

# Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council

Summary of September 14, 2011 Meeting

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail ("The Trail") Advisory Council convened a meeting at 12:30 P.M. on September 14, 2011 at the Virginia Commonwealth University's Rice Center in Charles City, VA. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public.

Council members present:

- Deanna Beacham
- Virginia Busby
- Wilton Corkern
- Elizabeth Hughes
- David Johnson
- John Maounis
- Richard Pearsall
- John Reynolds, Chair
- Charlie Stek
- Bill Street
- Ann Swanson

Members present via conference call:

- Pat Noonan
- Peyton Robertson

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
- Joanna Bounds, Chesapeake Conservancy
- Michael Clarke, Consultant
- 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. John Reynolds reviewed the agenda and objectives for the meeting.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- NPS had separate meetings with both MD and VA to discuss mutual state/CAJO priorities, including CAJO signage in both VA and MD state parks.
- Boater's Guide went "live" on-line this summer. It has been well received by visitors and media alike. (Hard copies were distributed to the members.) There is the possibility for an ebook in the future as well as other electronic media applications. The current version can be imported into iBooks.
- Captain John Smith Geotrail continues to be active and popular.
- CAJO interpretive signage along the Rappahannock River produced in partnership with VA Department of Conservation and Recreation should be in place by Spring 2012.
- Youth related projects are moving forward. Specifically, the Youth Conservation Corps working in VA state parks; an intern through the Parks and People Foundation in Baltimore and an intern position at the James River Association funded in part through NPS financial assistance awards.
- CAJO James River Segment Plan is nearing completion.
- The Funding Strategy and Land Protection Strategy committees have met and will report to the full council later in the meeting.
- An Executive Summary of the CAJO Comprehensive Management Plan is complete. (Draft hard copies were distributed to the members.) Printed copies will be available soon.
- Six connecting trails applications have been received. NPS anticipates forwarding the applications on to the Regional Office as soon as next week.

### Update on Advisory Council Member Commitments

At the previous meeting 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 (not in attendance)

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

#### 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. Will gladly assist with education of funders-just ask!*

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.*
4. Identify ICL (Indigenous Cultural Landscapes) for resource protection  
*ICL team has developed some rudimentary criteria.*
5. Continue research and outreach on ICL concept  
*Working on proposals to present at upcoming preservation conferences.*

#### Hedrick Belin (not in attendance)

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  
*Serve on Funding Strategy Committee. Recently began a direct dialog with the REPI Program Coordinator which could provide avenue towards DoD funding for mutual CAJO DoD priorities. CC and NPS should provide letters to the REPI programs to assist with possible funding for next year.*
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. Met with the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance and tribal reps in Vienna MD to discuss how to advance the Nanticoke.*

#### Wilton Corkern

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 (not in attendance)

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

*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.*

#### E.B. James (not in attendance)

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  
*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 (not in attendance)

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  
*We have funding in hand and have just awarded the contract. We expect it to go live late Spring 2012.*
2. Work with trail partners to implement trail opportunities  
*We've met with Kristin Saunders and her staff and David Johnson and his staff to develop proposals for installing trail signage at state parks. We're also working with them to develop proposals that they hope to fund either from their own budgets or through fundraising.*
3. Develop and seek funding for youth corps projects on the trail  
*We've been able to acquire funding for youth projects on the trail, including projects with Virginia DCR, the James River Association, Parks and People in Baltimore, and Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps. We are seeking additional funding to continue this work in FY2012.*

4. Continue to seek NPS funding for collaborative trail projects  
*We have put together proposals consistent with the action plan that will further our goal of making the trail visible and visitor ready. We will present a full list of what proposals we are seeking funds for at the next meeting of the AC.*

Drew McMullen (not in attendance)

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 (not in attendance)

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 (not in attendance)

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  
*One has completed the bidding process; the other has just released an RFP. Hope to have both completed by Spring 2012.*
2. Create situational awareness of CAJO on VA Eastern Shore  
*Has met with appropriate persons to discuss the trail.*
3. Pursue regional approach for Eastern Shore  
*Has met with appropriate persons to discuss the trail.*
4. Work political leverage options to support CAJO for funding  
*Has not had the opportunity to pursue this yet.*

Bill Pencek (not in attendance)

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  
*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  
*Efforts continue to make Fort Monroe a National Monument through Presidential Proclamation.*

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.*

#### Peyton Robertson

1. *Continue CBIBS program. Just launched tenth buoy at First Landing State Park (VA).*
2. *NOAA is working with partners on the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation program. (A goal 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.*

