



CHESAPEAKE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 117, Galesville, Maryland 20765

CEPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL PLAN FOR CALENDAR 2017

The following is a plan for the calendar year 2017 to be used as guidance for the Board of Trustees of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA). The plan was formulated by the 2017 Planning Committee made up of Jerry Hill (Chairman), Gary Antonides, Lee Greenbaum, Sally Hornor, Rich Romer, and Al Tucker. The plan identifies CEPA's core areas of interest, consistent with the charter of the organization, and suggests goals, methods, and actions and planned milestone dates for the coming year. The plan does not preclude CEPA from pursuing efforts that are unforeseen or are otherwise not mentioned below, as long as those actions are consistent with the Core Areas of Interest and are supported by a quorum of the members of the Board. A five-year look-ahead is included that presents long-term goals and a general vision of CEPA five years in the future.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association is to be a leader in the work to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay through a combination of public information; governmental influence; direct personal involvement; and advocacy for the Bay, its tributaries, and the source water resources of the Bay watershed.

CORE AREAS OF INTEREST

In general terms, CEPA's interests are the Chesapeake Bay itself; the function of the hydrological, geological, and ecological systems that sustain it; and the human activity that affects it. Those systems encompass at least the entire Bay watershed area. Activities that are detrimental to the sustained function and health of the Bay are CEPA's Core Areas of Interest.

Specific items within that Core that have been, and continue to be, issues of concern for CEPA are: source water resources (quality and quantity), nutrient and pollutant infusion, marine life sustainability, invasive species, effects of climate change, and effects resulting from unchecked population growth and irresponsible land development.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGIES

CEPA's objectives will concentrate on citizen awareness and education on Core issues and encouragement of citizen activism and involvement in policy, legislation, and enforcement. CEPA will continue to publish its newsletter three times a year and to hold at least one public information meeting every two years. CEPA will seek to join forces with other groups in events and forums consistent with the Core Areas of Interest. CEPA

will maintain educational information and awareness materials along with background information on its web-site (www.cepaonline.org).

Board of Trustees

Leadership of the Board of Trustees is essential in achieving CEPA's objectives. CEPA's role in education, public involvement, and advocacy requires experienced, knowledgeable, and committed individuals serving on the Board. Two seats on the Board remain to be filled at the beginning of 2017 to achieve full representation of 15 members. Qualifications, experience, and motivation will be considered in the selection and nomination process to fill vacant positions. Experience and capabilities in the areas of environmental science, legislative process, media and communications, source water, and legal process will be desirable.

Specific Objectives for the Year

Operational Objectives:

- *Membership and Outreach* - The membership goal will continue to be 70 dues paying members in 2017. The efforts at increasing membership and public visibility in recent years have been effective and will be continued in 2017.
- *Newsletter* – Producing the CEPA newsletter will continue to be a high priority. The goal for 2017 will be to continue to produce three newsletters throughout the year (winter, spring, and fall).
- *Public Meeting* – CEPA will continue presenting open public information forums on environmental topics. The next forum is planned for the fall of 2018, approximately two years from the October 2016 forum.
- *Waste Management/PST Landfill Site Groundwater Quality Monitoring* – Continued water quality monitoring oversight and review at the Waste Management/PST rubble landfill site in Harwood will be directed by the Landfill Water Quality Monitoring Committee. The committee chairman will report status to the Board at the monthly Board meetings. Data, test summaries, and other items of interest to the public will be posted on the CEPA website. An annual status report will be provided to the county in June. A committee operating budget for 2017 will be prepared by the committee chairman in November 2016 and approved by the Board at the December Board meeting. The approved committee budget will be incorporated in the CEPA annual budget for 2017. Additional issues to be addressed in 2017 include: enforcement of the consent decree associated with contaminants drawn from the on-site wells, investigation of the adjacent Chaney Sand & Gravel Mine to determine if activities at the site may be exacerbating the spread of contaminants from the PST site, and state monitoring and financial responsibility of owners of the other unlined landfill sites in Maryland (10 total).
- *Source Water Resources* – CEPA will work to increase the organizational emphasis on this issue. The goal for this year and increasingly in the future will be to have the public associate CEPA with this issue and to recognize CEPA as the expert public advocate for source water quantity and quality in the region. The groundwater informational presentations made to local groups throughout the area have been effective in raising awareness and will continue. CEPA will

