

# WATERKEEPERS Chesapeake

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## 2013-2014 Annual Report

Waterkeepers Chesapeake is a coalition of eighteen independent programs working to make the waters of the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays swimmable and fishable. The coalition amplifies the voices of each Waterkeeper and mobilizes our organizations to fight pollution and champion clean water. The members of Waterkeepers Chesapeake work locally, using grassroots action and advocacy to protect their communities and their waters, as well as regionally to expand each Waterkeeper's capacity for on the water, citizen-based enforcement of environmental laws in the Chesapeake region. Waterkeepers Chesapeake is a member of Waterkeeper Alliance.

This annual report covers the coalition's work on **Primary Issue Areas** for fiscal year July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

### Primary Issue Areas

#### Chesapeake Agriculture Initiative

- Hosted a “Perdue Lawsuit Lesson Learned” meeting for all of our WKC groups to discuss what we learned in the case and how to use that information to go forward in our campaigns on agriculture.
- Opposed Agriculture Certainty legislation in Maryland and got 10 Waterkeeper organizations to support opposition efforts. Although unsuccessful, the opposition led to the establishment of the Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition (MCAC).
- Participant in MCAC and its Agricultural Transparency Steering Committee
- Submitted comment letters and press releases re: EPA's failure to issue a national CAFO rule
- Developed an agricultural transparency and accountability media campaign, collaborating with eleven like-minded organizations to change the dialogue on agricultural pollution. Received \$85,000 grant to contract with Free Range Media to develop a multi-year media campaign and to broaden the coalition to work on decreasing pollution from the agricultural sector in the Bay region.
- Signed onto MCAC's press release, letter to the Governor, and participated in MCAC's negotiations over Maryland's Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) rule.
- Released a policy statement on the Phosphorus Management Tool and have worked to block efforts to further delay its implementation through letters to the editor, press releases, letters to legislators, legislative testimony both on our own and in collaboration with the Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition (MCAC).
- Filed and was granted a petition for Certiorari to MD Court of Appeals in case against Maryland Department of Agriculture for access to Nutrient Management Plans and

accompanying documentation, and had oral argument in May, with counsel from Environmental Integrity Project.

- Negotiated and Provided Scientific Evidence and Information as a Macro Study Panel Member for the Advisory Group for the Phosphorus Management Tool Economic Study.

### **Stormwater Initiative**

- Signed onto WKA comments and an MCAC press release objecting to the continued delay in development of a national stormwater rule.
- Developed and submitted detailed comments on the Maryland Construction Stormwater General Permit, as well as testified at the public hearing, with counsel from the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic. Have also reviewed and analyzed potential for appeal.
- Participates in the Choose Clean Water Coalition Stormwater workgroup; participated in a meeting with EPA Region III personnel regarding enforcement and compliance in the stormwater programs.
- Filed appeals of the Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince Georges County MS4 Permits, with counsel from Earthjustice, after MDE failed to incorporate necessary recommendations included in our comments to make these permits enforceable and consistent with the TMDL.
- Working with the University of Maryland's Law Clinic to review and analyze sanitary sewer and combined sewer overflow consents decrees (SSO/CSO) for continuing compliance problems as well as delays in compliance schedules; also working with Chesapeake Commons to develop maps for these problems.

### **Chesapeake Watershed Advocacy**

- Participates in EPA's Trading and Offsets Workgroups and has prepared comments on EPA's technical guidance documents
- Participates in the informal advisory group convened to advise and inform the environmental members of the Maryland's Accounting for Growth Workgroup in developing regulations.
- Prepared comments on the triennial reviews of Water Quality Standards in West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland.
- Organized several trainings for WKC members on the Water Reporter App and will be organizing more throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. A new Water Reporter 2.0 App Website was launched July 2014
- Participates in the Choose Clean Water TMDL workgroup

- Negotiating with EPA regarding the “reclassification” of 139 stream segments from the 2012 Integrated Report, with counsel from Earthjustice, and preparing to file an appeal
- Developed comments on the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, issued a press statement on the release and deficiencies in the Bay Agreement and also worked with Senior Bay Scientist on the development of a “Citizens Bay Agreement.”
- Partnered with EarthEcho Expeditions for their educational expedition into the dead zone of the Chesapeake Bay
- Participating in national and regional workgroups to prepare for the new EPA rule on Waters of the United States, including working with Choose Clean Water to educate member groups about the importance of the rule, signing onto comment letters, gathering information from Waterkeeper groups for preparing comments. Working with Waterkeeper Alliance attorneys and Waterkeeper programs nationwide on comments to the new rule.
- Organized Waterkeepers in the 21 states that were involved in filing the brief opposing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL to sign onto an amicus brief, as well as find partners in the business community and prepare for media campaigns when the briefs are filed.
- Participates on Maryland Enforcement Network’s quarterly meetings to develop strategies and collaborations on stronger enforcement in agriculture sector and an agenda for the next Attorney General.
- Working with University of Maryland Law Clinic to follow up on and update the dedelegation petition filed with EPA Region II against Maryland in 2009

### **Fracking, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Export & Related Infrastructure**

- Fully engaged in the fight to stop Cove Point Liquefied Natural Gas facility, including partnering with CCAN for the Crossroads tour, preparing comments letters, joining the Cove Point Emergency Coalition, participated on Steering Committee for July 13<sup>th</sup> DC rally, organizing grassroots activation through our member organizations and participating in public rallies and speaking engagements.
- Participates on Choose Clean Water Coalition’s Shale Workgroup and Waterkeeper Alliance’s Fossil Fuels Group. Coordinating with other Waterkeepers on fracking and LNG export issues.
- Participates in coalition efforts to maintain the ban on fracking in the draft management plan for the George Washington National Forest
- Tracking the development and plans for pipelines and planning a strategy to address this emerging threat

