

## Minutes

### Maryland Coastal Bays Program Implementation Committee Meeting

Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Lab  
11802 Marsh View Lane, Berlin, MD 21811  
March 21, 2016  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### Attending:

- Jen Rafter, MCBP
- Katherine Phillips, MCBP
- Deborah Darden, NPS
- David Greaves, EPA
- Gail Blazer, Ocean City
- Catherine Wazniak, DNR
- Bill Neville, Ocean City
- Keith Lackie, MDP
- Joe Fehrer, Nature Conservancy
- Angel Willey, DNR
- Heather Barthel, MDE
- Katherine Munson, Worcester County

#### Introductions, Updates, Announcements

The formal announcement for MCBP's new Executive Director is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Deborah Darden, Assateague Island National Seashore - ASIS General Management Plan

The Assateague Island National Seashore's General Management Plan (GMP) draft is out for public review for 90 days until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Public meetings will take place March 29, 30, and 31.

The GMP was last completed 34 years ago; the updated plan will address how resources are managed, what visitors experience and do, and what kinds of facilities are available. The plan will not resolve all issues and will not provide details on how to manage resources. The foundation statement is critical portion of the plan that looks at legislation in place, but is not getting a lot of attention. The plan also responds to natural coastal processes such as sea level rise and climate change. There are four alternatives to the GMP.

Alternative 1 is a continuation of the current management plan. The main ideas of this alternative are that there will be no planning for if/when road access is lost and uncertain response to breaches and inlet formations. There is high risk from storm damage but current recreational activities will continue.

Alternative 2 will have concentrated traditional beach recreation. The main ideas of this alternative are will be to have the beach recreation concentrated within a high density developed area and to shorten the OSV zone. The developed area will be protected as long as possible by dune stabilization and other methods. This alternative is expensive, and it is unsure how long it would be successful.

Alternative 3 is the preferred alternative, which will have sustainable recreation and climate change adaptation. Infrastructure will shift to more sustainable designs and property will be acquired to expand the mainland developed zone. Water-based access to the island would be expanded. Recreational areas would move with the island, instead of being stationary.

Alternative 4 will allow for natural island evolution and a primitive island experience. The main ideas are to continue the use of existing facilities until the point that they are damaged by coastal processes. The lost facilities would not be replaced or would be replaced minimally with sustainable options. Visitor use would become almost entirely day-use only.

The final GMP is expected to be released in fall of 2016.

[http://www.mdcoastalbays.org/content/files/ASIS%20GMP%20Information%20Sessions%20March%202016%20with%20minor%20DAD%20Changes%203\\_16\\_16.pdf](http://www.mdcoastalbays.org/content/files/ASIS%20GMP%20Information%20Sessions%20March%202016%20with%20minor%20DAD%20Changes%203_16_16.pdf)

### **Katherine Munson, Worcester County - Center for Watershed Protection, TMDL, EPA Grant**

Worcester County is developing a watershed plan that addresses A through I criteria. Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) has been hired to identify existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and create a tracking tool. The target completion date for the plan is June 2017. CWP and Worcester County met with the TMDL committee to review questions. The group consensus was to set 2015 as the beginning of county BMPs. Possible locations for tree plantings as mitigation was discussed.

There are two priorities with MDA data; cover crops and buffers. Areas high in phosphorus are being targeted for agriculture and septic BMPs. A lot of the available data is not specific below eight digits. Hopefully, more data will be available from Berlin. CWP is preparing a draft plan, which will be ready by late April or May. The draft will be sent to the IC for comment. Once the draft is completed, EPA and MDE will review it. Comments and issues will be addressed prior to the final plan being released.

### **Jen Rafter, MCBP - Perdue AgriRecycle Tour Update**

MCBP staff was invited to attend a tour of the Perdue AgriRecycle Plant, by CAC member and director of Corporate Environmental Services at Perdue Farms, Jeff Smith. The tour was led by Jeff Smith and Vice President of Operations, Wayne Hudson. MCBP staff attending included Roman Jesien, Jen Rafter, Katherine Phillips, Amanda Poskaitis, and Emma Rice.

The operation began in July 2001, and manufactures high humate organic fertilizer. The plant is permitted to produce 80,000 tons of finished product each year and have shipped approximately 500,000 tons of finished product out of the plant to date. Approximately half of the finished product has been shipped outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; the remaining half replaces chemical fertilizers locally.

Perdue will pick up and transport litter from any integrator's farm for free. In 2001, the plant processed 50,000 pounds of litter but was unable to sell it. The plant has never reached full capacity due to lack of available litter. The lack of litter is caused by windrowing housing methods and from farmers who may prefer to dispose of the litter themselves as they receive \$7/18 a mile. Windrow composting consists of piling the litter into rows down the length of the house. This is often done with a tractor and a blade set at an angle. Bacteria in the litter initiate composting and create heat within the rows. The minimum

temperature recommendation is 130 °F, with a total time of eight to ten days. This can be done for up to 15 years, without ever fully emptying the chicken house. Since the plant has been opened, it has lost over \$50 million.

To be processed, the litter is screen and sifted in a negative air system to prevent odor and dust accumulation. The litter then goes through a high-heat cycle to kill *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and seeds. It is then sent through grinders and goes through a pelletizing machine to produce slow-release fertilizer.

The manufactured fertilizer was originally intended for sales to large-scale farms but the market is primarily small organic farms and home owners. The products are compliant with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) for use in organic crop production and are listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). Products are MicroSTART60 which has a nutrient analysis of 3-2-3 NPK and MicroSTART60 Prilled Plus which has a nutrient analysis of 7-1-1 NPK.

### **Katherine Phillips, MCBP - State of the Bays Update**

Public-friendly State of the Bays booklet will be published on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The booklet will address watershed and bay health issues, accomplishments, and innovations. Topics include the Bishopville Dam removal restoration project, TMDLs, and sea level rise.

### **New Business**

Request for topics: MDA present on phosphorus

<file:///C:/Users/Kat/Documents/MCBP/MDA%20Prelim%20Phosphorus.pdf>

### **2016 Implementation Committee meeting schedule:**

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

May 16

July 18

Sept 19

Nov 21