Chesapeake Bay Program
Information Management Subcommittee
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Wednesday, May 21, 2003
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Minutes

Introductions and Announcements

The next Information Management Subcommittee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 20, 2003** at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO), Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room in Annapolis, MD.

Implementation Committee (IC) (Nancie Imler)

March 6th Conference Call:

1. **Nutrient Trading:** Allison Wiedeman (EPA), Dave Batchelor (EPA) and Paul Faeth (World Resources Institute) gave a presentation on EPA national policy; advantages of trading; and specific trading activities in the Bay. The goal was to ensure the jurisdictions have the necessary information to incorporate trading in their tributary strategies. Allison is to work with the states for a pilot watershed.
2. **Mercury in the CB Watershed:** Rich Eskins, Toxics Subcommittee (TSC) Chair, provided a presentation on the Mercury Briefing Paper. The TSC is seeking the IC's advice on the best way to prevent and reduce mercury releases into the CB watershed from sources inside and outside the watershed. The TSC is also pursuing the best means of managing the growing number of fish advisories related to mercury. The IC is to provide written comments, which will be placed on the June 12 agenda.
3. Frank Dawson (LRSC Chair) introduced options for the new fish passage goal and would like the IC's approval on the April 17 agenda.
4. Martha Little resigned as chair of the Land Growth and Stewardship Subcommittee. David Kovacs of VA Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department was recommended and approved.

April 17th IC Meeting:

1. In a ceremonial signing, Rebecca Hanmer, CBPO director, and Ramona Trovato, EPA HQ, signed a Chesapeake Information Management System (CIMS) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
2. Members from each Chesapeake Bay Program Subcommittee presented their semi-annual digests to the IC. The digests report on how each subcommittee is fulfilling their respective C2K Goals outlined in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.
3. Kelly Shenk, Fish Advisory Workgroup Chair, presented the findings from a comparison study on the approaches for issuing fish consumption advisories in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This study found that there is no general consensus on reporting criteria. In conjunction with this report, Rich Eskins (TSC Chair), sought advise from the IC on ways to reduce mercury releases in the Bay, which is a major reason fish consumption advisories are increasing.
4. David Kovacs (LGSS Chair) updated the IC on the training program it is developing to promote sound land use.
5. Sally Claggett (USFS) updated the IC on the new forest buffer goals. The IC is to provide feedback on the paper and presentation.

May 15th Conference Call:

1. IC discussed the role and participation of the head water States.

2. Frank Dawson (LRSC Chair) provided an update on the new Fish Passage Goal process. Should we set the new goal now or closer to the end of 2004 when the current goal expires? Waiting would provide the opportunity to link new goals for fish passage; riparian forest buffers; and stream corridor restoration.
3. IC members worked on a process and guidelines for voting on C2K Keystone Exercise.

Budget Steering Committee (BSC) (Nancie Imler)

Members at the past four BSC meetings (April 10, 11, 30 and May 1) have been working on the FY04 budget. The activities budget is smaller than previous years because of commitments that continue over multiple fiscal years.

The 2004 IMS base budget was reviewed which increased from last year's 2003 budget. The increase is due to additional security training required for the network; the movement of two web positions originally funded by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to the National Park Service; and the movement of the land data manager from the Land Growth and Stewardship Subcommittee budget to IMS. The IMS budget increased from 1.193 million in FY03 to 1.354 million for FY04.

The 2003 funding is greater than expected. It may contain the small watershed grants funding. Almost all activities in the 2003 Request For Proposals (RFP) will be funded. Some of these activities include Toxic Characterization, Fish Passage, and Sediment.

NCBO Coastal Prediction Center (Doug Wilson)

Doug Wilson from the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) presented a PowerPoint on the Chesapeake Bay Coastal Prediction Center.

> The Costal Prediction Center (CPC) is an internet–based system for coastal information and predictions, initially targeted to recreational users. Doug Wilson and NCBO staff are in the process of redeveloping the site to target a larger audience which will include researchers, policy and decision makers, commercial and recreational interests, defense and security, education and the general public. The CPC will be a source of information, services and products relevant to assessment and prediction of Chesapeake Bay regional environmental conditions.

> NCBO staff would like the CPC to be a significant part of the Chesapeake Bay Ocean Observing System. The CPC will create an environment and mechanism for identifying new services and products and enabling their creation and validation. We can only develop prediction capability through continued observations, information, availability, and model evaluation.

NCBO is working with the Chesapeake Bay Program Office on various projects that will benefit the CPC, for example climate and fisheries analysis that can be developed as a forecasting tool.

"Bay Grass Watch" web site (Michael Sola)

Michael Sola from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) gave a presentation on their new submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) website that was developed in cooperation with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). It is currently in the testing phase and tentatively scheduled to go live late next month. It is a user driven website and developed to allow the ground-truthing volunteers to enter their SAV data into the SAV database for quicker results. For more information you can contact David Wilcox from VIMS at dwilcox@vims.edu and Jill Bieri from CBF at JBieri@savethebay.cbf.org

Update on the XML Web Services Working Group Pilot Projects

Corel Smart Graphics
James Buttinger, Director of Corporate Sales for Corel Inc., presented Corel's Smart Graphics software. Smart Graphics is a scalable vector graphics, data driven software. The graphics are created in templates from data entered in various formats (e.g., excel, access). Smart Graphics allows the user to enter and update data without having to create a new graph and attach that graph to the web or document. It also saves time graphing real time monitoring data.

