



An Abridged History of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Chesapeake Bay Restoration effort: *Highlights of Partnership and Progress*

Date: 1971

A group of concerned citizens, representing business, agriculture, conservation, academia and government meet at the University of Maryland to discuss the declining “state of the Bay” and a lack of political commitment to address it. They agree to form a coalition called “The Citizens Program for the Chesapeake Bay (CPCB).”

Date: 1975

CPCB hosts an interstate conference on bay issues and conclude that a formal regulatory commission would not be effective. The idea of a voluntary Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is born.

Date: 1977

CPCB is awarded a grant from the EPA to conduct public involvement for the newly formed scientific study of the Bay led by MD Senator Charles Mathias.

Date: 1978

The CPCB opens its first office in Hampton, VA and changes its name to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to better reflect its role as a convener of diverse interests.

Date: 1979

The Alliance comes under the leadership of Frances Flanigan. An office in Baltimore, which would become the Alliance’s headquarters, opens.

Date: 1980

The Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative assembly representing Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, is established to coordinate Bay-related policy across state lines.

1982: The first mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery

Date: 1983

The *Choices for the Chesapeake* conference, is organized by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the, brings more than 700 people to George Mason University and creates momentum for action.

The first Chesapeake Bay Agreement is signed. A simple, one-page pledge to work together creates the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Date: 1984

Passage of landmark land use laws aim to better manage growth and water quality and lead to the programs to fight wetland loss (MD Critical Areas and VA Bay Preservation Act).

Date: 1985

Bay states impose a moratorium on striped bass fishing to help the species recover. The ban is lifted in 1989 with a more sustainable fishery.

First bans on phosphate-containing laundry detergent reduce phosphorus pollution from wastewater treatment plants into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Alliance, a leader in making the restoration of the Bay relevant to ordinary people, releases a first of its kind publication, the *Baybook: A Guide to Reducing Water Pollution at Home*.

Date: 1986

The Alliance recognizes the importance of strengthening the connection of Pennsylvania to the program and reaches out to the farm community. A full time office is opened in Harrisburg, PA.

The Alliance creates the citizen volunteer water quality monitoring program and recruits universities and citizen groups to participate.

Date: 1987

A Chesapeake Bay Agreement is signed setting the first numeric goals to reduce pollution. The National Estuary Program, modeled on the Chesapeake Bay begins; expanding to 28 estuaries in the US. The Alliance facilitates discussions among the states to resolve agreement language and provide citizen outreach and input.

Date: 1988

Bernie Fowler's Patuxent River Wade-In creates the "sneaker index" as a public-friendly measure of Bay health and leading to wade-ins on other rivers.

A goal to reopen fish passage in rivers and streams is set, launching an unprecedented effort to remove obstructions to fish migration.

Nike introduces its "Just Do It" tagline. George Bush is elected president of the United States.

Date: 1989

The Alliance organizes and hosts a conference called "*The Growth Dilemma: The Chesapeake in the 21st Century*," which brought together local and national experts to identify actions for the ideas in the "*2020 Report*", making growth management a major policy focus of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The fall of the Berlin Wall

Date: 1990

The Alliance brings attention to nonpoint source pollution at a 3-day conference in Williamsburg attended by over 500. As a result the Alliance chaired a policy review team that helped refocus attention on nonpoint pollution control and its linkage to growth management .

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay works with local groups to host paddle trips on the watershed's rivers. The Susquehanna sojourn takes over 100 people down 100 miles of the West Branch for 7 years. The Susquehanna, . Potomac, James, and Patuxent River sojourns become traditions. Sojourns today, connect citizens and policymakers with their local waterways.

The Alliance launches the *Bay Journal* to keep citizens informed about events, policies, and programs to restore the Bay and its rivers, growing to more than 50,000 subscribers.

Date: 1991

A fish lift on the Conowingo Dam, the largest of its kind in the US, opens hundreds of miles of spawning grounds to American Shad and river herring.

The World Wide Web is publicly debuted as an internet service. The number of computers on the Internet reaches one million

Date: 1992

Amendments to the 1987 Agreement (Tributary Strategies) aim to attack nutrients at their source: upstream rivers.

Congress passes the Clean Vessel Act to fund pumpout stations at marinas, providing an alternative to the overboard disposal of sewage and launch of Clean Marina initiatives.

Bill Clinton is elected president of the United States

Date: 1993

The Alliance convenes a milestone conference in response to the 92 Agreement called "*Rivers of the Chesapeake: An Action Agenda.*" Five hundred twenty-five people meet in Baltimore to discuss all aspects of tributary action plans.

The Alliance works with the Fish and Wildlife Service to create "BayScapes: Environmentally Sound Landscape Management." BayScapes becomes an effective education tool for urban and suburban homeowners. This program launches the field of conservation landscaping and functional landscape systems such as rain gardens.

State programs put nutrient management plans in place to reduce fertilizer use and nutrient runoff.

Date: 1994

Officials from 25 federal agencies and departments sign an Agreement on Ecosystem Management outlining commitments for federal lands in the watershed.

