



Federal Agencies Committee Meeting Highlights

A Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) meeting was held on April 16, 1998, at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Colonial Beach, Va. Announcements and highlights from this meeting included:

- The combined Federal Riparian Forest Buffer Plan, which addresses how the federal agencies plan to achieve the 200 mile buffer goal, is due to be completed by June 30, 1998. Representatives of smaller or non-landholding agencies have been asked to submit information on how their agency can contribute to the attainment of the federal goal.
- The May 27th Habitat Restoration Workgroup will focus on BayScapes efforts on federal lands, the addition of BayScapes to the Chesapeake Bay Partner Facilities Criteria, and a potential update to the 1994 Ecosystem Management Agreement BayScapes goal.
- A Federal Science Conference will be held on September 23-24 at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor's Center in Laurel, Md. The theme of the conference is *New Tools for Restoring the Bay: Maximizing the Contributions of Federal Science for Restoring and Protecting the Bay*.
- The Federal Land Stewardship Workgroup will take the lead in updating the 1994 Ecosystem Management Agreement to reflect the latest Bay Program goals and to incorporate the new initiatives set forth by the Clean Water Action Plan.
- Potential sites for 1998 Federal Facility Site Assessments include Langley Air Force Base, Raystown Lake (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Fort Monroe, the National Zoo, Navy Dairy Farm, and a follow-up visit to the Solomons Recreational Complex (Navy).
- The Department of Defense (DoD) announced that \$300,000 in Legacy funds were awarded for Bay restoration and protection activities. The funds will be split between submerged aquatic vegetation and riparian forest buffer restoration activities.
- The DoD Chesapeake Bay Report, *Restoring and Protecting the Chesapeake Bay: A Department of Defense Initiative 1984-1997*, has been published and is available on the DoD DENIX website (<http://www.denix.osd.mil>).
- For Earth Day 1998, DoD announced a new theme and initiative, entitled Streamside Forests: Lifelines to Clean Water. This initiative establishes a small grants program (up to \$5000) for restoration projects that have been designed in partnership with installations and a local school or civic organization. More information can be found on the previously listed DENIX website under Earth Day 1998.

Implementation Committee Meeting News

An Implementation Committee (IC) meeting was held on April 23, 1998, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) in Annapolis, Md. Announcements and highlights from this meeting included:

- The Clean Water Action Plan will provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and several interagency projects with \$586 million in new funding for FY99 and \$2.3 billion over the next 5 years.
- A questionnaire is being developed and distributed to Bay Program representatives to determine priority actions for the Bay Program beyond 2000.
- The Information Management Subcommittee plans to support the states in defining their data needs, identifying mechanisms to hire a land use/land cover coordinator, and purchasing 1998/1999 data for wetland and forest cover.
- To date, the Businesses for the Bay program has recruited 155 participants throughout the jurisdictions. The program has been recognized for establishing a highly effective toxics reduction mentoring program.

State of the Bay: Citizen Monitoring Results

Ryan Davis, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, gave a presentation on the Citizen Monitoring Program (CMP) to the IC on April 23rd. The program was originally designed to monitor the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay's tributaries. Volunteer monitors conduct tests on such water quality parameters as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, and secchi depth. In 1994, CMP incorporated submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring into its program, using the 1992 SAV Technical Synthesis to define the SAV monitoring guidelines.

A variety of Bay Program Partners use CMP data. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) is comparing CMP nearshore data to mid-channel and mainstem monitoring data. MD DNR has also used the data to develop its Bay Grass Restoration Targeting System. This system was designed to model the Maryland portion of the Bay, target SAV restoration areas, and identify future locations for CMP efforts. They hope to expand the system to the Virginia regions of the Bay. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality utilizes CMP data during low dissolved oxygen occurrences. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service also use CMP-based protocols in their SAV monitoring efforts.

In the future, Davis said that the CMP will be more site-specific and research oriented. In 1998, the program's secchi depth data will be available on the Internet and data collection will be expanded in Virginia's Piankatank River.