- Was part of the rapid response to the train derailment and oil spill and fire in the James River at Lynchburg April 2014; supported Upper James Riverkeeper and Waterkeeper Alliance's on-the-ground efforts with communications and follow-up advocacy for stronger state and federal regulations

### **Conowingo Dam Relicensing**

- Formally intervened in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process on the Conowingo Dam with counsel from Earthjustice.
- Hosted a coordination meeting among all the environmental stakeholder groups and will continue to communicate through this forum.
- Coordinating Conowingo messaging and communications with American Rivers
- Focusing on the 401 Water Quality Certification and anticipated concerns with the sedimentation models. WKC is investigating the possibility of hiring a modeler to critique the problems with the Lower Susquehanna Watershed Assessment or conduct our own study.
- Fully engaged in the re-licensing process of Conowingo Dam by the Federal Energy Commission, including submitting detailed comments on the draft license and fish prescriptions; working with Maryland state officials to ensure that the application for the 401 Water Quality Certification is complete; analyzing the information from the Lower Susquehanna Watershed Assessment and preparing to submit detailed technical comments, as well as potentially undertake some additional studies.

### **Communications**

- Set up a Facebook page ([Facebook@WaterkeepersChesapeake](#)) and Twitter ([@WaterkeepersCP](#)) accounts (230 Likes and 465 Followers respectively as of June 30, 2014). Planning to expand staff to help with a communications strategy.
- Organized an agriculture communication meeting with Town Creek and Campbell Foundations and key leaders in the community to become more proactive on agriculture issues.
- Contracted with Weathervane Graphics to develop a logo and website. New website should be launched in August 2014.
- Held a communications and messaging seminar for our members at the November 2013 annual meeting; worked with the Hatcher Group to develop a comprehensive communications plan for Waterkeepers Chesapeake, providing tools for both internal and external communications and a plan for expanding our reach to a greater audience.

- Stimulated our outreach and social media to reach a much wider audience to share with them the latest news and updates from Waterkeepers Chesapeake and our member Waterkeeper programs.

### **Organizational Capacity**

- Hired a well-qualified Executive Director, who started work in December 2012.
- Incorporated in Maryland, filed with the IRS for 501(c)(3) status
- Contracted a part-time advocacy and legal adviser
- Established a board of directors with officers, consisting of five Waterkeeper members; two non-waterkeeper board members (and continuing to look for additional members), also adopted a board giving policy and membership dues policy.
- Organized a mid-term meeting for WKC in June and an annual two-day meeting in November.
- Organized biweekly conference calls and monthly board calls.
- Developed a committee structure to have greater involvement and investment from member organizations in developing campaigns and achieving our collective goals.
- Received license from Waterkeeper Alliance and approval to be a new Chesapeake Region within the Alliance, with a seat on the Waterkeeper Alliance Council.

### **Partners**

Waterkeepers Chesapeake takes part in coalitions and works with other partners to advance Priority Issue Areas.

- Choose Clean Water Coalition participation (steering committee, work groups)
- Maryland Clean Agricultural Coalition participation (ag transparency, phosphorous management tool, etc)
- Herring Alliance Membership (sustainable fisheries)
- Cove Point Emergency Coalition
- Americans Against Fracking
- Chesapeake Pesticide Network
- Bay Enforcement Network (hosted by Center for Progressive Reform)
- Chesapeake Commons (Water Reporter app, CSO & SSO mapping, other WKC maps)

- The Hatcher Group (communications and media assistance)
- Free Range Studios (communications and media campaign planning)
- Primary partners on agricultural pollution media campaign include: Environment Maryland, Common Cause Maryland, Environmental Integrity Project, Food and Water Watch, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Hope Impacts, and Center for Progressive Reform.
- Waterkeepers Chesapeake relies on pro bono legal and technical assistance from a number of nonprofit legal groups and law clinics including Earthjustice, Chesapeake Legal Alliance, University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic, Environmental Integrity Project, and Georgetown University's Institute for Public Representation.
- Waterkeepers Chesapeake works with Waterkeeper programs outside of the region.

## Financials

<b>July 2013 - June 2014</b>	
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Foundations	\$193,000.00
Membership Dues	\$9,600.00
Board Donations	\$800.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$203,400.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Payroll Expenses	\$91,375.19
Professional Services (contractors)	\$77,553.16
Program Expenses	\$6,601.87
Administrative Expenses	\$6,205.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$181,735.22</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$21,664.78</b>

## **Waterkeeper Chesapeake Coalition Members**

Anacostia Riverkeeper  
Assateague Coastkeeper  
Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper  
Chester Riverkeeper  
Choptank Riverkeeper  
Gunpowder Riverkeeper  
Lower James Riverkeeper  
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper  
Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper  
Miles/Wye Riverkeeper  
Patuxent Riverkeeper  
Potomac Riverkeeper  
Sassafras Riverkeeper  
Severn Riverkeeper  
Shenandoah Riverkeeper  
South Riverkeeper  
Upper James Riverkeeper  
Upper Potomac Riverkeeper  
Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper  
West/Rhode Riverkeeper

### **Contact information:**

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