

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council

Summary of June 8, 2011 Meeting

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (“The Trail”) Advisory Council convened a meeting at 10:00 A.M. on June 8, 2011 at the Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack) in Annapolis, MD. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Council members present:

- Suzanne Baird
- Deanna Beacham
- H. Hedrick Belin
- Virginia Busby
- Wilton Corkern
- Jim Edward
- Elizabeth Hughes
- E.B. James
- David Johnson
- Mary Ann Lisanti
- John Maounis
- Drew McMullen
- Susan Moerschel
- Kim Nielsen
- Richard Pearsall
- Bill Pencek
- John Reynolds, Chair
- Charlie Stek

Others present representing absent Advisory Council members:

- Kristin Saunders Evans, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Others present for all, or portions of the meeting were:

- Cindy Chance, National Park Service
- John Davy, National Park Service
- Jonathan Doherty, National Park Service
- Joel Dunn, Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservancy
- Christine Lucero, National Park Service

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

John Reynolds welcomed the Advisory Council members to the meeting. Each person in attendance introduced themselves to the group. John Reynolds reviewed the agenda and objectives for the meeting. Each member was given a folder with meeting materials.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent (and Designated Federal Official) John Maounis reviewed folder contents and facilitated conversation on the following topics:

- Launch of Captain John Smith Geotrail at the Accokeek Foundation on June 4, 2011
- Launch of the Boater's Guide (an online resource for boaters) later this month
- Funding picture: Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network funds zeroed out in FY11 budget. Some project funding requests have been successful, however, including funds secured for youth programs and to pursue the opportunity to develop an application ("App") for smart phones.
- Connecting trails: John Maounis noted that the NPS had received their first Connecting Trails application from Delaware. Joel Dunn discussed the Chesapeake Conservancy's involvement. Joel noted that the Governor's of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia had all sent letters of support. Joel thanked NPS for their guidance and anticipated submitting five connecting trails applications with the relevant partners. (Susquehanna, Chester, Nanticoke, Sassafras, Choptank, James)
- Coordination with STSP: John Maounis noted that as we proceed with CAJO implementation, a parallel effort with the Star-Spangled Banner NHT must occur. (Some of the same geography and same rivers - opportunities for linkage and co-development, working with same partners.)

CAJO ACTION PLAN

John Maounis reviewed many of the accomplishments of implementing the trail so far. Jonathan Doherty presented a brief PowerPoint overview of the draft Action Plan, stressing that this version is a draft and intended to be updated regularly. The goal is to use the plan as a tool for setting priorities and pushing action.

Discussion:

Among the topics discussed by council members were the following:

- Interpretive/Education Center and Visitor Contact Station Locations: Jonathan Doherty noted the CMP includes criteria for each type of facility. He asked what other locations and opportunities should be considered. Members discussed the proposed potential locations for these facilities, including the following points:
 - Consider properties that are state priorities for development of visitor contact stations where state resources may already be available. For example, MD DNR Jesuit property on lower Potomac is a high state priority; could be a match between CAJO/MD DNR interests. Also, Sandy Point State Park – high visibility

on the Bay with major visitation. Third, the Vienna MD area. These, along with North Point State Park and the Sassafras are places where there are people, money and partners.