Army Celebrates Earth Day Around the Bay

In a demonstration of leadership by example, Army installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed celebrated Earth Day with the 1998 Army Earth Day theme, "One Mission, One Environment, One Future: Preserve the Balance." This theme reflects the Army's commitment to integrating environmental practices into all mission operations and mirrors the 1998 Army theme, "America's Army: One Team, One Fight, One Future." The following paragraphs are some examples of Army Earth Day celebrations that took place around the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Aberdeen Proving Ground chaired the 1998 Earth Day Celebration held on Saturday, April 18th at Frank Hutchins Park in Havre de Grace, MD. Events included the 4th Annual Upper Chesapeake Invitational Skipjack Race, an Earth Day Celebration featuring over 30 Earth-friendly booths, a Susquehanna Hose Company Dive Team River Cleanup, a Ceremonial Tree Planting, and an Environmental Awards Ceremony.

Adelphi Laboratory Center celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up the center's grounds and planting a garden with annual and perennial plants.

With the help of 7th graders from the Caroline Middle School, **Fort A.P. Hill** planted more than 250 trees on Earth Day that reforested 800 feet alongside the post's streams. The trees were provided by the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC). Fort A.P. Hill also held a Post Beautification Day that involved planting perennial bushes and flowers around the post's buildings to reduce mowing.

On April 18th, **Fort Belvoir** celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up the shoreline of its Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge with the help of the Boy Scouts. On April 22nd, the post's recycling center and compost facility held open houses. April 22nd also marked the third year that the post participated in the Nationwide Grocery Bag Project where children from five area schools decorate grocery bags with Earth Day themes for use at the post's commissary. On April 25th, Fort Belvoir helped the community with the Route 1 clean up.

On April 17th and 18th, **Fort Detrick** constructed various displays that gave the public an opportunity to recycle a variety of items, including greeting cards, glasses, and sneakers. The post also hosted its annual fishing derby.

Fort Eustis held demonstrations on cleaning up hazardous wastes, such as petroleum, oils, and lubricants. The post conducted seminars on pollution prevention and hazardous materials, held an Earth Day Ceremony that recognized military and civilians for their environmental stewardship, and coordinated citizens and soldiers to clean up its shoreline.

Ms. Sherri Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security), joined the **Fort Meade** community to plant a forest buffer of more than 3,000 trees alongside the post's streams. The installation also promoted its recycling slogan "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" on Earth Day by setting

up environmental and recycling displays throughout the post where literature and related items were distributed.

The **Fort Myer Military Community (FMMC)** invited the community to its Earth Day celebration with a special invitation that featured Fort Myer's own Earth Day logo. FMMC set up displays at Fort Myer's Visitor's and Community Center showing the steps that FMMC has taken to be environmentally responsible over the years. FMMC also promoted its recycling program and held a poster session where it distributed t-shirts and frisbees to participants.

Fort Story cleaned up its beaches and gave Earth Day Awards to tenants for their environmental efforts. Some of these awards recognized pollution prevention and waste minimization efforts.



Walter Reed pre-schoolers and their parents learn about natural recycling during Earth

Volunteers from the **USAEC** at Aberdeen Proving Ground observed Earth Day by planting trees with the help of students from Edgewood Elementary School, children of volunteers, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts. Julie Bortz, Aberdeen's submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) coordinator, spoke to USAEC personnel on the importance of SAV and the post's program. Britt Slattery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, gave a presentation on Bayscapes – the use of locally native, low maintenance plants for landscaping practices. USAEC personnel also picked up trash and debris along the sea wall.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center chose Earth Wellness – Human Wellness as its Earth Day theme. The Forest Glen and Glen Haven community centers demonstrated natural recycling activities to participants during Earth Day. The post distributed excess rose bushes from a rose garden that is being relandscaped to families for planting in post-housing gardens. During the week of April 20th, the center

maintained an educational display booth in the Heaton Pavilion and unveiled the Earth Wellness logo.



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