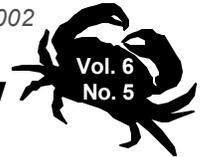




August/September 2002

The Army's Chesapeake Review



FAC Highlights

The Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) met recently at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, Md. Agenda items included the Anacostia Federal Biennial Workplan, federal agency progress on the 1998 Federal Agencies' Chesapeake Ecosystem Unified Plan (FACEUP) and Chesapeake 2000 (C2K) commitments, riparian forest restoration efforts, and the Virginia Seafood Council's proposal on nonnative oysters. Relevant meeting highlights are presented below.

Anacostia Federal Biennial Workplan

FACEUP requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prepare and implement a workplan for the Anacostia River watershed every two years. Stacey Underwood of the Baltimore District presented the draft of a survey, which will be used to make the Corps 2003 workplan a more effective tool for its users. The survey will go to federal, state and local government agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders involved in the watershed's restoration.

Attendees agreed the most useful role of federal agencies is to help establish a global plan for the watershed that integrates the efforts of other organizations, such as the Anacostia Water Resources Council, the Council of Governments and the District of Columbia. They also agreed that the Executive Council Stormwater Directive must be a major component of the plan. Attendees also discussed contaminated sediment in the Anacostia River and urban stormwater runoff as large-scale, long-term problems in the watershed that must be meaningfully addressed in the Biennial Workplan.

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Rebecca Hanmer briefs Steering Committee members on the Chesapeake Bay Program's priorities. From left to right: Tim Southard, Fort A.P. Hill coordinator; Rebecca Hanmer, Chesapeake Bay Program director; Janmichael Graine, U.S. Army Chesapeake Bay Program coordinator; and Shana Bullock and Don Maglienti of Home Engineering.

New Chesapeake Bay Program Director Exchanges Ideas with the U.S. Army

"Right on, let's do some more," was the reaction of the newly appointed Chesapeake Bay Program Director, Rebecca Hanmer, to learning about the U.S. Army's submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and riparian forest buffer restoration projects and its low impact development (LID) initiative.

Addressing members of the U.S. Army Chesapeake Bay Program Steering Committee July 22 at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, she added that she intends to use a good scientific foundation and continuous evaluation and testing to guide the program's priorities.

In particular, she said, she is working with the members of the Implementation Committee to identify "keystone commitments" that facilitate the accomplishment of other program goals and commitments. She said that they have identified water quality as a keystone commitment because water quality improvements lead to living resource improvements. She added that she regards nitrogen as an especially important water quality issue and wants to push the limit of available technology by insisting upon a 3-milligram-per-liter standard. She also

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Conference Extols the Virtues of Native Plants

As U.S. Army conservation personnel look for increasingly innovative ways to implement the Army's sustainable design and development policy, they need look no further than the unassuming retired horticulturist and champion of using native vegetation, F.M. Mooberry, and the native plants conference she founded 12 years ago.

She has authored numerous books on native plants, is a much sought-after

speaker and created the nationally recognized native plant gardens at the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadds Ford, Pa. However, her greatest legacy may be the Native Plants in the Landscape Conference in Pennsylvania, which was held for the twelfth year, June 6 through 9, 2002, at Millersville University.

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The Potomac Watershed Partnership Holds Its Second Native Hardwood Seed Collection

A shortage of native hardwood seedlings at nurseries around the Chesapeake Bay watershed may be a sign of success for volunteer riparian forest restoration efforts, but it also creates a critical need for more seeds at the state nurseries that supply the seedlings. The Potomac Watershed Partnership and Potomac Conservancy is answering this need by organizing a watershed-wide seed collection drive, and they would welcome seeds and acorns from Army installations and individual backyards in the watershed.



Volunteers and foresters collect freshly dropped black walnut seeds at one of last year's seed collection events.

The collection drive is called Growing Native, and it is scheduled to be held on October 12, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at various locations around the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Given that tree seeds fall when they want to, volunteers are also encouraged to organize a collection when the most seeds are on the ground. Army installations are invited to organize their own events in coordination with the Potomac Watershed Partnership. However, seeds collected through less formal volunteer efforts are needed too. The species most in demand are all types of oak, but especially white oak (*Quercus alba*) and swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), as well as Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), paw paw (*Asimina triloba*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*). To arrange for volunteer training, get information on drop-off locations, or obtain collection materials such as tree identification charts and burlap bags, go to <http://www.growingnative.org> or call Rob Carey at the Potomac Watershed Partnership at 703-217-7003.

New Director

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said that she wants to reconsider past nutrient, sediment and toxics reduction efforts to find "cheaper, faster and better" ways to meet the program's goals.