Maryland convenes a coalition of organizations and businesses to create a plan for oyster recovery and an Oyster Recovery Partnership; planting billions of new oysters and recycling 30,000 bushels of shell.

The Alliance begins to build citizen involvement in river restoration as part of the tributary strategies; recruiting volunteers to plant trees along degraded stream banks, restore SAV, and establish large scale watershed restoration projects on the Chickahominy River in Virginia and the Octoraro watershed in MD and PA.

The Alliance convenes a Riparian Forest Buffer Panel and leads the process that establishes landmark goals for restoring thousands of miles of streamside forests. As a result, incentive programs are developed to encourage landowners to plant buffers.

Date: 1996

Pioneering biological nutrient removal technology enables the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant to lower nitrogen levels in the Potomac. The technology will expand to treatment plants across the region.

Federal, state and private partners begin restoration of Poplar Island using sediment dredged from shipping channels. Over time, 2,000 acres of marshland and forests are created to provide habitat. The Alliance assists this project and works with volunteers to plant this as well as Hart-Miller Island in Baltimore harbor.

*The birth of eBay***Date: 1997**

Virginia legislation establishes the first state fund to support the reduction of nutrient pollution from agricultural and urban sources.

Maryland passes legislation to combat sprawl and encourage smart growth. The innovative initiative preserves natural areas and directs growth, renewing attention on land use.

Date: 1998

A collaboration of government, university, and the farm industry promote the phosphorous-reducing enzyme (Phytase) in poultry feed, establishing a new practice to lower nutrient levels in poultry litter.

The Alliance launches “Businesses for the Bay”, a voluntary pollution prevention program for small and large businesses in the bay watershed. Businesses set voluntary pollution reduction goals and launch some of the first large scale recycling, energy conservation and waste reduction efforts in the watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation issues its first “State of the Bay” report card for the health of the Chesapeake Bay launching other report cards that highlight water quality trends to the public. The Alliance launches the River Trends Report Cards for VA.

Date: 1999

Pennsylvania creates Growing Greener, an investment fund for conservation of open space, restoring and protecting streams, and enhancing parks, trails and greenways.

The Alliance launches “Chesapeake Renewal”, to evaluate the success of the Chesapeake Bay Program and to engage the public in a dialogue about future challenges and orchestrate public comments related to Chesapeake 2000.

The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund brings federal and private dollars to local communities and NGOs for on-the-ground conservation.

Virginia establishes a state tax credit to reward those who donate easements for conservation and land protection skyrockets.

Date: 2000

The Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, establishes more than 100 goals to reduce pollution, restore habitat, promote sound land use, and engage the public. For the first time the Bay’s “headwater states”—including Delaware, New York and West Virginia—officially join the partnership. The Alliance leads outreach and the gathering of public comment on the new agreement.

Alliance Executive Director Fran Flanigan presents the findings and recommendations of “Chesapeake Renewal”, to Congress.

Congress creates and the National Park Service launches the Gateways and Watertrails Network to tie parks, museums and other sites together and improve public access and education.

The first river keepers begin working in the Chesapeake watershed.

The Alliance, the Center for Watershed Protection, and the National Association of Home Builders launch Builders for the Bay, a partnership encouraging Bay-friendly site design principles assess current codes and ordinances for residential and commercial development. Completed roundtables include: Stafford County and James City County, Virginia; Harford County and Baltimore County, Maryland; and Dauphin, Center and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

George W. Bush is elected president

Date: 2001

Long time Executive Director, Fran Flanigan retires after 25 years of service to the Alliance and the Chesapeake Bay. David Bancroft is hired as Executive Director.

The Alliance develops the RestoreCorps program to focus on recruiting citizen volunteers to participate in watershed restoration projects.

The first iPod is released.

Date: 2002

NOAA and local partners establish the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-Wet) program to deliver “meaningful watershed educational experiences” and strengthen environmental literacy.

Date: 2003

The Alliance examines Headwaters States participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), and presents to the Principals' Staff Committee with a set of consensus recommendations for Headwaters States participation.

The EPA issues water quality criteria for the Bay and its tidal tributaries, guiding states to put pollution reduction strategies in place.

The Chesapeake Bay Funders Network is established, bringing grant-makers together to collaborate on private funding strategies that will further restoration.

Date: 2004

The Alliance embarks on a large-scale program to restore SAV plantings with the help of scores of volunteer divers and other helpers. These pilot projects establish research sites that added to the knowledge base on how to restore this valuable resource.

Maryland passes a statewide “Flush fee”, creating a restoration fund to upgrade sewage treatment plants and support water quality initiatives.

An annual volunteer effort begun by Baltimore’s Irvine Nature Center grows to become the watershed-wide Project Clean Stream (PCS) initiative with 6,000 volunteers improving streams in all Bay states and DC each year.

Facebook is launched.

Date: 2005

In partnership with the US Forest Service and State Foresters, the Alliance develops *Forestry for the Bay* to engage the forestry community promoting the importance of forests and sustainable forestry practices to the long term management of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Hurricane Katrina devastates the Gulf Coast.

