

# Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council

Summary of March 21, 2012 Meeting

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (“The Trail”) Advisory Council convened a meeting at 10:00 A.M. on March 21, 2012 at the Accokeek Foundation’s Education Center at Piscataway Park and National Colonial Farm in Accokeek, MD. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92463, the meeting was open to the public.

Council members present:

- Suzanne Baird
- Deanna Beacham
- Virginia Busby
- James Edward
- Elizabeth Hughes
- Mary Ann Lisanti
- John Maounis
- Drew McMullen
- Susan Moerschel
- Kim Nielsen
- Richard Pearsall
- Bill Pencek
- John Reynolds, Chair
- Peyton Robertson
- Bill Street

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:

- Warren Brown, National Park Service
- Michael Clarke, Consultant
- John Davy, National Park Service
- Jonathan Doherty, National Park Service
- Joel Dunn, Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservancy
- Laura Ford, Accokeek Foundation
- Lisa Hayes, Executive Director, Accokeek Foundation
- Christine Lucero, National Park Service
- Ryan Walker, Accokeek Foundation

Also present was a group of students from Princeton University participating in “Breakout Princeton.” Hilary Bernstein, Katherine Clifton, Gary Fox, Katherine Giao, Hannah Gu,

Katherine Huang, Ellis Liang, Frina Lin, Gabriella Rizzo, Steven Russell, Joshua Taliaferro, Connie Wang.

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

John Reynolds welcomed the Advisory Council members to the meeting. John Reynolds reviewed the agenda and objectives for the meeting.

Hannah Gu addressed the group and explained that *Breakout Princeton* provides students with week-long opportunities to learn about and take action on public issues through community immersion, direct service, group discussions, and reflection activities. This group was spending their week working with the NPS at Piscataway Park.

Dr. Lisa Hayes also welcomed the group, giving a short history of the Accokeek Foundation, and sharing the Foundation's recent work to develop a Cultural Landscape initiative which will connect people to the environment through the culture of the Piscataway people.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council member Richard Pearsall moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Peyton Robertson provided the second. The motion passed with no dissent or comment.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent (and Designated Federal Official) John Maounis presented a PowerPoint and facilitated conversation on the following topics:

- NPS and its partners are still moving forward to make the trail visible and visitor ready. With the CMP and the first of the segment plans complete (James River), we now move to begin the planning for the next segment (Potomac River); move forward with a trail conservation strategy (Spring 2012); and proceed with the Connecting Trails designation (soon.) The CAJO website, Boater's Guide and Geotrail, continue to be popular. The Geotrail is scheduled for an expansion event on April 14, 2012 in Onancock, VA. Expansion includes sites along the lower Eastern Shore of MD and VA. Beginning this spring, orientation signage will begin to be installed in MD and VA state parks as well at other identified sites along the trail and later this year tours and a certification process will be developed.
- NPS has signed agreements for collaborative development with Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Through the ongoing partnership with the states, joint projects such as signage along the trail at state parks in Maryland and Virginia; a map and guide of the trail in Delaware and identification of priority lands along the trail in each state are being conducted.
- NPS and the Chesapeake Conservancy are developing a new agreement that will include: continuing work on the trail conservation strategy; a collaborative conservation strategy; continuing outreach through Tips and Trips and Bay Journeys; participation in segment planning for the trail; a John Smith Trail Expedition on the Susquehanna; connecting trails events and other support functions.
- NPS is nearing completion of a Regional Public Access Strategy. Approximately 1,100 existing and 300 proposed public access sites have been identified and mapped. NPS

will be funding the construction or design of about 12 new public access sites along the trail and connecting trails.

