

April 2014: Executive Director's Report



We are well on our way to having a very busy year. The first quarter has been a nonstop flurry of activity in the program, partnerships, and administrative arenas. The weather has not helped to create a feeling of orderly progress at times. Some first quarter highlights:

Program Updates

Strengthening existing programs and developing new program remains a major emphasis and time demand for me so far this year. Maintaining momentum of existing programs, continually seeking new opportunities that reinforce our mission and enhancing our visibility is the focus.

- Businesses for the Bay – March 27 Chesapeake Business Forum – major investment
- Poultry Growers Clean Water Initiative Development – Building bridges with new partners and attempting to craft an effective approach in a new area for the Alliance.
- RiverWise communities – Linkage with Bay Program efforts and other programs popping up – hot area of interest among NGOs and government - Will launch *Stormwater Sentries* game through social Media and Press Event in Falls Church on April 21
- ForumPlus Development – gaining support from funders – First event held in Harrisburg in March -So Susquehanna Roundtable – Next effort planned in Shenendoah VA during summer
- Renewed/Extended LGAC, Communications and CAC Grants through EPA – all completed this quarter along with meetings of the committees
- Selection of Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer - Communications
- Major New Grant Development - DNR, NRCS, NFWF, etc. (over \$2.5 million)

New Chesapeake Bay Agreement: After Ann Swanson's presentation in January, we worked with the Chesapeake Bay Program to provide detailed public comments on the agreement. Committees have begun to implement some of our recommendations.

Staff Retreat: Hosted an all-hands retreat in February. Nearly 70% of our staff have worked for the Alliance for less than 3 years. A new and forward looking group to build the future.

Development & Communications Efforts

- Developed and posted new Dev Position to online job sites.
- Completed migration of database to Salesforce system, now training, use and reports/metrics.
- Developed Membership letter and Member Survey for Spring
- Began sponsorship of Member Events and activities – Annapolis Film Festival/Poplar Island – each field office

Upcoming Events: I have been asked to attend an April 28-29, Residential Stormwater Summit with CBFN, moderate a Chesapeake Bay Commission Congressional Forum on May 8 and lead a USDA/EPA Chesapeake Riparian Buffer Task Force in 2014. Buffer effort will launch with May 21 technical roundtable on riparian restoration challenges and Leadership Summit in mid to late June.

Negotiations with the Annapolis and Richmond Office Landlords: We have begun to look at options for relocation of both the Richmond and Annapolis offices due to increasing costs and maintenance issues. Richmond will likely happen in 2014-2015, maybe Annapolis in 2015-2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Todd", is positioned above the printed name.

Albert H. Todd, Executive Director