

# INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

## FIRST QUARTER BUSINESS MEETING

MARCH 14-15, 2011

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND, ST. MARY'S CITY, MD

### Monday Field Trip, March 14, 2011

#### **Tour of Evergreen Elementary School and St. Mary's College of Maryland Campus**

The Commission group took a tour of the Evergreen Elementary School, coordinated by Bob Lewis (Executive Director of St. Mary's River Watershed Association), led by Chip Jackson and Larry Hartwick. The Evergreen Elementary School is a gold LEED standard certified, which is a green certified building with educational opportunities throughout for the students and visitors. The Commission group then took a tour of St. Mary's College of Maryland, led by Luke Mowbray (Facilities Planner and Coordinator) and Kevin Mercer (Grounds Keeper). The walking tour featured environmental initiatives at St. Mary's College including stormwater management and water use, organic program to reduce chemical usage on campus, riparian buffers, and energy conservation efforts throughout the campus.

### DRAFT MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kudlas called the Second Quarter Business Meeting to order at 8:35AM on March 15, 2011 at the St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD. **Roll call** of attendees was conducted with the following Commissioners, guests, and staff present for some or the entire meeting:

#### Commissioners

##### Virginia

Scott Kudlas (Chair and Alt. Commissioner)

Robert van Laer Hartwell (Commissioner)

##### Maryland

Corazon Dones (Commissioner)

##### West Virginia

Patrick Campbell (Alt. Commissioner)

##### District of Columbia

Hamid Karimi (Commissioner)

John Wennersten (Alt. Commissioner)

##### Pennsylvania

Lori Mohr (Alt. Commissioner)

Ron Stanley (Commissioner)

Roger Steele (Alt. Commissioner)

##### United States

George Reiger (Commissioner)

#### Staff

Robert Bolle (General Counsel)

Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)

Joseph Hoffman (Executive Director)

Bo Park (Administrative Officer)

Carlton Haywood (Director, Program Operations)

Cherie Schultz (Director, CO-OP Operations)

Jim Cummins (Director, Living Resources)

Sarah Ahmed (Water Resources Asst. Engineer)

Sherry Zandieh (Administrative Assistant)

#### Guests

Chris Kimple (for Commissioner Moul)

Herb Sachs (for Commissioner Summers)

Maria Franks (Corps of Engineers, Baltimore)

John Booser (PA, DEP)

Vicky Valk (Guest)

Bob Lewis (ED, St. Mary's River Watershed Assn)

Chairman Kudlas presented the ICPRB pin to the new Virginia Commissioner, Robert van Laer Hartwell.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Chairman Kudlas asked for an approval of the agenda for the meeting after recommending action to move the St. Mary's County Educational Outreach Efforts to earlier timeframe in the meeting to accommodate the speaker's time constraint. **Commissioner Wennersten made a motion to approve the modified agenda. Commissioner Stanley seconded the motion, with all in favor.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Kudlas asked for a motion to approve the December 7, 2010 Business Meeting Minutes. **Commissioner Reiger made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Steele. All were in favor.**

**GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT:** Mr. Bolle, General Counsel, reported that the legal activities involved routine legal matters, primarily contract reviews. There were no significant matters to report.

At this time, Tom Boatsman, VP, College Business, St. Mary's College, representing President Joseph Urgo, gave a brief welcome speech to the commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Program/Projects Review:** Mr. Haywood gave an overview of the current projects in progress. The Project 400 with the Corps of Engineers will be extended to February 28, 2012 with additional \$79,000 funding expected. The Corps currently has 50% of the additional funding with the rest being pursued. Project 802 with the EPA Section 106 funding was approved for approximately 60% of the request amount of \$649,000, pending additional funding when the federal budget actions are received. Project 754 with The Nature Conservancy, which ended, has exceeded the budget by approximately \$100,000. This expenditure may be counted as cost share for additional funding from the Corps of Engineers. A proposal was submitted for a nutrient trading project. Staff also is working on a "white" paper on setting up an interstate trade.

**B. Financial Report and Executive Director's Report:** Mr. Hoffman reported that the financial status as of January 31 is routine. However, the District of Columbia still has yet to make their 2011 jurisdictional dues. The other jurisdictions are on schedule with the exception of federal funding. The expenditures are on target.

There are two new commissioners coming on board, Robert van Laer Hartwell from Virginia, replacing Walter Alcorn and Andrew Zemba from Pennsylvania, replacing John Hines.

A webinar is scheduled during this commission meeting. A series of webinars are expected to take place leading up to the Potomac Flows Workshop to be held at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). The dates are November 29, 2011 to December 1, 2011. ICPRB is planning to hold the December meeting earlier to coincide with the workshop.

To conserve paper and cost for the commission, Mr. Hoffman advised the commissioners that the newsclips will be sent out by electronic copies rather than hardcopies. The hardcopies will go out by exception only. The commissioners were asked to let the staff know if hardcopies are needed. Same procedure will be used for the meeting books.

