



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA) announces October 14, 2011 public forum: The Pollution Diet TMDL's: What a Concerned Citizen Should Know. The forum will be held at the Schmidt Conference Center on the grounds of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland.

September 16, 2011

The 2011 Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA) environmental forum on October 14, 2011 presents a comprehensive presentation on the topic of EPA enforcement of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for the Chesapeake watershed. Discussing TMDL's in the CEPA Winter 2010-2011 newsletter, CEPA president Dr. Albert Tucker notes "it is the maximum amount of a pollutant or anything else that can exist and still allow the water quality to be fishable or swimmable."

TMDL's or the "Pollution Diet" have been in the news recently as the Obama administration has moved to enforce the Clean Water Act with the threat of severe penalties to the states for non-compliance. This plants the hope that the long struggle to reverse the decline of the Chesapeake Bay will finally show results. Observers have suggested that the good intentions and agreements between Bay watershed jurisdictions over the years have suffered from lack of oversight, coordination, and enforcement. The recent EPA moves to require the Bay watershed states to complete the establishment of TMDL limits for their waterways and to submit plans to achieve the goals, coupled with penalties for non-compliance, holds the promise of finally reversing the trend of decline.

The actual implementation of this plan, however, is more complex than presented above. Further examination reveals that issues of enforcement, jurisdiction, monitoring, effectiveness of the states' plans, flexibility to recognize and adjust to ineffective measures, time required to realize results, and certainly cost suggest that the current EPA initiative with all its promise could turn out to be no more effective than those of the past.

The CEPA forum will examine these issues and provide the basis to inform concerned citizens in the Bay region. CEPA believes that an informed public is better suited to support or help direct the actions of government. The program will include speakers and a round table discussion moderated by award-winning journalist, Terence Smith.

Panelists include:

- Dr. Walter Boynton, University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Lab
- John Rhoderick, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Richard Eskine, Maryland Department of Environment
- Valerie Conolley, Maryland Farm Bureau Federation
- Ron Bowen, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works
- Greg Barranco, US Environmental Protection Administration Chesapeake Bay Program

The forum, titled, "TMDLs: What a Concerned Citizen Should Know", will be held Friday October 14th 2011 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Schmidt Conference Center on the grounds of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland. Information and detailed directions can be found www.cepaonline.org and www.serc.si.edu/visiting.

About Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA). CEPA is an environmental organization of private citizens working to influence environmental policies that affect the Chesapeake Bay. CEPA does this through raising public awareness, education, and activism. Since 1970, CEPA has been involved with many Bay issues, such as nuclear power, the depletion of our aquifers, farm preservation, and ground water contamination. CEPA has worked with a number of government and academic institutions, as well as other environmental organizations. Below are some of our key accomplishments:

AQUIFERS - Maryland's aquifers have been continuously depleted over a period of at least 30 years, and no government agency is actively managing the use of our water resources. The aquifers cover more than one county, and sometimes more than one state, but there is no coordination between the jurisdictions. In 2001, CEPA drafted a proposal to establish a statewide Water Resources Commission to study the depletion of the aquifers and to make recommendations regarding the management of our water resources. As a result, the Water Resources Committee was appointed by the Governor and is pursuing these issues.

PST LANDFILL - At the request of the Harwood Civic Association, CEPA applied for and was awarded a grant from Anne Arundel County for the purpose of monitoring the groundwater in the vicinity of the now closed PST Landfill in Harwood. There is more than the usual concern that toxic material will leach into the groundwater because this landfill was not required to have a liner. The present owner is required to monitor the groundwater for five years, so the grant will initially be used to evaluate the adequacy of their monitoring. After that, CEPA will be responsible for the monitoring, which could last for five or more years. The funds will be used solely for technical support and expenses.

RIVERKEEPER - CEPA supports the area Riverkeepers, particularly the West/Rhode Riverkeeper. CEPA has helped to solicit contributions for the West/Rhode Riverkeeper from the start. Bob Gallagher, who was approved by the Waterkeeper Alliance in 2005, serves as a member of CEPA's Board of Trustees.

STORMWATER - CEPA has worked with other area environmental organizations to establish a stormwater utility fund to pay for the approximately \$1 billion required to upgrade existing Anne Arundel County stormwater management infrastructure to a level that would promote restoration of the Bay. This has involved sponsoring a public forum and giving testimony at County Council hearings.

Contact Information: Mr. Richard Romer racebeat@aol.com or 410-257-6947. Additional information can be found at www.cepaonline.org. ###

Direction to the Schmidt Conference Center from Central Avenue in Edgewater, Maryland:
Follow Central Ave. (Md. 214) east to stoplight at Md. 468 (Muddy Creek Road). Turn right (south). Proceed about 1 mile, then turn left (east) at the SERC sign on the corner of Contees Wharf Road. Proceed 0.8 mile on gravel road to SERC sign, turn right onto paved road. After you pass the gate, continue past the gate and turn right at the first intersection. The Schmidt center is a brick building on the right, just past the row of parking spots.