- NPS is working with state, NGO and federal partners to support youth related projects.
- Specifically, the Youth Conservation Corps working in VA state parks on projects at sites on the James River supporting the trail; a team supporting the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and the Bicentennial and a team in Prince George's County (MD) through MD Department of Natural Resources Conservation Job Corps, supporting projects on STSP. In addition there are three intern positions at the Parks and People Foundation in Baltimore, the Maryland CJC and the James River Association in Virginia that will support a network of youth corps programs and help identify projects on CAJO and STSP for future youth corps team.
- A Chesapeake Explorer App is being developed to allow smart phone users the opportunity to explore the Chesapeake Bay region's parks and activities. The app will include: maps, activities available at museum and park sites along the CAJO, STSP, CBGN, Potomac Heritage Trail and other national and state parks within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The app is scheduled to launch in June or July of this year.
- In August 2011, NPS Director Jon Jarvis released **A Call to Action**, a 24-page document that details a more expansive and inclusive, National Park System, stronger educational outreach, and a revised approach for managing today's natural and cultural resource challenges. (Members received hard copies of the document.) This **A Call to Action** is built around four themes: *Connecting People to Parks*, *Advancing the NPS Education Mission*, *Preserving America's Special Places*, and *Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence*. By the Park Service centennial in 2016 the document calls for an analytic approach to creating "a national system of parks and protected sites (rivers, heritage areas, trails, and landmarks) that fully represents our natural resources and the nation's cultural experience." Among the 36 "action points," CAJO has identified seven that directly apply to the trail.

#### Member comment and discussion on the Superintendent's report:

- Members requested a copy of the findings of the Regional Public Access Strategy when completed.
- There was considerable discussion on the app and all it will contain, including queries about how information will be linked (NOAA buoys; scenic byways; partner web sites), potential for interpretive opportunities and linkages and selection of tour itineraries.

#### **CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

Jonathan Doherty, Michael Clarke and Warren Brown presented a PowerPoint on the Conservation Strategy for the trail.

The presentation included an overview of the conservation strategy, how the NPS identified resource focus areas and how the focus areas would guide conservation initiatives. Feedback from the membership was requested on: the overall approach, how the focus areas fit with member organization priorities and implementation.

## Member comment and discussion:

- Feedback on prioritization from local users and stakeholders was gathered through the segment planning process.
- Land conservation is to provide and evocative landscape separate from the visitor experience, but is equally important as interpretation and public access.
- Members saw a need for the Eastern Shore to be reevaluated in the context of identifying a high potential route segment. It was noted that from John Smith's vantage point (inside the shallow), the landscape would have looked different. And, as we look to the future, the trail should be mindful of sea level rise, climate change, etc. and should try to partner with scientists to make the best decisions. 50 years from now, the trail will not look the same as it does now.
- Members felt the strategy should cite that the Boater's Guide itineraries' were used to create the methodology to determine the conservation strategy and that the list of focus areas can grow and change at any time.
- Members discussed the overlap between the indigenous cultural landscape initiative and the land conservation strategy. The ICL needs to be further defined and mapped to determine this, but could serve as another layer of data to indicate where land conservation needs to take place.
- Map legends and keys should all be consistent and use the same color identifiers and symbols.

## **BREAK FOR LUNCH**

### **MAKING THE TRAIL VISIBLE**

Jonathan Doherty presented a PowerPoint presentation and facilitated discussion on Making the Trail Visible and Visitor Ready in 2012.

Jonathan reviewed the objectives for the next two years. Among them:

- Kiosks and signage: six are nearing installation and 32 more are planned/funded for 2012.
- Private sector trail tours and certification/training program is underway.
- New NPS unigrid/brochure published for the 2013 season and three segment maps/brochures published, as the segment plans are completed.
- Updated maps on the website are in progress as well as integrating the app with the web site.
- There are currently four new public access sites either funded or under construction; five more have anticipated construction funding along the connecting trails and two additional are in the planning/design phase.
- Expansion of the Geotrail and the Youth Corps were also mentioned again briefly.

## Member comment and discussion:

- There was some discussion about how the placement of signs was determined and about the budget for fabrication and design of the signs. The opportunity to use QR codes on signs was also discussed briefly.

- Susan Moerschel implores NPS to check all the map lines to ensure the trail is represented as listed in the original Congressional designation of the trail.

## **CONNECTING TRAILS**

John Maounis presented a PowerPoint on the Connecting Trails.