The FY2012 budget issues will be discussed and approved in June's meeting. The FY2011 federal budget has not been approved. In Pennsylvania, the estimated FY 2011-12 amount of \$51,000 was reduced to \$48,000 for ICPRB. In Virginia, the funding for ICPRB has been zeroed out. The West Virginia General

Assembly has passed the same level of funding with no cuts. In Maryland, the General Assembly concludes on April 11 with no budget decision as of yet. In the District of Columbia, they are experiencing budget cuts and still with no funding for the current year. At the federal level, the Obama administration has requested an increase in budget of \$21 million for the 106 program for FY 2012. However, it is not final. The EPA Section 117, Chesapeake Bay grant application was submitted, expecting decision in early April. The current grant goes to June 8, 2011.

The financial status for FY11 (current year) and leading into FY 2012 will be challenging. The Section 106 EPA grant was partially funded. With the final federal resolution coming in late, there may not be enough time to amend the EPA grant within the grant period. The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, 604(b) projects provided for significant source of project dollars. However, these projects are coming to an end. There are limited amount of projects carrying forward into FY12. Although the cash flow for FY11 into FY12 will be positive, without firm grants for FY12, ICPRB may be looking at making significant cuts in operational budget, staff benefits, equipment replacement, commission meeting costs, etc.

Commissioner Karimi stated that the District of Columbia has cut ICPRB from their FY12 budget. In their FY11 budget, all unobligated funds were cut completely. He is expecting FY12 to be worse.

Commissioner Wennersten asked what is the basis for the signatory compact. Mr. Hoffman replied that the Article 4 of the Compact, section on Financing, states that the jurisdictions “shall” provide through appropriations within each jurisdiction. Each state has similar language in their state legislation. The District of Columbia is slightly different as they use prioritization method for funding. Mr. Hoffman added that the commission has to maintain relevancy within the jurisdictions. The Virginia’s decision to zero out funding for river basins is final unless the governor vetoes it in FY12. Commissioner Karimi suggested that the commission hold a separate session to brainstorm. Chairman Kudlas proposed an Executive Session between now and the next meeting in June. The Executive Committee members are Commissioners Kudlas, Campbell, Karimi, Summer (H. Sachs), Mohr and/or Zemba, and Reiger.

Mr. Hoffman added that the audit is complete with no findings. The copies will be available by the end of this month.

Mr. Hoffman also announced his plans for retirement from the commission at the end of next March. He recommended starting the hiring process and designate an Executive Director Designee in between to overlap. Chairman Kudlas suggested that a package of information be ready during the budget discussion at an Executive Session for further discussion.

Chairman Kudlas asked for a motion for a resolution for John Hines for his services towards ICPRB, with a plan to invite John Hines to attend the next meeting to present the resolution. **Commissioner Stanley made the motion to approve, followed by Commissioner Steele. All were in favor.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Update on Sustainable Flows Project:** Mr. Haywood provided an update on the U.S. COE funded Middle Potomac Watershed Assessment. The project, which started in May 2009 and was originally expected to end in June 2011, is now expected to end in February 2012 due to a variety of factors including extra time required to complete model runs and difficulty in securing open dates at the National Conservation Training Center for the final workshop. Projected total cost for this project has increased by about 12% but the COE has informally agreed to support that increase.

**St. Mary's County Educational Outreach Efforts:** Ms. Vicki Volk from the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab gave an overview of the organization and their efforts in the Chesapeake Bay to promote awareness and education. Funding is an issue that the organization is facing. To continue the program, the organization would have to raise enough funds to repair and maintain the skip jack that served as an actual floating laboratory on the Chesapeake Bay.

**B. Social Media Use Policy:** Mr. Dalpra provided information on the draft social media use policy at the commission that has been posted as an interim policy. Several social media venues will be used as an outreach vehicle for some of the projects, where the public can comment and interact with the staff members. The policy is proposed to ensure commission control on content. It is a great medium for advocacy and education. The website will not in any way be used for lobbying. As it is being developed, a blog for Project #353 was setup. **Commissioner Stanley made a motion approve the policy. Commissioner Hartwell seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**C. Potomac River Ramble 2011:** Mr. Dalpra gave the information on the Potomac Ramble scheduled for July 15, 2011 to July 17, 2011, Friday to Sunday. It will be a stretch of 25 miles on the Shenandoah, ending in Brunswick on the Potomac. There will be some white water. Some of the partners are West Virginia Natural Resources and For the Love of Children. Additional partners and sponsorships are being pursued.

**D. Jim Range Casting Call and ICPRB Potomac Steward Awards:** Mr. Cummins discussed the Casting Call with the nominees for the annual ICPRB Potomac Steward Awards. They are Tracy Bowen, Kirby Carpenter, Steve Chaconas, and Joe and Ray Fletcher. The Casting Call is on April 15 proceeded a reception on April 14. The commissioners are encouraged to attend. The link is on the ICPRB website. **Commissioner Steele made a motion to accept the list of nominees. Commissioner Reiger seconded the motion with all in favor.**

#### **COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

Commissioner Steele suggested that the commission form a relationship with the colleges, perhaps the science departments to use college interns to meet the needs at the commission.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Kudlas asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Reiger made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Stanley. The meeting adjourned at 11:03AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph K. Hoffman  
Commission Secretary