

*Dorchester
Citizens
For
Planned
Growth*



DCPG NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

Letter from the President

Humid summer greetings to all members and friends of DCPG. We have good news and bad news to report to you as this summer season draws on. The bad news is that so far we have not been able to secure outside grant funding to finance the stormwater demonstration project at the Cambridge Visitor center as fully planned. DCPG's grant applications to the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and to The Mid Shore Community Foundation have not been selected for funding for this current grant cycle. As always, grant seeking is a competitive process and our proposal was not given the highest priority at this time. Both organizations have encouraged us to re-submit proposals for the next grant cycle. A third possible grants source, which would provide limited funding, is still being pursued by Environmental Concern, DCPG's partner in the stormwater project.

The good news is that, while we are disappointed that we will likely not be able to complete the entire project in 2015, we will be going ahead with the educational station and display to be erected at the visitor center. This station will feature a mini building designed to demonstrate ways to prevent excessive

stormwater run-off and a mini rain garden with educational signage to explain the stormwater cycle to visitors. DCPG has nearly enough funding in place for this phase of the project to be completed this fall. We also have several offers of volunteer support to erect the building and plant the rain garden. Our sincere thanks to those of you who have contributed and pledged to support this pioneering project, your interest and commitment will make a difference in environmental quality and awareness in Dorchester County. We will keep you posted on events connected with this project through emailing and in the fall newsletter.

Shameless plug alert: Your intrepid president is featured along with other local personalities in a DNR film on "Working Waterfronts." This film grew out of a series of seminars on preserving and developing working waterfronts in Maryland. Three DCPG members participated in these seminars. As you know, Cambridge is ideally suited to be the pilot city for waterfront renewal since we have Maryland's only deep-water port outside of Baltimore. This interest in working waterfronts dovetails with the intense local interest in the Sailwinds Park and Visitor Center which is now owned by the city of

Cambridge. The nine minute film is professionally done and stresses the incredible public asset that we have in the Cambridge Creek and our Choptank River shoreline. It is published on “You Tube” and can be accessed through a link posted on our website “DCPGonline.org” Our website, by the way, is a nice way to review the many ways that DCPG is active in your community. So take the time to browse there and look for the working waterfront link on the bottom of the homepage.

In closing, I would like to thank all our active members for their continued support of this local organization, the only one of its kind in the county, and remind you that we are always in need of more active volunteers. We hope to see you at coming DCPG events.

Yours sincerely, Fred C. Pomeroy

Watershed Implementation Plan (W.I.P.)

Funding Update from CBF

A WIP is a plan developed by a state, county and/or towns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to reduce pollution in their jurisdictions to levels that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers healthy for the Bay.

Dorchester County: In 2014 \$5,000 was approved for a local stormwater project. In 2015 \$10,000 has been approved in the 2016 budget.

Cambridge: The city approved \$5,000 for a stormwater demonstration project. There is also a Clean Water Advisory Committee which is developing a plan for reducing stormwater pollution in Cambridge. DCPG sits on this committee.

Wicomico County: For the past three years, the county has designated \$200,000 annually from the capital budget to fund stormwater retrofit projects.

Salisbury: A recently-approved stormwater utility fee is projected to generate \$600,000 annually. The funds will be used to install stormwater retrofit projects.

Queen Anne’s County: \$450,000 has been allocated by the county to fund projects that slow and filter pollution, including an innovative approach that would fund new conservation practices on farms. Another \$2 million is pending approval for projects that treat stormwater on county-owned lands.

Talbot County: The county has approved a one-time investment of \$50,000 in roadside ditch retrofit demonstration projects that will be installed this spring and summer. An additional \$100,000 from the capital budget is pending approval for FY16 to be used for designing additional retrofits.

Oxford: The town of Oxford is dedicating a portion of property tax revenue to addressing flooding around town. The resources will help the town design and install priority projects under a new Stormwater Management and Shoreline Protection Master Plan.



Huge Win for the Chesapeake Bay!

In a historic win for clean water, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Bay and upheld the legality of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint today. The court stated:

"The Chesapeake Bay TMDL [Blueprint] will require sacrifice by many, but that is a consequence of the tremendous effort it will take to restore health to the Bay—to make it once again a part of our 'land of living,' Robert Frost, The Gift Outright line 10—a goal our elected representatives have repeatedly endorsed. Farm Bureau's arguments to the contrary are unpersuasive, and thus we affirm the careful and thorough opinion of the District Court."

The full opinion may be found here:

http://www.chesapeakelegal.org/documents/3rd_Circuit_Opinion_upholding_Bay_TMDL.pdf



The following DCPG members joined or renewed their membership at or above the \$50 level:

Thank You!

Willem Zijp and Miriam Zijp-Koedijk
Jeanne and Bruce Bernard
Peter C Paul
Richard Balling
Odin Knudsen
Patti and Porter Hopkins
Donna and Wayne Towers
Charles Bethel
Michele and Matt Whitbeck
Bill and Beth Giese
Diane Stoecker
Kathy Gordon and Bill Farver
Patricia and John Comella
Brenda and Laurie Keegan
Kathy and Brian Manicke
Carolyn and Mike German
Hubert H. Wright IV
Judd Vickers and Greg Bartoo
Margaret and George Anzalone
Jon and Midge Ingersoll
Libby Handley Nagel
Eleanor Beath
Wolf and Charlotte Hehn
Bruce Robson
Lexine Lowe and Fred Pomeroy
Beth Ann and Jim Lynch
Donna Stotts
Mark and Linda Wilson
Margaret and Douglas Worrall
Richard Ball
Kalla Kvalnes and Tom Fisher
Donna Stotts
Debby and Gordon Hill

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