#### Charlie Stek

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.*
2. *Continue to hold events that bring attention to CAJO and the James River.*
3. *Completed a new access site at Presquile NWR as part of the new Ecology School.*

#### Ann Swanson

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. Meetings planned in near future to discuss details on how to do this.*
2. Pursue funding/development of visitor contact stations at 5 state parks  
*Identified three sites with Chesapeake Conservancy.*
3. Premier paddle site with overnight accommodations at Patuxent  
*Pursuing, but takes time.*

#### Joel Dunn for Chesapeake Conservancy and Council member Pat Noonan

1. Submit 6 connecting trail applications with our partners

- Complete.*
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.*

#### Additional commitment discussion:

- VA Land Conservation Association awarded grants at their recent meeting. One such grant was for \$80,000 to preserve 60 acres of the Werwocomoco site.
- Blackwater NWR is adding acreage.
- EB James sent word with Virginia Busby that he is moving to New Hampshire, but he has discussed his commitments with his replacement and the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance will follow through on EB's commitments.

#### **James River Association's *James River Expedition***

Bill Street made a short presentation about the James River Association's *James River Expedition*. The expedition took place during this past summer. A diverse group of students and teachers followed the James River for four weeks seeking to discover the many different aspects and perspectives of the river and its communities. They had the opportunity to meet with organizations and individuals who work and live on the river. Several of the student participants said that their participation in the *Expedition* changed the "path they were on."

The results of the *Expedition* were excellent. It led to the formulation of relationships with stakeholders up and down the river; there were 7.5 million media impressions; led to development of environmental education projects and Dominion gave each participant's school funding to work on conservation projects.

BREAK

#### **Land Protection Strategy Committee report**

Jonathan Doherty presented a summary PowerPoint based on the committee meeting held earlier in the day. He summarized the land protection strategy project, priorities outlined in the CMP and the initial methodology discussed by the committee.

The committee determined there is a need for a deeper understanding of the existing state and other ranking and rating tools and how these and the CAJO priorities can be synchronized. In addition, the states need CAJO resource data for integration into their systems. The project team will be doing further work in coming weeks and reconvene the committee in the next 4-8 weeks.

#### **Indigenous Cultural Landscape initiative**

Deanna Beacham presented an update to the group and facilitated discussion on the following:

- The Indigenous Cultural Landscape team has developed some rudimentary criteria.

- Together with NPS, the ICL team is working on a proposal for the Society of Applied Anthropology conference; working to revise Bulletin 38 to include ICL language and complete some level of GIS mapping of ICL.
- ICL outreach efforts include: presentation at Preservation Maryland conference, working with Piscataway Park to incorporate ICL into their programming; present a session at the upcoming Preservation Virginia conference and ICL will be part of an upcoming symposium at Stratford Hall.

### **James River Segment Plan update**

Jonathan Doherty and John Davy presented a PowerPoint on the status of the plan. The majority of the focus is on how to make the trail visible and visitor ready.

A series of actions have been determined through the planning process:

- Consistent trail marking and signage
- Development of Interpretive programs and the information sources needed to visit the trail
- Collective marketing

The team outlined an interim steering committee consisting of the planning team and a few other stakeholder organizations that would organize and coordinate the next 12 months of progress. The interim committee would assist with:

1. Longer term management and functions of the segment.
2. In the short term, following up with the partners on their commitments.
3. Advance the short list of initiatives
4. Engage VTC and local tourism DMO's.

A discussion about the newly developed standard signage followed with examples of the standard signs available for the members to view.

### **Funding Strategy Committee report**

Virginia Busby discussed the draft strategy. (Two handouts were distributed to the members.)

The focus of fundraising is on developing and aligning resources to make the trail visible and visitor ready, concentrating on partner sites where significant trail investments already exist. The funding strategy should focus on the coming *two* years. Types of projects which would make the trail visible and visitor ready include the following:

- Trail "highly visible and recognizable" on 2-3 segments
- 50 kiosks and waysides in the ground
- Private sector tours & certification program underway
- New unigrid guide plus guides to 3 segments published
- CAJO website visits tripled & mobile app completed
- Development of 10 new access sites underway
- New public access acquisitions in process
- Access and interpretation projects at FWS refuges along the trail



Committee members are not necessarily the fund raisers. However, the strategy should guide and initiate the funding effort. The committee will help coordinate the effort, identify projects, open doors, and identify opportunities such as local, state, and federal programs that provide ways for enhancing the trail. Funding for implementing the trail will come from:

- Federal sources
- State sources
- Other jurisdictions and municipalities
- Philanthropy
- Grants (Either NPS or a partner as the applicant)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the general public were present.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 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