

Choptank Tributary Team Planning meeting
September 13, 2007
Held at Environmental Concern, in St. Michaels, MD

The special Planning meeting of the Choptank Tributary Team was held on Thursday, September 13th. The meeting was facilitated by Meredith Lathbury, of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Chair Rob Wieland opened the meeting with a broad overview of what he hoped to accomplish, and introduced Meredith who restated the goals for the meeting, and explained the process to get us to the goal. Brainstorming ideas about how the Choptank team could be more effective in its efforts to address nutrient pollution would ultimately produce many ideas. Team members would vote on the many ideas identified, and a workplan would develop from the prioritization. The production of a workplan was the end goal for the meeting.

The Workplan, sorted into three sections follows:

POLICY

Policy workgroup members: Bill Wolinski, Dick Tettelbaum, Gene Slear, Dave Nemazie, Jen Dindinger, and Wilbur Levengood.

Policy ideas:

- Briefing with legislators
- Septic policy issues
- Look at the plan and assess those that apply to the Choptank and figure what's been done, and what's NOT been done
- Talk with elected officials about HOW to be effective in dealing at both the county and state level... TRAIN OURSELVES
- Get elected officials involved with specific issues
- Will the government adopt the Implementation Plan (County and State) (also the MACo – MML sign in sign up idea)
- Make specific personal invitations to meetings... invite town councils, county councils and commissions, state delegates etc, and tailor the agenda to the town or municipality invited, and Give them time to talk to us, and for dialog.
- Change the structure of 4 meeting a year to give the first 30 minutes to the invited local jurisdiction
- Make the local meetings very specific with what we want...
- VOLUNTEERS: Wilbur will help w/ Caroline, Bill, with Talbot...
- Jen will follow up on Community Calendar messages
- This should be state AND local policy
- AND include a review of state legislation, just a couple that are the most important ones, and effectively influence them... (Note to workgroup, we can ask for a meeting with the Eastern Shore Delegation...)

ASSESSMENT AND UNDERSTANDING

Assessment and Understanding workgroup members: Doc Kuntz, Jessica Lister, Ken Staver, Robert Wieland, and Jim Price

A&U ideas:

- Analysis of Land use change and growth over the last ten years; finer at the local scale;
- Data available on real time (e.g. Talbot has applied for the NOAA grant) and it includes Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester
- Link to Baystat
- Monitoring stations... the Bay Program has two, what about 'eyes on the bay', and USGS? Create data sources and partners
- Develop a set of parameters that are monitored over the long term
- Develop a bibliography
- A state of the river would require water sampling, maybe Keith Campbell might fund it, or Town Creek Foundation?? What about the work of the existing watershed sampling groups, like TRPA, or others...
- Ag Land
- Developed Lands
- Living Resources
- A Corsica or Magothy like publication
 - Identify indicators like Bill Dennison has done 'in water indicators'
 - Identify indicators for the watershed itself
 - Land use info can be found on the Bay Program Website

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education and Outreach workgroup members: Fil Morrison, Dave Nemazie, Jen Dindinger, Bill Collier, Doc Kuntz, Ed McNeal, Jim Price, Patrice Morrison

E&O ideas include:

- Hold a Choptank Appreciation Day, sometime in spring of '08... Get the greatest Choptank minds to educate, e.g. Tom Fisher, Mutt Merritt, Bill Dennison, etc...
- Develop a plan on how to market it...Concrete suggestions on how to improve the bay and water quality...Promote and market the state of the watershed ...“how the river effects you...‘how is the flow in Greensboro...how is the flow in Denton...High flow, low flow, , etc etc...
- Develop a website for the Choptank... Horn Point could host, feature questions from citizens, look at what Jackie Russell does in St. Mary’s co for example... have a Master Gardener corner, a grow native corner, a Kid’s corner, a blog site, Natural History, look into community TV, Comcast, Channel 16, MPT, Bay TV...
- Host a Clean up day (ACB Model)
- Get involved in the Oxford Public Awareness series
- A Choptank Speaker’s Bureau
- Solicit a webpage tile on WBOC
- Do a Walk along the Choptank, a BBQ, Social, Paddle or a Sojourn on the Choptank
- Have a booth at the Waterfowl Festival
- Have a Foul Water Festival or booth at the Waterfowl Festival