Corel Inc. used the Chesapeake Bay 2002 State of the Bay Report as a pilot project for displaying graphs contained in a report. The 2002 State of the Bay Report is currently online as a .pdf version. Smart Graphics would allow the Bay Program to generate next years report graphics simply by changing the data in the database.

Corel XMetal
Corel also used the Chesapeake Bay 2002 State of the Bay Report as a pilot for authoring in XMetal. Corel XMetal is an "ideal companion to a content management system." XMetal uses XML to display a document as html rather than pdf.

LiveXML
Object Builders, Inc. is working with the data center at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office to incorporate LiveXML software to the Bay Program's main webpage and the Watershed Profiles Tool. LiveXML allows the webpage user to customize the page and even add data to the webpage. LiveXML assembles the components into solutions without traditional code. LiveXML is similar to MP3 software.

Lunch

Brian Burch, CBPO Data Center Manager, showed version 3 of Watershed Profiles Tool, tentatively scheduled to go live Friday, May 23, 2003.

GIS/CIMS standards (Pat Nowlan)

Pat Nowlan, CBPO GIS Team Leader, led a discussion on modifying CIMS Locational Data Policy. He proposed adding WGS84 as an acceptable datum for CBP data deliverables which currently only states NAD83 as an acceptable datum. WGS84 is as accurate a datum as NAD83, but maybe more convenient for data submitters since GPS units typically output coordinates with WGS84 datum and CBP data deliverables are increasingly submitted with coordinates from GPS units. The difference between WGS84 and NAD83 is minimal; therefore, using both datums interchangeably could be done as long as the identification of the datum is recorded.

ACTION: The Data Center will draft a new CIMS Locational Data Policy for review at the next IMS meeting.

CIMS Workshop Feedback (Brian Burch)

The CIMS Workshop was a two-day event, held at the Patuxent Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel, MD. Half of those that attended *and* filled out a survey were from state agencies, and surprisingly there were no responses from programmers. A majority of those that attended *and* filled out a survey said that the workshop met their expectations "a little better than average". Attendees said that there was too much information in too little time and the speakers needed to be better prepared. Gaithersburg Middle School made a positive and lasting impression on those that attended. Everyone loved Amy Pike's (teacher) presentation and her student's posters.

In response to the survey question on how often should IMS hold a workshop, 47 % said more often than every two years. It was decided that IMS would continue to hold a CIMS Workshop every two to three years with additional targeted training during off years.

ACTION: CBPO Data Center needs input from all IMS members and CIMS interested parties on what their information management needs may be to plan for future workshops.

IMS Tasks for 2003 (Nancie Imler)

Nancie Imler thanked Brian Burch and the state coordinators participating in the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) grant for their participation and assistance putting the grant proposal together. There has been no word if this grant has been approved. If this grant is approved, there will be changes in the way IMS conducts business, for example developing an IT architecture and selecting pilots for this grant.

IMS members discussed the need for historical data maintenance.

Action: Regardless of the outcome of the NEIEN grant proposal, IMS needs to develop an IT architecture, organize it's documents, and CBP will change the approach they access and share data.
Action: IMS needs to always stress Metadata and Data Management.
Action: Quality management needs to be more involved at CBP.

Staff / Agency Updates

Caroline Molivadas has been replaced by Mike Rahnis as the new GIS specialist at DC's Department of Health (DoH) and the DC representative on IMS. Caroline still plans to be an active member on IMS as part of her position with the District of Columbia as a GIS Analyst and DoH liaison for Homeland Security.

Caroline has applied for various grants that will assist improving DC's data management. She is currently pushing to put better environmental data on the dc.gov site. Currently, it is mainly an EGov site.

Adjourn

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Nancie Imler (Chair)	PA DEP
Tony Allred	MD DNR
Ricky Bahner	ICPRB/CBPO
Mark Behuncik	Corel, Inc.
John Brakebill	USGS
Brian Burch	EPA/CBPO
Jim Buttinger	Corel, Inc.
Cory Christman	ODU
Peter Claggett	USGS/CBPO
Jeff Dietterle	USGS/Web Services
Scott Edwards	Corel, Inc.
Shawn Henderson	Corel, Inc.
Phil Hissom	Veridyne/CBPO

Karl Huber	VA DCR
Jacqueline Johnson	ICPRB/CBPO
Kevin Kirby	EPA/OIC
Mike Land	NPS/CBPO
Mike Long	EPA/OEI
Caroline Molivadas	DC GIS analyst/ DC DoH Homeland Security liaison
Pat Nowlan	NPS/CBPO
Mike Rahnis	DC DoH, WPD
Michael Sola	CBF
Jill Waite	CRC/CBPO