

## CBFN Update – May 19, 2006

**Note:** The next CBFN meeting will take place on October 18<sup>th</sup> in the Shenandoah. *Mark your calendars!*

### Spring Retreat at Wades Point Inn

The Chesapeake Bay Funders Network members met in St. Michaels Maryland for a two day retreat in mid-April. David O'Neill (Chesapeake Bay Trust), CBFN Chair, welcomed members and outlined goals for the meeting. The retreat offered members the time to network with one another, discuss the future direction of the Network, and address two of CBFN's larger efforts: Capacity Building and Agriculture. Attendees also shared great food, a beautiful view and a good time.

Invited speaker Ann Swanson (Chesapeake Bay Commission) reviewed key issues within the Bay restoration effort. Pat Noonan (The Conservation Fund) with David Burke (David Burke & Associates) outlined efforts to set up the John Smith National Water Trail, which merges historical and environmental interests of the region to protect and celebrate over 3000 miles of Chesapeake Bay waterways. The speakers set a tone for Funders to discuss where CBFN efforts could be best applied in 2006-2007.

**CBFN Retreat attendees enjoying some free time on the back porch of Wades Point Inn:**

**Right:** Karen Fligger (EPA), Cathy Brill (Rauch Fdn), Pat Munoz (River Network) and Joan Murray (Wallace Genetic Fdn)

**Far Right:** Jana Davis (CBT), Ann Swanson (CBC), Carolynn Mambu (Cafritz Fdn), Kristin Pauly (Prince Charitable Trusts) and David O'Neill



### Retreat Outcomes & Workgroup Progress Updates:

Great progress was made both at and since the retreat in the areas of Capacity Building and the Agriculture Initiatives. Following in the path of these and other successful CBFN collaborations and inspired by retreat presentations and discussions, a new workgroup to address land use was created. **The Land Use workgroup** will be chaired by Kristin Pauly (Prince Charitable Trusts) to focus on land use and sprawl. The group plans to convene via conference call for a strategic planning session early this summer, to be followed by a kick-off meeting in the fall. To get involved in the land use workgroup contact: Kristin Pauly at [kpauly@princetrusts.org](mailto:kpauly@princetrusts.org)

### Agriculture Initiative:

Recognizing the fact that agriculture accounts for 39% of the Bay's nitrogen load in 2003 and the need to maintain the region's tradition of strong agriculture communities, a collaborative Agriculture Initiative was endorsed; its goals are to:

1. Reduce excess manure through RFP process and to fund innovative activities
2. Enhance farmer access to technical assistance through a pre-qualification process that recommends pilot programs that are transferable and sustainable

Verna Harrison (Campbell Foundation) presented on behalf of the CBFN Ag Initiative at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food and Society meeting in late April. Coordination and feedback from Kellogg is

being integrated into the Ag workgroup's proposal for soliciting funding decisions in early June. The next discussion with Kellogg is scheduled for mid-May. Six funders (Campbell Foundation, Town Creek Foundation, Western PA Watershed Program, Agua Fund, Prince Charitable Trusts, & CBT) have pledged funding to the Ag initiative at thus far, several more have shown interest.

The pooled funding will be held by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) and the CBFN Ag workgroup will serve as the advisory group. The Technical Assistance program is guided by Connie Musgrove (UMD) and Larry Ellsworth (Center for Agricultural Partnership) and a regional steering committee of agricultural experts. Pilot projects will be recommended at the CBFN Ag workgroup meeting this summer (tentative: July 29<sup>th</sup>) with decisions to be made by fall meeting (tentative: September 28). The manure RFP is scheduled to be published in the fall, with proposals due by the end of January 2007.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is managing this effort, led by Jana Davis. Your involvement is encouraged and welcomed. Thanks to the workgroup members, The Abell Foundation, Campbell Foundation, Town Creek Foundation, Western PA Watershed Program, Agua Fund, Prince Charitable Trusts, NFWF and CBT, who have spent numerous hours over the past two years learning from farmers, scientists, government representatives and NGO's on Ag issues, leading up to this initiative. For more information on the Ag Initiative or if you would like to contribute to the pooled fund, please contact: Verna Harrison [vharrisonkcf@verizon.net](mailto:vharrisonkcf@verizon.net)

#### **Capacity Building Initiative:**

Betsey Nelson from the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers (ABAG) gave a presentation at the CBFN retreat on models for funding collaboratives and facilitated the subsequent discussion on the CBFN's collaborative capacity building initiative's framework. The program will have an initial horizon of three years and will include both programmatic and organizational capacity building. Nine funders (Campbell Foundation, Town Creek Foundation, Cafritz Foundation, Agua Fund, Prince Charitable Trusts, EPA, Rauch Foundation, CBT, Oak Hill Fund & EPA) expressed interest in participating in the capacity building program and feedback from the retreat attendees has been incorporated into a new draft proposal.

The workgroup led by Cathy Brill (Rauch Foundation) met in mid-May and developed a timeline for implementation that includes acquiring feedback on proposal from a select sample of watershed groups and developing an evaluation framework and assessment process. The workgroup will be meeting in mid-July to review input from the watershed groups and to finalize the proposal. The Capacity Building program will be kicked off in late September 2006 and will be administered by the CBT.

Thanks to the workgroup members, Rauch Foundation, Campbell Foundation, Town Creek Foundation & CBT, for dedicating themselves in moving the capacity building initiative forward since their first meeting last January. For more information on the Capacity Building Initiative or if you would like to contribute to the pooled fund, please contact Cathy Brill at [cathybrill@comcast.net](mailto:cathybrill@comcast.net)

#### **CBFN Collaborations:**

At the retreat Betsey Nelson (ABAG) and Verna Harrison (Campbell Foundation) facilitated a discussion on structural approaches for collaborations among CBFN members. Examples of successful CBFN collaborations were summarized and unfruitful efforts were analyzed. The group decided to use a web newsletter to share information on opportunities to partner on important grants in the future.

### **CBFN Administration & Technology upgrade:**

The CBFN attendees at the retreat agreed to meet three times a year, with two meetings taking place in Washington DC and a third hosted regionally by a CBFN member. Cecily Kihn from the Agua Fund volunteered to host the first regional or field meeting which will take place on October 18th in the Shenandoah region.

CBFN is upgrading its **web** presence this summer through support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The Network's site will continue to be housed within the Trust website. The new CBFN space will eventually include the Chesapeake Bay **Funders database**, which includes member info and bay funding data from 2003-2005. The CBFN website will also include password protected pages which can be used for facilitating CBFN funding collaborations and on-going discussions. An **e-newsletter** that links to the website will be sent monthly to update members on site updates and workgroup developments.

The web upgrade and addition of regular e-newsletter will maximize our efficiency to communicate as a group. If you have any ideas or suggestions in how to accomplish our communication goals, please contact Tilly Egge at [bayfunder@verizon.net](mailto:bayfunder@verizon.net)

An estimated budget of \$23,500.00 was projected to cover costs for ½ time staff person and meeting costs needed to advance CBFN mission in the following year. The benchmark for annual donation to support CBFN coordination is \$1,500.00. A more detailed letter soliciting CBFN support will be distributed via hardcopy in early June. All funders are encouraged to make the benchmark contribution, though any size donation will help.

Overall, the retreat was productive and enjoyable. The CBFN thanks Tilly Egge for her exceptional work in organizing the logistics and David O'Neill for his leadership.