Four applications have been submitted and recommended for designation:

1. Susquehanna River Water Trail
2. Chester River Water Trail
3. Upper James River Water Trail
4. Upper Nanticoke River Water Trail

Designations are pending with the Secretary of the Interior. Anticipating the Secretary's approval, several projects are already underway along the Nanticoke, Chester and lower Susquehanna. Once the connecting trails are designated NPS will sign MOU's with each managing partner.

Drew McMullen presents about Sultana Projects initiative with the Sassafras and Chester water trails.

Member comment and discussion:

- Designation of the Connecting Trails come from the Secretary of the Interior and will serve as a component of the CAJO trail.
- There was some discussion about the numerous logos on the signs and ways to provide recognition to partners without visitor confusion.
- Members felt a communication strategy was needed to raise the profile of the trail; marketing programs and activities as well as signage are key factors. Need to define how the council can assist with this.

## **SEGMENT PLANS**

Bill Street and John Davy discussed implementation of the James River segment.

- The James River Expedition will occur again this year. There will be three groups completing three different sections of the river. This was done to increase the number of students and teachers served and impacted by this experience.
- There will be a James River Fest at the new Eco-Discovery Park in Williamsburg, VA (near Jamestown.) The River Fest will include paddle challenges, geocaching activities and a CAJO sign unveiling.
- James City County has a new beach area near the Scotland Ferry and will include CAJO signage there.
- Henricus is offering John Smith tours.
- Kittawan Plantation is investigating installing canoe-in camp sites. (There is a huge need for this along the trail.)

- The town of Smithfield is putting in new CAJO signage, investigating installing a new public access site (soft landing) on the Pagan River, and putting in a small exhibit or signage in the county museum.
- The Scotland-Jamestown Ferry will install signage on all the ferries and they are investigating a radio signal to broadcast CAJO and area information.
- NPS RTCA and the Nansemond River Water Trail are identifying public access points.
- The next segment proposed for planning is the Upper Potomac River.

## Update on Advisory Council Member Commitments

At previous meetings of the council, the chair asked members to talk about ways they can personally help advance trail development. Members identified three (or more) actions each would take either personally or in leadership of an organization to help implement the trail. Member updates are indicated below in italics.

### 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

*Several NWR participating in CAJO implementation: Featherstone is now open to the public via a non-motorized boat landing; new trails and trail brochures at Rappahannock; Eastern Shore NWR is participating in the expansion of the Geotrail; CCP's at James River, Presque Isle and Plum Island NWR's will include CAJO content; USFWS participated in the James River segment planning.*

### Deanna Beacham

1. Educate partners and potential funders on American Indian history and values regarding the trail and land conservation  
*Continue to educate partners as required and requested.*
2. Promote American Indian communities and connections to CAJO and CBGN sites  
*Continue to promote American Indian connection to CAJO and CBGN sites.*
3. Participate in segment planning and implementation  
*Team member of the James River segment Plan--now that James segment is complete, willing to assist with future segment plans.*
4. Identify ICL (Indigenous Cultural Landscapes) for resource protection  
*Continue to further the ICL through partner interaction and working with the ICL team.*
5. Continue research and outreach on ICL concept  
*Continue to present at preservation conferences as appropriate.*

### Hedrick Belin

1. Promote trail and activities to our membership (Potomac Conservancy)  
*Continue to promote CAJO activities to PC membership.*
2. Advocate for additional funding from Congress  
*Continue to advocate for the trail.*
3. Help with development of plan for middle Potomac  
*Ready to assist with segment planning for the Potomac when it begins.*

4. Help with visitor contact station on Potomac  
*Continue work on developing a Visitor Center in Alexandria.*

### Virginia Busby

1. Assist with creative funding strategies  
*Serve on Funding Strategy Committee. Continue dialog with the REPI Program Coordinators which could provide an avenue towards DoD funding for mutual CAJO DoD priorities.*
2. Assist in developing resource protection strategy  
*Serve on Land Protection Committee.*
3. Provide cultural resource/archaeological, historical expertise as needed particularly in MD  
*Continue to do so as necessary. Working with the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance and tribal reps in Vienna MD to discuss how to advance the Nanticoke. Member of the Piscataway Park cultural landscape initiative.*