Part of this reconsideration, said Hanmer, is looking at the U.S. Army's

SAV and riparian forest buffer restoration projects and its LID projects as "cheaper, faster, better ways" to reduce urban stormwater runoff. Urban stormwater runoff, she said, is one of the worst sources of nutrients, sediments and toxics to the Bay and, according to the program's modeling, the most expensive to prevent using conventional mitigation

FAC Highlights

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Riparian Restoration Efforts

Al Todd of the U.S. Forest Service provided an update on the status of riparian restoration and protection efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia and federal agency partners were tasked to restore 2,010 miles of forest buffer by the year 2010. Roughly 1,300 miles of forest buffer have now been restored. Federal agencies were assigned a goal of 200 miles. However, information regarding completed forest buffer restoration efforts for each federal agency is still incomplete. The Chesapeake Bay Program will contact each agency that has not yet provided current restored buffer totals.

Mr. Todd also reminded everyone in attendance that the Potomac Watershed Partnership, Chesapeake Bay Program, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Stroud Water Research Center are sponsoring a watershed restoration conference in Baltimore, Md., on Sept. 24-26, 2002. The conference, entitled "Riparian and Wetland Stewardship," will focus on watershed conditions and restoration tools as well as riparian and wetland restoration science. Additional information and registration materials can be found at the Potomac Watershed Partnership Web site at <http://www.potomac.org>.

methods. According to Hanmer, LID is a particularly promising alternative to conventional stormwater management methods, and she looks forward to more U.S. Army LID demonstration projects to serve as models for the other Chesapeake Bay Program partners.



This newsletter is produced by Home Engineering Services, Inc., under Contract No. DACA31-01-D-0009 for the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC). Contributing writers for this issue include Shana Bullock, Brian Feeney, Deborah Hahn and Don Maglienti. Contributing editors include Alison Cooley, Bill Maly and Helene Merkel. Please contact Janmichael Graine, USAEC, by e-mail, Janmichael.Graine@aec.apgea.army.mil or by telephone, 410-436-1557, DSN 584-1557, with any questions, comments or installation success stories.

The newsletter is distributed via U.S. mail and e-mail. It can also be viewed on the Army Chesapeake Bay Program Web site. The Web address is <http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/env/cbi/index.html>. If you want to be on the distribution list, contact Brian Feeney of Home Engineering Services, Inc., by e-mail, bfeeney@home.com, or by telephone, 410-515-5802.

Native Plants Conference

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This year's conference featured 28 speakers and covered topics as varied as fern identification, establishing native plants in urban settings, bats as allies in the garden and techniques for restoring steep slopes. The common theme of all the presentations was the benefit of using native plants. The more than 300 nursery and landscape professionals, avocational gardeners, environmental professionals, government conservationists and educators in attendance also heard the Hudson River's first Riverkeeper and *Time* magazine's Hero For the Planet, John Cronin, give the keynote speech.

Cronin, who has identified unregulated sprawl development as the biggest problem facing native plant communities and biodiversity in general, said in a recent interview, "We're very slowly destroying the natural diversity of many of our communities." In his keynote speech at the conference, he empha-

sized that everyone can make a difference and recommended that everyone work to restore plant diversity by implementing the ideas introduced at the conference, starting in their own backyards.

The growing threat of invasive species was discussed in a presentation by Kerrie Kyde, a plant ecologist currently conducting research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the genetic effects of the invasive mile-a-minute weed (*Polygonum perfoliatum*). She identified kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) in the southeastern states and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) throughout the country, in particular, as having choked out native plant species and altered wildlife and fish habitat. Invasive species also have the ability to alter training areas, leaving them unusable for realistic training exercises.

The relationship between native plants and green buildings was also discussed. Marcy Damon, a habitat restoration trainer for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) described the

organization's headquarters building in Annapolis, Md. Currently, CBF is implementing a green landscaping plan on the property surrounding the building.

Green, or conservation, landscaping is a relatively new term that promotes landscaping techniques that work with nature to reduce pollution and enhance wildlife habitat. It encourages less fertilizer, pesticide and water use, less lawn area and the use of beneficial and native plants. Native landscaping requires less overall maintenance, leading to lower long-term costs. By incorporating green landscaping practices, land managers can reduce soil erosion, water use and maintenance costs and improve groundwater supplies.

The use of native plants makes sense whether one is managing a 10,000-acre range or simply planting a rain garden next to a building in the cantonment area. Their use also conforms to AR 200-3, *Natural Resources – Land, Forest and Wildlife Management*, and its prescription that conservation landscaping be practiced wherever feasible.

IC Highlights

The Implementation Committee (IC) met on April 4 and June 27, 2002, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, Md. Discussion highlights follow.

LEGO Workgroup Update

Ann Swanson of the Chesapeake Bay Commission briefed the attendees on the LEGO Workgroup's effort to identify opportunities to lobby the U.S. Congress for money meeting the C2K commitments, which the Chesapeake Bay Foundation estimates will cost \$8.5 billion. The workgroup has identified the 2002 Farm Bill, the 2002 Water Resources Development Act and the 2003 Surface Transportation Bill as the most likely new federal funding sources. The workgroup is also lobbying for add-ons to annual appropriations bills for the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Administration, Agriculture, and Defense, as well as the District of Columbia's operating budget.