- Shouldn't there be better representation on the Eastern Shore?
 - Geographic sense of place – and how that place relates to CAJO themes and resources – should be considered to justify locations better.
 - Upper Potomac area: Old Town Alexandria is discussing developing the waterfront; could be a strong opportunity. Also other DC-area land holdings of the NPS (Fairfax and Prince Georges Counties).
 - There is a big gap between Solomons and Havre de Grace, MD; this is a major population center with people who are Bay-focused.
 - The Maryland Transportation Authority is rehabilitating two major visitor centers, including at the head of Bay. This might present an opportunity for CAJO signage. Another opportunity may be at Ft Howard, a former Veteran's Administration site that GSA has recently leased to a developer. Also new LEED certified visitor center at Fort McHenry which might also be labeled Captain John Smith trail Patapsco River: Since emphasis is now on Star-Spangled Banner NHT – the John Smith trail will have to intersect and allow for momentum.
 - Overlap with Star Spangled Banner NHT. What is the timing for identifying visitor contact locations?
 - Who has permission to build contact stations and who would own/operate the interpretive/education center and visitor contact stations? CMP envisions all of them developed at partnership sites.
- Connecting the Action Plan with State Priorities: Members offered thoughts on how the Action Plan can be improved to ensure better alignment with state priorities.
 - Several Virginia State Parks Visitor Centers are new and have not been outfitted yet with exhibits; perhaps the trail could be represented in parks where it is appropriate.
 - Similarly, Maryland is investing in certain state parks. How can these priorities and the Action Plan be coordinated?
 - In short, there are opportunities for alignment between NPS priorities and state priorities.
 - Members offered thoughts on the types of places outlined in the Action Plan that provide CAJO interpretation and orientation – Interpretive/Education Center, Visitor Contact Stations and locations of interpretive panels.
 - Is there a tier of places in the system that falls between the five visitor contact stations and the many locations of interpretive panels? This could be the network of CBGN Trail Partner sites.
 - How do we capitalize on the existing Gateways infrastructure – the trail partner sites?

- The Influence of Climate Change: In choosing locations for implementing the trail, consideration should be given to climate change and how sea level rise may impact placement of visitor facilities; this could inform how we target resources.
- American Indian Involvement: Need to ensure American Indian communities are involved and that these resources and stories are given priority.
- Standard Signage & Publications: Members asked if there is an opportunity for “made to order” publications; a NPS publication that can be used by localities and sites? A template where a local piece can be added to a NPS publication?
- NPS Regulations Regarding Corporate Sponsorships: Members briefly discussed whether or how NPS rules on corporate sponsorships, donor recognition and fundraising might influence facility development and fundraising. While the topic probably requires more clarification, there is a clear difference in what may apply to NPS owned/managed sites and trail partner sites owned and managed by others.

NPS will follow up by working with members and other partners to improve the lists of proposed locations in the Action Plan to better reflect additional opportunities, particularly those which are existing state priorities.

LUNCH BREAK

Council members broke for lunch for approximately 30 minutes.

COMMITMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE TRAIL

The chair asked members to talk about ways they can personally help advance trail development. In advance of the meeting, members were asked to identify three actions each would take either personally or in leadership of an organization to help implement the trail. Among the actions identified were the following:

Suzanne Baird

1. Complete planning and seek funding for CAJO on Garrett Island, Blackwater NWR in partnership with NPS
2. Seek to partner with state, community, nonprofits on the Vienna visitor facility for CAJO
3. Follow up with NWR's on implementation of conceptual plan described in Appendix of CMP
4. Land conservation along the Nanticoke-specifically Nanticoke unit of Blackwater NWR

Deanna Beacham

1. Educate partners and potential funders on American Indian history and values regarding the trail and land conservation
2. Promote American Indian communities and connections to CAJO and CBGN sites
3. Participate in segment planning and implementation
4. Identify ICL (Indigenous Cultural Landscapes) for resource protection

5. Continue research and outreach on ICL concept

Hedrick Belin

1. Promote trail and activities to our membership (Potomac Conservancy)
2. Advocate for additional funding from Congress
3. Help with development of plan for middle Potomac
4. Help with visitor contact station on Potomac

Virginia Busby

1. Assist with creative funding strategies
2. Assist in developing resource protection strategy
3. Provide cultural resource/archaeological, historical expertise as needed particularly in MD

Wilton Corkern

1. Personal advocacy for CAJO funding (Fed and private)
2. Work on land conservation in Charles and Prince Georges counties
3. Piscataway cultural landscape initiative -interp of and by Piscataway people
4. Piscataway Park as a presence in CAJO

Jim Edward

1. Engage and educate friends and neighbors about the trail through the Geotrail
2. Engage MRA (Magothy River Association) via canoe/kayak trip on CAJO
3. Figure out a clearer role for EPA- urban rivers? Interp sites?

