all sea grass, and grasses declined in Isle of Wight. Pollution in St. Martins River is mostly non-point, although there was a fine to a chicken processing plant in Selbyville. St. Martins River was anoxic less of the time in 2014 than in previous years. The impact of the Bishopville restoration is minor due to the area of restoration relative to the watershed.

Jen Rafter, MCBP - Greys Creek, CAC updates

A Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will take place at Waterman's in West OC on Tuesday, Nov 17 at 5:30 p.m. Jessica Flores, Faculty Extension Assistant, Agriculture & Natural Resources will speak on agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs). Attendance is open to all.

MCBP and Worcester County Parks hosted a cookout and cleanup at Greys Creek on Saturday, October 17th. About 30 were in attendance, including Del. Mary Beth Carozza (Dist. 38C). MCBP had applied for SHA grant for Williamsville Rd parking area & trails. The grant was not approved, timeline cited. Rob Clark & Bill Rodriguez will begin creating a new Forestry Management Plan in mid-December and MCBP will reapply for future grants.

Lower Shore Land Trust will have a presentation on Buffers & Other Strategies for Coastal Resiliency on Nov 17th.

Genesar and Rackliffe

- CE 2.2.8 MDP, MHT and LESHG will identify cultural resources that may be impacted by sea level rise/subsidence or other natural disasters (such as Rackliffe House, Genesar and St. Martins Church) and suggest future preservation recommendations
- FW 1.4.2 MCBP will educate the public about aquaculture, underwater leasing and the maritime heritage of the Coastal Bays.
- Rackliffe House was constructed in the 1740s by Captain Charles Rackliffe, merchant-planter.
- Genesar - built in 1732 by Major John Purnell.
- Jen Rafter, MCBP recently visited Genesar with a tour for Rackliffe board & volunteers.
- From maps available at mdmerlin.net these two properties sea level rise does not appear to be a threat as these are built on relatively high ground. Genesar is in very poor condition and likely will not be standing long enough to be impacted by sea level rise.

Amanda Poskaitis, MCBP - Oyster Gardening

Fourteen volunteers participated. 2,631 oysters were grown. 16 new cages acquired and 3 new volunteers recruited. Total of 46 cages in the program currently.

Marylander Grow Oysters is in conjunction with the Oyster Recovery Partnership.

– www.oysters.maryland.gov

Ed Ambrogio mentioned that he is on the Chesapeake Bay Expert Panel for Oyster Aquaculture and Recovery

New Business

MCBP met with DNR to discuss the new “bird islands” which are part of the wildlife management area.

Center for Inland Bays & Barnegat Bay are submitting for EPA funding for Blue Carbon projects, using wetlands as a CO2 sink.

A white paper on the use of pavement as a means for mitigating flooding should be released in Jan/Feb. the paper is by Gina Henley, EPA.

2016 Implementation Committee meeting schedule:

Meetings begin at 10 a.m. at Sarbanes Lab unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 25 - date changed from Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Day

March 21

May 16

July 18

Sept 19

Nov 21