She pointed out that, "normal ideas receive normal funding, creative ideas attract more funding." She identified yield reserve and carbon sequestration as two examples of creative ideas currently being developed, and added that changing the I-95 corridor in the Bay watershed into an integrated stormwater management system is another creative approach that may prove attractive to Congress.

She also mentioned two bills that the workgroup had high hopes for before September 11, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Removal Assistance Act and the Water Resources Development Act. The Nutrient Removal Assistance Act would provide cost-sharing grants to any of the 288 municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the watershed for expenses incurred to meet a designated nutrient reduction goal. The Water Resources Development Act would provide funding for stream restoration, sediment monitoring for the James, Potomac and Susquehanna rivers, and removal of sediment from behind the lower Susquehanna dams.

Toxics Subcommittee Priorities for 2002

A new initiative of the Toxics Subcommittee this year will be building partnerships with publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities. The subcommittee plans to work with industries and residents in the watershed to encourage them to reduce chemical loads to their waste stream.

The subcommittee also plans to reinvigorate the Businesses for the Bay mentoring program. It will promote implementation of innovative stormwater management techniques at member businesses' facilities as well as federal, state and District of Columbia facilities. Many of the U.S. Army installations in the watershed are already active participants in the Businesses for the Bay program. Anyone interested in participating can find out how by going to the Links page of the U.S. Army Chesapeake Bay Program Web site or by calling Mary Lynn Wilhere, Chesapeake Bay

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IC Highlights

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Program Businesses for the Bay coordinator, at 410-267-5719.

Status Report on the Comprehensive Oyster Plan

Jamie King of the University of Maryland reported to the IC on the work accomplished so far and the degree of commitment still needed to meet the C2K goal of a tenfold increase of oysters in the Bay. He stated that the science involved is still in its infancy, the effort badly needs more state involvement and the prospect of introducing, *Crassostrea ariakensis* has reduced the interest of watermen. Despite these obstacles, the written plan is well under way and must be completed before Army Corps of Engineers' money in hand for implementation can be released.

Update on C2K Commitments for Living Resources and Sound Land Use

Martha Little of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department reported on progress made on sound land use commitments for the Land Growth and Stewardship Committee. Frank Dawson of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources reported on progress on the living resources commitments for the Living Resources Subcommittee. The reports were extensive and will be posted on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Web site at <<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/c2k.htm>> under "Chesapeake 2000 Commitments."

Mr. Dawson reported that guidelines are currently being developed to ensure the aquatic health of streams. A draft of the guidelines will be completed by the Living Resources Subcommittee and circulated to the other subcommittees for comment in September. A final draft will then be presented to the IC in October. Once published, the guidelines will serve as a tool for local governments, community groups, watershed organizations and other agencies to assess and manage stream corridors.

Department of Energy Gives Grants for Green Design Projects

Looking for help with a green design project? The Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) has up to \$500,000 worth of labor hours for expert assistance from Department of Energy scientists and engineers available to federal agencies with projects for FY03.

Last year, FEMP awarded an average of between \$15,000 and \$30,000 of expert assistance per project depending on the scope of work. The program is a response to Executive Order 13123, "Greening of the Government through Efficient Energy Management." The Executive Order encourages federal agencies to apply sustainable and whole building design principles in the siting, design and construction of new facilities. Agencies are also encouraged to optimize life-cycle costs, reduce pollution and consider other environmental and energy costs associated with the construction and life-cycle operation of facilities. Design principles include optimizing site potential, minimizing energy consumption, utilizing renewable energy, protecting and conserving water, minimizing environmental impacts, incorporating conservation measures, using green building material and enhancing indoor environmental quality.

FEMP is interested in supporting water resource management projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed as part of its Chesapeake Bay initiative. Facilities in the Bay region are encouraged to submit proposals relating to low impact development, conservation landscaping, institutional water efficiency analysis and industrial water efficiency analysis. However, applications for FY03 were due August 30, 2002. The program will offer a new Call for Projects next year, and in the meantime, FEMP will entertain cost sharing proposals on a case-by-case basis. For more information, visit FEMP's Web site at <<http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp>>, or apply online at <<http://femp.nrel.gov/tacalls/logon.ta>>.

Army Web Site Provides a Portal to a Wide Range of Chesapeake Bay Program Activities

Where, in one place, can you find out what the U.S. Army is doing for the Bay, get past issues of the *Chesapeake Review*, find out about upcoming Chesapeake Bay-related conferences and workshops and be linked to a broad range of Chesapeake Bay organizations' Web sites? For all that and more, you can go to the U.S. Army Chesapeake Bay Program's Web site at <<http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/env/cbi/index.html>>. It was updated in June, and now contains a link to the U.S. Army Chesapeake Bay Program's newest installation, the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant. It also contains information on two restoration conferences to be held in late September, information on a call-for-presentations for the Inaugural National Conference on Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration to be held in Baltimore in June 2003, and new links to the Center for Watershed Protection and the National Stormwater Best Practices Database. Finally, the Web site is now handicapped accessible. The U.S. Army Environmental Center welcomes suggestions about other information and links you would like to see added. Click on the Web site docmaster e-mail link on the home page.