



What's new with the . . .

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY REGION IN 1999

There are more than 1,650 local governments in the Bay region, including cities, counties, towns, townships and boroughs. Local governments play a vital role in the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay system because they have statutory authority to decide how the land in their jurisdiction will be used and, ultimately, the way that the thousands of streams and rivers that drain into the Bay will be protected. The Bay Program recognized from the start the important role local governments have in the regional clean-up effort. In 1988, the top policy-making body of the Bay Program, the six-member Chesapeake Executive Council, established the Local Government Advisory Committee. The committee is the collective voice of locally elected officials throughout the region. Since 1996, the committee has been charged with overseeing the implementation of the Local Government Participation Action Plan. The Action Plan identifies three theme areas in which local governments have a substantial role in protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay: land use management and stewardship; stream corridor protection and restoration; and infrastructure improvements. In 1999, the committee continued to implement the Action Plan. The following highlights touch on some of those efforts.

13 Bay Partner Communities Recognized

In 1999, the Bay Program recognized 13 communities for their efforts to protect and restore the Bay as part of the Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities program. The communities include an existing Bay Partner Community that will upgrade its status from silver to gold. This year's nominees bring the total number of Bay Partner Communities to 52. Initiated in 1996, the Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities program recognizes communities that implement and sustain a broad range of activities that protect both local resources and the Bay. For more information on the program, call the International City/County Management Association, (202) 962-3589.

Team Conducts Two Environmental Reviews

The committee's Community Environmental Review Program was completed in two communities in 1999: Warrenton, Virginia, and Hampstead, Maryland. The review held in Warrenton focused on low impact development techniques and infill development. The Hampstead review focused on innovative site planning for a proposed 400 acre industrial site and revitalization of its downtown. An ongoing program, each review brings a team of technical experts together with community officials to

help address local concerns with a focus on protecting the Bay system. Only communities that have applied to be Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities are eligible for participation in the Community Environmental Review Program. This requirement encourages participation in the program. For more information, call the International City/County Management Association, (202) 962-3589.

Workgroup Organizes

Metropolitan areas in the Chesapeake watershed have organized a workgroup to provide more input into the Bay Program decision making process. The workgroup is focusing its efforts on urban watershed management and the potential fiscal effects of Bay Program policies on metropolitan areas. For more information on the program, call the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, (202) 962-3200.

Local Governments Receive Funding for Small Watershed Projects

The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program completed its first year in 1999 by awarding \$650,000 in grants to 37 organizations and local governments. The program, which provides grants to organizations or local governments working



OF NOTE:

- ▶ LGAC continued to communicate with all local governments in the watershed through its newsletter *Bay Currents*.
- ▶ William Rumsey, Jr. of the District of Columbia, was elected as the committee's new chair. State vice-chairs are Gloria Fisher, Virginia; George O'Donnell, Maryland; B. Kenneth Greider, Pennsylvania; and Cheryl Amisial, the District of Columbia.
- ▶ LGAC was one of the sponsors of the Summit Toward a Sustainable Chesapeake, a two-day conference designed to challenge local governments to develop sustainable initiatives in the Bay watershed. The conference attracted more than 300 participants.

to protect and improve watersheds, is funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Its purpose is to demonstrate effective techniques and partnership building that will help achieve Chesapeake Bay restoration objectives at the small watershed scale. Local government-based projects included a trout nursery raceway on an Amish farm in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; a shoreline erosion education project for landowners in Prince Frederick, Maryland; and the development of a nature center for schools in Fauquier County, Virginia. For more information on Small Watershed Grants, call Karen Hester Abrams of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, (202) 857-0166.

ICMA to Coordinate Committee

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) was selected to receive a grant to provide services to local governments in the Chesapeake Bay region. The association's responsibilities include staffing the committee, implementing the Bay Partner Communities program, conducting Community Environmental Reviews, providing technical assistance to local governments and improving communication between the Bay Program and the local governments in the watershed.



1999 Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel County, *Gold*
Chesapeake City, *Gold*
City of Gaithersburg, *Bronze*
Takoma Park, *Gold*
Town of Princess Anne, *Silver*

PENNSYLVANIA

Adams County, *Silver*
Annville Township, *Bronze*
Lewisburg Borough, *Bronze*

VIRGINIA

City of Alexandria, *Gold*
City of Norfolk, *Silver*
Fauquier County, *Bronze*
Gloucester County, *Bronze*
Isle of Wight County, *Bronze*

For more information on the Local Government Advisory Committee,
go to www.chesapeakebay.net/committee.htm
on the Bay Program website.