### Wilton Corkern (\*not in attendance)

1. Personal advocacy for CAJO funding (Fed and private)  
*Pitching to private funders who are interested in big scale agriculture TMDL.*
2. Work on land conservation in Charles and Prince Georges counties  
*In progress.*
3. Piscataway cultural landscape initiative -interp of and by Piscataway people  
*In progress with Deanna Beacham.*
4. Piscataway Park as a presence in CAJO  
*Piscataway Park has begun a public access plan.*

### 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  
*Went on a kayak trip along the Sassafra to explore the trail.*
3. Figure out a clearer role for EPA- urban rivers? Interp sites?  
*Looking into the technical feasibility of TMDL incentives for trail-related projects.*

### Elizabeth Hughes

1. Support development of improved access to CAJO at JPPM  
*Pier will most likely be replaced in 2014. Looking at some NOAA funding to incorporate an integrated approach so more types of boats/boaters can be served. Completing a feasibility study to see if overnight camping for kayakers is a possibility.*
2. Prioritize CAJO projects for funding via MHT grant programs  
*Extra points are awarded if there is a CAJO story.*
3. Incorporate CAJO in statewide Preservation Plan  
*Statewide Preservation Plan is ongoing.*
4. Provide cultural resource data related to Smith-era sites  
*Continue to work with map acquisition targets.*

### David Johnson (\*not in attendance)

1. Incorporate CAJO into the Virginia Outdoors Plan  
*This will occur.*
2. Explore creating a large scale public recreational CAJO event with test  
*One of the corporate donors was interested in this event. We need to develop a budget number for the potential donor.*
3. Get state parks to cooperate with CAJO  
*VA state parks have been great partners from the beginning. Let David know if this cooperation waivers.*
4. Help seek corporate partners  
*David and others have met with several potential donors, with more meetings to come.*

### Mary Ann Lisanti

1. Communicate the plan to key decision makers in my area  
*Continue to communicate with stakeholders and others about the trail.*
2. Develop a local funding plan for implementation  
*Continue funding advocacy at local, state and federal levels.*
3. Develop an inventory of implementation opportunities in my area  
*Several implementation opportunities exist, including land acquisitions, signature events, combining priorities to include TMDL and an archaeological project about indigenous populations.*
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  
*App is nearing completion with an expected launch in June or July 2012.*
2. Work with trail partners to implement trail opportunities  
*Trail signage is being installed at many MD and VA state parks as well as at other partner sites along the trail.*
3. Develop and seek funding for youth corps projects on the trail  
*Youth Corps projects with Virginia DCR, the James River Association, Parks and People in Baltimore, and Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps are in progress. We are seeking additional funding to continue this work in FY2013.*
4. Continue to seek NPS funding for collaborative trail projects  
*We are always seeking funding for collaborative trail projects!*

### Drew McMullen

1. Chester River connector trail  
*Progress continues on Chester River Connecting Trail.*
2. Develop and expand on-water paddling education programs on Delmarva  
*Continue to expand paddling education programs. Last season Sultana Projects put over 100 kids on the trail through their programs.*
3. Develop Chester and Sassafras trail infrastructure and constituency  
*Continue working toward trail infrastructure and constituency.*
4. Create permanent exhibit of John Smith shallop at suitable regional museum  
*Looking at several opportunities, including one at Jamestown Settlement.*

### Susan Moerschel

1. Use DE grants that create or improve water access/access to water



- Continue to use DE grants to improve water access.*
- 2. Prototype access that is BOTH context sensitive and meets ADA requirements  
*Some difficulties occurred with prototype site-seeking other properties now.*
- 3. Funding for CAJO-Nanticoke segment  
*Continue to seek funding support. Discuss potential for trail signage in DE state parks, similar to MD and VA state parks.*
- 4. Advocate land conservation opportunities specific to Nanticoke/Ches Bay watershed  
*Continue to advocate land conservation opportunities.*
- 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)  
*Surplus land at Curtis Creek still in flux.*
- 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  
*Continue to work towards CAJO/STSP overlapping access points.*

