

CBGN Working Group Minutes – January 11, 2006

CBPO Fish Shack Conference Room, Annapolis, MD

Participants: Jonathan Doherty, Rod Torrez, Paula Degen, John Maounis, Lynn Bostain, Lee Epstein, Lisa Gutierrez, Bob Carter, John Wolf, Claudia Schechter, Marci Ross, Janet Llewellyn, Darrell Jones, Beverly McMillan, Bob Campbell, Robert Pickett, Melanie Teems, Cheryl Branagan, Mike Land, Catherine Mueller

Tribute to Jonathan Doherty: Prior to the start of the meeting, Bob Campbell led a tribute to Jonathan Doherty, who is leaving the position of director of the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Program Office. There will be a party to honor Jonathan on Saturday, February 11.

Representation of Friends of Chesapeake Gateways on Working Group (FCG): There was consensus that the new Friends organization should have a place on the Working Group, to be filled by the chair of the FCG board of directors or the chair's designee.

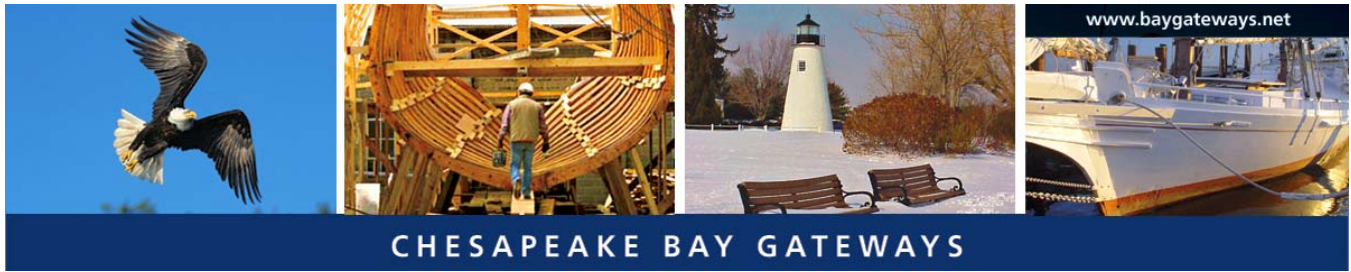
2006 Gateways Grant Guidelines: Proposed modifications to CBGN Grant Guidelines flow out of the Strategic Plan and FY 2006 Annual Program Plan. Key points of the discussion follow:

- The grant application deadline will be earlier than in the past: April 21, 2006.
- Interpretive planning and interpretive master plans will now be allowable grant activities. Interpretive plans for individual Gateways and interpretive plans linking multiple sites will be considered. Language should be added to the guidelines to require that the product of an interpretive planning grant is an actionable plan, not just a concept.
- Priorities for Gateway sites include increasing attention to unrepresented themes, stewardship, and linkages among multiple gateways. Conveying a site's relationships to the Chesapeake Bay is a given for all CBGN grants and will become part of the introductory material instead of listed among priorities.
- Similarly, relationship to the Bay is a general requirement for Water Trails, Byways and Connecting Routes. An additional priority will be listed for projects that fill a gap in state or regional initiatives for water trails or scenic byways.
- Gateways as Classrooms will be considered a regular eligible project category and no longer identified as a demonstration program. Projects must include implementation, not just development.
- Notice of a potential pre-testing requirement for major interpretive projects will be added to the grant guidelines. Some details are yet to be determined. There was consensus that



your Chesapeake connection

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



grantees should be given an incentive to participate in pilot testing, such as assurance that the costs of the evaluation component, if required, will be added to the grant.

- Network-wide grants for strategic CBGN priorities will be a new funding category, using an RFP approach rather than the regular grant application process. A limited number of grants may be awarded for proposals addressing the “Chesapeake code,” living history programming, or interpreting native Americans. Specific guidelines for each category will be developed for discussion at the next Working Group meeting.
- Regular grant guidelines will be revised and immediately publicized. Distribution of guidelines for the Network-wide category will follow the Feb. 8 meeting.

Reviewing Gateways re: Designation/MOU Commitments: In accordance with the Strategic Plan’s goal to maximize organizational effectiveness, biennial reviews will be conducted to determine whether a designated gateway continues to meet baseline criteria and its obligations under the MOU and grant agreements. In rare cases this review may lead to de-designation as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. The Working Group concurred with staff recommendation for action on three current situations: (1) terminate the MOU with the City of Norfolk and de-designate the Norfolk Water Trails System; (2) terminate the August 2004 grant to the Historical Society of Kent County for the Geddes-Piper House; (3) redo the current MOU with the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association to terminate designation for a York River Water Trail and to recognize the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Water Trail in its place. Procedures to address de-designation and possible future reinstatement should be developed.

Updates and Other Business: Eight nominations will be presented for decision at the next meeting. Marci Ross reported progress on CBGN marketing. Mike Land reported 715,000 visits to the Website this year, double last year’s number. Beverly McMillan reported that the colonial thematic guide is ready for NPS review and is scheduled to print in April. Claudia Schechter and the staff of the Association of Partners for Public Lands are working on an expanded series of workshops to include orientation for new gateways and for visitor contact personnel, grants workshops, plus special topic and “connecting to excellence” workshops, to begin early spring.

The next Working Group meeting will be on **February 8, 2006**, and will focus on nomination of new gateways, the grant procedures for Network-wide projects, and a session with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Bay National Historic Water Trail study team.



your Chesapeake connection

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