Date: 2006

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay hosts the first annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum, bringing watershed groups together to showcase science and policy, build leadership and inspire local stewardship.

Hundreds gather for a Living Shorelines Summit, launching the science, management and policy for more natural approaches to erosion control.

The Alliance initiates the first homeowner BMP installation program in the Corsica River Watershed project. This program conducted the first training for landscape contractors in conservation techniques.

The Captain John Smith National Historic Trail is created to bring attention to the adventurers who explored 3,000 miles of Bay rivers and shorelines from 1607 to 1609.

Date: 2007

A long recovery effort finally removes the bald eagle from the endangered species list. With only 400 birds in the US in 1963, more than 375 active nests are now found in the Bay watershed alone, producing 500 young each year.

Pennsylvania establishes a state tax credit to reward farmers who put best management practices in place. Outreach begins to plain sect farmers.

The Alliance creates the *Chesapeake Network*, an online networking and collaboration platform for communication and outreach among conservation professionals and citizen stewards. Today, over 5000 members regularly share information, events, opportunities, and seek technical advice through the network.

The Conservation Fund and U.S. Forest Service release the first "*State of the Chesapeake Forests*" report outlining trends and a blueprint for action; the states sets goals for forest conservation.

Date: 2008

A Bi-State Blue Crab Advisory Committee moves action for emergency regulations on harvest of blue crabs in hopes the fishery recovers from pollution, habitat loss and overexploitation; restructured management allows crabs rebound to sustainable levels.

The 2008 Farm Bill dedicates millions to agricultural conservation in the Bay region, bringing new incentives to help farmers reduce pollution.

The Alliance hosts the first annual Stormwater Partners Retreat, bringing stormwater professionals and state and federal regulators together with NGOs to discuss the state of the science and policy with regards to stormwater reduction.

Barack Obama is elected president

Date: 2009

President Obama signs Executive Order 13508, recognizing the Chesapeake Bay as a national treasure and calling on the federal government to renew its efforts.

The Alliance gathers together other interested groups to form the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, a consortium whose aim is to advance the science and practice of native plant and functional landscapes for water quality and habitat.

More than 60 conservation organizations including the Alliance, gather in D.C., to push for action; the Choose Clean Water Coalition is formed as an advocate for Chesapeake restoration policy, action, and accountability. The Coalition will grow to over 200 members.

The Chesapeake Executive Council pledges to put all needed water quality practices in place by 2025 and sets two-year milestones to accelerate restoration and increase accountability.

Jim Mosher takes over as Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the headquarters Office moves to Annapolis MD.

Date: 2010

The EPA establishes a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to regulate pollutants entering the Bay. The landmark “pollution diet” limits nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment and requires steps to meet goals be outlined in Watershed Implementation Plans.

The Deepwater Horizon oil rig explodes in the Gulf of Mexico.

Date: 2011

DC’s new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit is the first of its kind to incorporate green infrastructure and provisions for offsets, creating an innovative model for stormwater management.

West Virginia sets aside state lottery funds over 30 years to create the first designated fund for water quality improvements in the Potomac portion of the state.

The Alliance celebrates its 40th anniversary. Al Todd becomes the new Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Date: 2012

The Alliance develops the RiverWise Communities program to engage homeowners and communities in stormwater management. The program includes property audits, green infrastructure design,

community outreach, incentives, training for contractors, and tracking of water quality benefits.

Working with Howard County and the Interfaith group PATH (People Acting together for Howard), the Alliance launches an innovative green jobs and youth development program called READY, Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth,. READY begins building rain gardens to meet the stormwater reduction needs of the County. Forth-five young adults are trained and install over 60 rain gardens on community property in the county. READY becomes a model for other communities.

Date: 2013

The Alliance launches the Chesapeake Forests Program to provide a comprehensive effort to protect and restore forest lands in the watershed to improve water quality and retain social and economic benefits. The program includes education of landowners and real estate professionals, incentives for tree planting and riparian buffers on agricultural lands, increases in urban tree canopy, and partnerships with local governments to improve the use of forest practices for mitigation and offsets.

A Federal Judge upholds the 2010 Bay pollution limits set by EPA and the science and modeling on which it was based.

Date: 2014

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Executive Council signs the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement, setting new goals and outcomes for the restoration effort. The Alliance plays a strong role in bringing the issues of citizen stewardship and expanding diversity to the agreement.

Date: 2015

The Alliance launches a revised and reinvigorated *Businesses for the Bay* program in the watershed, building a network of voluntary restoration efforts by a variety of businesses and defining business commitments and contributions to the new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.

The Alliance works with partners to plant over 120,000 trees as part of its Chesapeake Forest Fund.

The Alliance in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program launches the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, an effort to expand and coordinate volunteer-collected monitoring data into the Bay Program network and train a new generation of citizen scientists.

Date: 2016

Through partnerships with keep American Beautiful and other regional groups, the Alliance expands Project Clean Stream to all six states in the Chesapeake watershed and brings out over 75,000 volunteers at over 3000 sites.

