



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

CEPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL PLAN FOR CALENDAR 2021

The following is a plan for the calendar year 2021 to be used as guidance for the Board of Trustees of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA). The plan was formulated by the 2021 Planning Committee made up of Jerry Hill (Chairman), Gary Antonides, Sally Hornor, Mike Lofton, Al Tucker, Joan Turek, and Bill Vosburgh. The plan identifies CEPA's core areas of interest, consistent with the charter of the organization, and lists 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, limited public access to the bay, and irresponsible government stewardship resulting in unchecked population growth and detrimental land development.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGIES

CEPA's objectives will concentrate on citizen awareness and education of 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) and on social media.

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. Four seats on the Board remain to be filled at the beginning of 2021 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 2021. The efforts at increasing membership and public visibility in recent years have been effective and will be continued in 2021.
- *Newsletter* – Producing the CEPA newsletter will continue to be a high priority. The goal for 2021 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. It was previously planned to present the next forum two years from the May 2019 forum. However the public gatherings are not expected to be allowed by that date due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A spring 2022 date appears realistic, but will be reassessed throughout the coming year.
- *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 2021 will be prepared by the committee chairman in November 2020 and approved by the Board at the December Board meeting. The approved committee budget will be incorporated in the CEPA annual budget for 2021. Additional issues to be addressed in 2021 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 advocate for implementation of policy and appropriate legislation in the areas of source water management.

- *Alliance for Livable Communities (ALC)* – ALC continues to be active in development process of the AA Co. General Development Plan (GDP). CEPA will continue to support ALC and collaborate on efforts of common interest beyond that.
- *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, or other means as appropriate.
- *Website* – CEPA will continue to maintain current information on its website (www.cepaonline.org) in 2021. 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, and other relevant topics. CEPA engaged a website maintenance company to maintain and update the website in 2020. Those efforts will continue in 2021 with a possible revamp of the home page appearance..
- *CEPA Booth at Public Events* – CEPA has exhibited a booth at local events of interest in past years to present CEPA materials and discuss environmental issues. These events are expected to be cancelled or postponed through most of 2021. CEPA will continue participation as events resume.
- *Media Communication* – CEPA will consider alternative methods of utilizing media outlets for communication on topics in the Core Areas. The board has noted the effectiveness of the CEPA Facebook page in reaching interested parties and will increase utilization of that media for posting items of interest including newsletter articles and forum presentation summaries. Other ideas include publishing articles in local media outlets prepared by board members or others including local student interns (AA Community College, U. of Md., SERC) in environmental related fields, and providing a stipend to a local environmental writer.
- *Graywater Reuse Policy* – CEPA will continue participation in development of policy and legislation at the state and local level on residential and commercial reuse of graywater.

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 2021 requesting dues. The dues letter will be moved

forward to November 2021 and will continue to be sent out in November thereafter. Basic annual membership will be \$30 with additional suggested levels of *Sponsoring Member* (\$50) and *Sustaining Member* (\$100). A suggestion has been made to offer a discount for first time membership. That suggestion will be taken for consideration at the mid-year Planning Committee meeting. 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.
- *CEPA Financial Statement* – An Annual Financial Statement will be prepared by the Treasurer and approved at the February Board meeting. A Financial Review Committee will be appointed by the President in November and will conduct a financial review of CEPA prior to presentation of the Financial Statement 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. Periodic (no less than quarterly) financial statements will be prepared by the treasurer and submitted to the Board.
- *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 and approved at the January Board meeting.

FIVE-YEAR LOOK-AHEAD

Five years out (2026), 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 an 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 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 its accomplishments. Issues will be those within the Core Areas of Interest.
- Progress and accomplishment of objectives is dependent on the leadership of the Board of Trustees. CEPA will be lead by a full board of enthusiastic, capable, and committed trustees.