

* * * For immediate release – January 12, 2008 [contact person: Bob Lewis301-862-3517] * * *

SMRWA Executive Director Attends Training Funded by Chesapeake Bay Funders Network

Executive Director Bob Lewis attended the two-day training earlier this month with staff and Board members from thirty-six other regional watershed groups. Networking between the groups is an important feature of these ongoing training sessions. Accommodations were bare-bones but the staff at the North Bay facility, where approximately fifty people attended intensive sessions on program evaluation methods, were exceptionally pleasant and informative.

The January 9-10 training was the third of nine training opportunities in a three-year funding cycle ending in June of 2010. The St. Mary's River Watershed Association was awarded a Tier II (there are two cash funded levels and Tier III recipients receive only free trainings as well as small targeted grant opportunities) Capacity Building Grant which has a value of approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 in each of three years - June 2007 through June 2010. Part of that award was a cash grant of \$14,000, the rest being made up in training and networking opportunities.



Board members Joe Anderson, Nancy McAllister, and Richard Holden, along with Bob Lewis, attended the three-day training this past fall at Shepherdstown West Virginia where a variety of workshops in seven tracks were offered to more than 350 attendees. Member Bob Elwood, Vice President Bob Paul, and Bob Lewis attended the first two-day June 2007 training session at Great Falls Maryland in June 2007.

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