Elizabeth Hughes

1. Support development of improved access to CAJO at JPPM
2. Prioritize CAJO projects for funding via MHT grant programs
3. Incorporate CAJO in statewide Preservation Plan
4. Provide cultural resource data related to Smith-era sites

E.B. James

1. Support regional Delmarva trail efforts-segment planning
2. Strengthen organization strategic linkages and opportunities (e.g. partnerships and access)
3. Visitor contact center on the Nanticoke

David Johnson

1. Incorporate CAJO into the Virginia Outdoors Plan
2. Explore creating a large scale public recreational CAJO event with test
3. Get state parks to cooperate with CAJO
4. Help seek corporate partners

Mary Ann Lisanti

1. Communicate the plan to key decision makers in my area
2. Develop a local funding plan for implementation
3. Develop an inventory of implementation opportunities in my area

4. Introduce/support local legislation to include CAJO in Master Land Use and Element plans

John Maounis

1. Develop the CAJO/CBGN/STSP smart phone App
2. Work with trail partners to implement trail opportunities
3. Develop and seek funding for youth corps projects on the trail
4. Continue to seek NPS funding for collaborative trail projects

Drew McMullen

1. Chester River connector trail
2. Develop and expand on-water paddling education programs on Delmarva
3. Develop Chester and Sassafras trail infrastructure and constituency
4. Create permanent exhibit of John Smith shallop at suitable regional museum

Susan Moerschel

1. Use DE grants that create or improve water access/access to water
2. Prototype access that is BOTH context sensitive and meets ADA requirements
3. Funding for CAJO-Nanticoke segment
4. Advocate land conservation opportunities specific to Nanticoke/Ches Bay watershed
5. Blend CAJO and water quality...other Ches Bay related education and interp

Kim Nielsen

1. New public access points using surplus federal land (GSA, Ft. Monroe, Curtis Creek, Anne Arundel County-BRAC '14)
2. Management partnerships -Anne Arundel County/Baltimore City (New parks, ramps, facilities on the Bay and river)
3. Segment planning on the Patapsco in coordination with STSP

Richard Pearsall

1. Finish two new public access water landings on Onancock VA
2. Create situational awareness of CAJO on VA Eastern Shore
3. Pursue regional approach for Eastern Shore
4. Work political leverage options to support CAJO for funding

Bill Pencek

1. Work to integrate CAJO and STSP
2. Assist with marketing and communications research
3. Assist in crafting appropriate jobs/economic development LENS

John Reynolds

1. Work with the CBC to gain its assistance within its charter to advance implementation of CAJO and Gateways
2. Make Fort Monroe a CAJO interp/education and access site
3. Use all opportunities I can to advance the definition and application of the ICL to enhance land protection, interp, education and heritage tourism

Charlie Stek

1. Continue leading people on the trail
2. Continue work in making Ft. Monroe a National Monument and a key hub for public access and recreation on CAJO
3. Continue working to secure federal funding for the trail, the gateways network, NOAA's smartbuoy's and USFWS

Kristin Saunders-Evans for John Griffin

1. incorporate significant indigenous cultural/historical sites into land conservation GIS target areas
2. Pursue funding/development of visitor contact stations at 5 state parks
3. Premier paddle site with overnight accommodations at Patuxent

Joel Dunn for Chesapeake Conservancy

1. Submit 6 connecting trail applications with our partners
2. Ensure protection for access and conservation sites along the trail (i.e. Fort Monroe)
3. Develop new technology to facilitate trail implementation (i.e. geotrail, Apps)

There was a desire from the membership to be accountable for the commitments made during the meeting. Members wish to “check in” with each other at future meetings regarding the status of the commitments. The commitments may become part of the Action Plan.

NPS will follow up by providing the list of actions to members.

INITIATING DEVELOPMENT OF A FUNDING STRATEGY

John Reynolds discussed that a funding strategy will have to include advocacy and fund raising, a unique and creative mix. He asked for volunteers to serve on a committee tasked with outlining a funding strategy.