- initiate a “State of the Source Water” assessment for the Bay region in 2017 with the intent of compiling and posting the assessment annually as a means of raising public awareness and interest in this issue. CEPA will advocate for implementation of policy and appropriate legislation in the areas of source water management. The Source Water Committee will consider organizing an informational and strategizing meeting (charrette) with other potential partnering environmental organizations in 2017.
- *Alliance for Livable Communities* – CEPA will continue its participation in the Alliance for Livable Communities, the action committee that grew out of CEPA’s 2016 forum on growth. This organization is viewed as a driving force for moving the county toward a more sustainable financial model with increased emphasis on environmental issues and quality of life.
 - *Climate Change Effects* - CEPA will strive to raise awareness of the expected effects of climate change and the resultant environmental shift.
 - *Legislative Activities* – CEPA will endeavor to be more active and visible in the State and County legislative process. CEPA will track developmental and pending legislation and report to the Board. CEPA will advocate for appropriate legislation through testimony, meetings, letters, etc.
 - *Website* – CEPA will continue to maintain and update its website (www.cepaonline.org) in 2017. The website will post basic information about CEPA, biographies of current Board members, the current Annual Plan, past newsletters, position statements on current issues of interest, reference data on the PST/WM Landfill Groundwater Monitoring project, Alliance for Livable Communities, regional source water reference data, pending state and county environmental legislation information, contact information for government officials, etc.
 - *CEPA Booth at Public Events* – CEPA will man a booth to present CEPA materials and discuss environmental issues at local events of interest as determined by the board.
 - *Media Communication* – CEPA will consider alternative methods of utilizing media outlets for communication on topics in the Core Areas. Ideas that have been suggested for writing articles for publication in local media outlets include tapping into local student internship programs (AA Community College, U. of Md., SERC) for students in environmental related fields, and providing a stipend to a local environmental writer. CEPA’s postings on social media (Facebook) have generated a following, and CEPA will continue to utilize this method of outreach and communication.

Administrative Objectives:

- *Dues and Election of Members of the Board of Trustees* – Membership dues will be collected at the beginning of the calendar year. A letter will be mailed to the mailing list in January requesting dues. Basic annual membership will be \$30 with additional suggested levels of *Sponsoring Member* (\$50) and *Sustaining Member* (\$100). A ballot for electing Trustees will be included with the dues letter. Trustees will be elected by the members for two year terms beginning in February.

- *Elections of Officers of the Board of Trustees* – Elections of officers of the board of Trustees will be held in February. A nominating committee will be appointed by the President in January. Candidates will be identified before the February Board meeting, and officers will be elected at the February Board meeting. Officers will preside for the year beginning with the February Board meeting.
- *CEPA Operating Budget* – A budget for the following year will be prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the Board at the November Board meeting. The budget will be approved at the December Board meeting. The approved budget will be incorporated in the CEPA annual plan.
- *CEPA Financial Statement* – An Annual Financial Statement will be prepared by the Treasurer and approved at the January Board meeting. A Financial Review Committee will be appointed by the President in November and will conduct a financial review of the Financial Statement prior to presentation to the Board. The Financial Statement will include a statement of results of the financial review and will be signed by the chairman of the Financial Review Committee. Quarterly financial statements will be presented in April, July, October, and January.
- *Committee Members and Other Assignments* – The President will establish committees, appoint committee members, and make other assignments as appropriate and necessary to conduct operations efficiently and address any new issues before the Board.
- *Visiting Speakers* – The Board will continue to invite qualified speakers for the monthly board meetings on subjects of interest to CEPA.
- *Track Progress and Update Plan* – The Planning Committee will meet to assess progress on the specific objectives of the plan in July and will redirect efforts and/or modify the objectives as necessary. A new one-year plan will be prepared for the following calendar year in January 2018 and approved at the January Board meeting.

FIVE-YEAR LOOK-AHEAD

Five years out (2022), CEPA intends to be a larger organization with similar Mission and Core Areas of Interest. CEPA will expand and evolve in the following areas:

- CEPA will have a significantly expanded membership base. This will be achieved through increased public awareness of CEPA and its activities and its public advocacy and education on relevant environmental issues.
- CEPA will concentrate on developing its stature as an advocate for source water quality and quantity in the Bay region. It is anticipated that this will become the ‘Signature Issue’ for CEPA, and that CEPA will become recognized as the expert public advocate on this issue. Since air, water, and ground pollution, essentially any uncontrolled toxicity, eventually affects source water quality, and since regional ground hydrology is inexorably connected to the Bay, CEPA will maintain its interests and connections to its traditional issues.
- CEPA will be significantly more active in the legislative process at the state and county levels for regional issues, and at the federal level when appropriate. CEPA’s advocacy will be enhanced by an increased public recognition of the organization and

accomplishments. Issues will be those within the Core Areas of Interest, especially those related to source water quality and quantity.

- CEPA's participation and leadership on the Alliance for Livable Communities will have yielded significant changes in local government approaches to development planning and financial structure yielding long-term benefits in sustainability, costs, and quality of life.