

CBGN Working Group Minutes – February 9, 2005

Joseph Macknis Memorial Conference Room, Chesapeake Bay Restoration Center
Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis MD 21403

Participating: Jonathan Doherty, Rod Torrez, Cheryl Branagan, Mike Land, Robert Pickett, Robert Carter, Marci Ross, Lisa Gutierrez, Elizabeth Hughes, Melanie Teems, Lee Epstein, Bob Munson, Pat Stuntz, Ann Swanson

Guests: Vickie Jones (Reingold),

Pending Nominations:

Jonathan Doherty noted the deadline for new nominations was January 31. Eleven nominations were submitted. Reviews have not yet been completed, so nominations will be considered at the next WG meeting. Feedback regarding nominated sites would be appreciated. Working Group members made initial comments on several nominees:

Shenandoah River State Park is one of few upper watershed sites that we have considered, and we should look at it with that in mind.

St. Andrew's Church is the first nominated active church.

Georgetown Waterfront Park/ Rock Creek Park -- keep in mind that Rock Creek Park encompasses Georgetown Waterfront Park, and that GWP would be eligible for Gateways benefits under Rock Creek.

Overview of Known Legislative Initiatives:

Marci Ross provided an overview of several pending legislative initiatives:

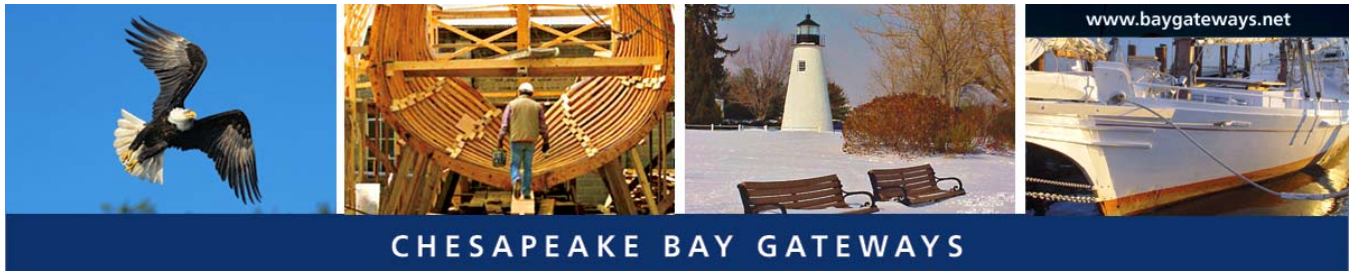
War of 1812 Commemoration and Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail: Senator Sarbanes is expected to introduce legislation in the near future for designating the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Creation of a War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission is also being considered for designation.

Washington Rochambeaux Revolutionary War National Historic Trail: A study of this trail proposal is currently underway; legislation may be considered at some time in the future. The route runs



your Chesapeake connection

National Park Service 410 Severn Avenue Suite 109 Annapolis MD 21403 1-800 YOUR BAY (968 7229)



from the NE US to the Chesapeake Bay to Yorktown. MD and VA have been less involved in the process.

Baltimore Heritage: The Baltimore City Heritage area recently received a grant for carrying out a feasibility study for a national heritage area designation.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake Bay National Historic Water Trail: Senators from MD and VA have been asked to introduce legislation to authorize a study for National Historic Trail designation of a Smith water trail. It is expected the legislation will be introduced in the near future.

The push for a Smith National Water Trail has been initiated and led by a partnership of The Conservation Fund, National Geographic Society and Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Ann Swanson noted that legislative efforts to make the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network permanent appear to be slowed as a result of the House Appropriations Committee investigation of the program. She indicated there was some concern regarding perceived issues, including the speed at which Gateways funding is being disseminated, the percentage of funding that is going to program administration, and the question of the NPS potentially relegating its legislated responsibilities to outside sources. She felt the John Smith water trail initiative and CBGN are complementary initiatives.

Elizabeth Hughes expressed a concern about the need to develop support for the Network and communicate effectively with Gateways regarding how to stay informed and involved in the legislative process.

Past Grants – Issues and Initiatives:

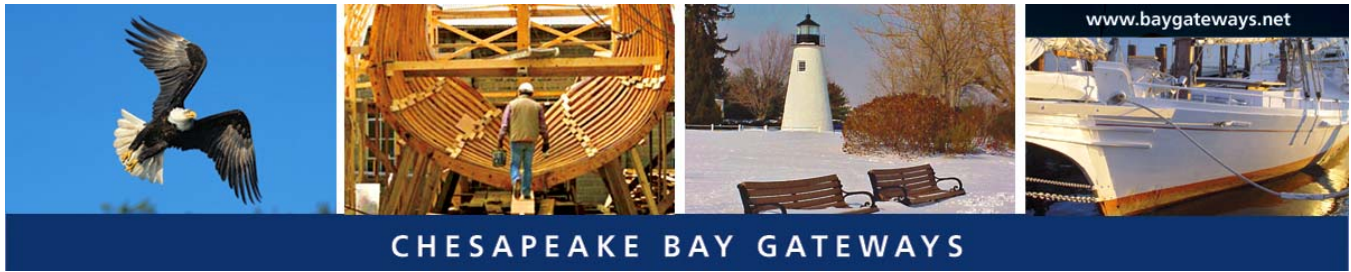
Jonathan Doherty provided an overview of the status of past grants and several issues affecting them. Several factors have been involved in slowing projects down, including grantee staff turnover and changes in leadership, underestimates of the time involved for carrying out a project and other factors such as Hurricane Isabel damage. Melanie Teems noted that completion issues are not unique to Gateways, but consistent with most other grants programs.

Jonathan noted that NPS is trying to apply some dedicated assistance and pressure to get as many of the first three years of grants completed as soon as possible. In a number of areas projects are close to completion, but we need them to move them ahead.



your Chesapeake connection

National Park Service 410 Severn Avenue Suite 109 Annapolis MD 21403 1-800 YOUR BAY (968 7229)



Some steps have been identified to reduce the occurrence of this pattern in the future. We need to ensure greater scrutiny of current grantees before providing another grant. In addition a new sample scope of work has been developed as a required element of the application process. This should force greater attention to work plans and time-lines for new grants.

Lee Epstein noted that if the issue of outstanding grants is endangering the entire program, there may need to be a punitive impact for sites that do not complete projects within the agreed-upon 18 months. Working Group members felt NPS should consider all options to address the issue.

Updates:

The President's 2006 budget request does not include funding for the CBGN or other programs in the Statutory Aid part of the budget.

The Appropriations committee report is still pending.

Copies of the newest Poster Guide were provided.

The CBGN conference is only six weeks away. Members are encouraged to register soon.

Adjournment



your Chesapeake connection

National Park Service 410 Severn Avenue Suite 109 Annapolis MD 21403 1-800 YOUR BAY (968 7229)