Members discussed at length several varied strategies and options. The following council members volunteered to participate on the committee:

- Hedrick Belin, Chair
- Wilton Corkern
- Mary Ann Lisanti
- John Reynolds
- Virginia Busby
- Non-members, Kristin Saunders Evans and Joel Dunn also volunteered to participate.

The committee will convene in the near future and report back to the full council.

EMERGING JAMES RIVER SEGMENT CONCEPTS (including Indigenous Cultural Landscapes)

Jonathan Doherty presented a PowerPoint presentation about the James River segment planning and how it ties in to discussions earlier in the day's meeting. In brief, NPS convened stakeholders from tourism, state and federal agencies and tribes, non-profit organizations, site managers, and businesses for a series of focus group discussion in March 2011. Based on that input, NPS and partners developed concepts and have assembled portions of a preliminary draft plan (in deliberative draft form; not yet intended for public distribution). (Attached) Focus group participants and others will reconvene in mid-July to provide input on the draft plan outcome.

Discussion:

Among the topics discussed by council members were the following:

- How does the timing of the segment planning work? Seems like it may take too long to get some segment plans finished, especially if there are implementation opportunities in segments lower down on the list.
- Would be useful to add implementation costs to the segment plan
- Plan should show existing visitor numbers at each location
- The segment plan should include a clear action plan
- Would be important to outline the management partnership strategies in the plan. In fact, the building of sustainable partnerships is a key objective of the segment planning process.
- James River Segment can serve as a template and guide for the other segments
- Need to recognize Fort Monroe in some way (has piece of American Indian landscape)
- Expand on the descriptions of the potential for interpreting American Indian experience and associated heritage tourism

John Reynolds and Deanna Beacham also discussed work on developing the Indigenous Cultural Landscape (ICL) approach. How is Indian presence defined – pre-contact and post-contact? At recent George Wright Society conference, people got excited about the potential for interpreting pre-contact history, and having descendant communities involved. How can we use ICL to bridge concept plan maps with visitor experience to create unforgettable visitor experiences? And how can the ICL concept be used to advance land conservation?

John related that as a result of our work and the discussions at the George Wright Society conference, the National Park Service is beginning to think through how to apply the concept in their cultural landscapes work and to figure out how to apply the concept in the greatly varied conditions around the country.

Council members requested guidance and acceptable materials to help get over concerns regarding the fear of offending a group of people. Council members with expertise in American Indian culture offered their guidance. In general, they noted that: this is a great opportunity to use the figure of Captain John Smith as a stimulus to learning about other cultures, too-often forgotten cultures, and to confront sensitive issues; and that Chesapeake area Indians are

mostly excited to see how they can be involved; they want the opportunity to participate and be acknowledged.

Near the end of the meeting there was a brief discussion of how to ensure that the trail met ADA requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the general public were present.

SUMMARY OF FOLLOW-UP STEPS

Members identified the following summary of follow-up steps from the day's discussion:

- NPS will work with members and other partners to revise the Action Plan to factor in opportunities such as existing state priorities; NPS will follow-up with Maryland and Virginia members regarding visitor contact and other opportunities; NPS will explore potential for a database of CAJO actions accessible to CAJO partners.
- NPS will send out the list of council member commitments to members; members will suggest any modifications and work with the Chair and members to use the list as a way to advance the trail at every meeting.
- The Council Chair will work with the Funding Strategy Committee Chair to convene the committee.
- NPS will continue development of the James River Segment Plan, incorporating the guidance provided by the council.
- NPS will follow-up on the interest of several council members on how to address universal accessibility.
- NPS will consider building a place on smithtrail.net for guiding interested stakeholders, site managers on how to participate in the Trail.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

*John Maounis, Superintendent
Captain John Smith National Historic Trail
National Park Service*

*John Reynolds, Chairman
Captain John Smith National Historic Trail
Advisory Council*

These minutes will be formally considered by the Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated into the minutes of that meeting.