### Richard Pearsall

- 1. Finish two new public access water landings on Onancock VA  
*Both sites are moving forward and in development.*
- 2. Create situational awareness of CAJO on VA Eastern Shore  
*Continue to work on promoting the trail through written articles and radio interviews.*
- 3. Pursue regional approach for Eastern Shore  
*Briefed 8 community organizations about the trail.*
- 4. Work political leverage options to support CAJO for funding  
*Met with Congressman Scott Rigell and state delegates to promote the trail.*

### Bill Pencek

- 1. Work to integrate CAJO and STSP  
*Continue to work towards integrating CAJO related activities into the STSP.*
- 2. Assist with marketing and communications research  
*Continue to assist with marketing and communications as needed and as appropriate.*
- 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  
*Continue to work with CBC to integrate the land protection plan into TMDL objectives.*
- 2. Make Fort Monroe a CAJO interp/education and access site  
*Success! Fort Monroe National Monument was declared through Presidential Proclamation in November 2011.*
- 3. Use all opportunities I can to advance the definition and application of the ICL to enhance land protection, interp, education and heritage tourism  
*Continue to work with Deanna Beacham to present the ICL concept to appropriate audiences; trying to make it a national NPS program so it can be applied to any kind of property.*

## Peyton Robertson

1. Continue CBIBS program.  
*Buoys are in crisis. Seeking options for funding their continued use and existence.*
2. NOAA is working with partners on the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation program. (A goal of the EO.)  
*Continue to work with partners in support of the EO.*
3. CBIBS buoy in the James River has initiated telemetry to measure sturgeon as they pass the buoy. This data will help connect the past with the present.  
*Help save the buoys!*

## Charlie Stek (\*not in attendance)

1. Continue leading people on the trail  
*Ongoing. Planning a 1000 mile journey along the trail!*
2. Continue work in making Ft. Monroe a National Monument and a key hub for public access and recreation on CAJO  
*Efforts continue to make Fort Monroe a National Monument through Presidential Proclamation.*
3. Continue working to secure federal funding for the trail, the gateways network, NOAA's smart buoy's and USFWS  
*Has met with key staff members of Congress regarding funding.*

## Bill Street

1. Continue to participate in James River segment planning and Connecting trails process.  
*James River segment planning complete. Continue to work with NPS on implementation.*
2. Continue to hold events that bring attention to CAJO and the James River.  
*Events scheduled in the near future: James River Fest in Williamsburg, April 21; James River Expedition will occur with three groups this summer.*
3. Completed a new access site at Presquile NWR as part of the new Ecology School.

## Ann Swanson (\*not in attendance)

1. The Chesapeake Bay Commission has secured grant funding to look at science and the law and how they play a role in land conservation.
2. Keep the trail visible with the DoD. Can arrange a meeting at the Pentagon.
3. Will organize a "lessons learned" meeting with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.
4. Continue to use political connection at the state and federal levels to effect funding and/or visibility.

## Kristin Saunders-Evans for John Griffin

1. Incorporate significant indigenous cultural/historical sites into land conservation GIS target areas  
*Mapping is underway and ongoing.*
2. Pursue funding/development of visitor contact stations at 5 state parks  
*Identified three sites with Chesapeake Conservancy. Continue to pursue funding.*
3. Premier paddle site with overnight accommodations at Patuxent  
*Continue to pursue potential locations along the Patuxent and the Potomac for overnight camping.*

Joel Dunn for Chesapeake Conservancy and Council member Pat Noonan

1. Submit 6 connecting trail applications with our partners  
*Complete. Awaiting anticipated designation by the Secretary of the Interior.*
2. Ensure protection for access and conservation sites along the trail (i.e. Fort Monroe)  
*Ongoing. Also working on an access site in Fredericksburg VA along the Rappahannock.*
3. Develop new technology to facilitate trail implementation (i.e. geotrail, Apps)  
*Ongoing. Also pursuing new technologies with National Geographic.*

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the general public provided comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 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