

Anne Arundel Water Access Commission

Recommendation #3 June 21, 2017

The Anne Arundel Water Access Commission met with Paul Bollinger, Executive Director, of Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (CRAB) at our commission meeting on March 15, 2017. CRAB started serving individuals with disabilities on the Chesapeake Bay in 1991. Today, they serve over 1,000 guests every year.

Mr. Bollinger briefed the members of the commission on the current state of operations at CRAB and challenges faced to maintain and grow their operations and the number of persons with disabilities they serve in the region. Their base of operations at Sandy Point State Park has excellent handicapped accessible facilities and docks. CRAB has operated from these facilities free of charge for many years.

The challenge facing CRAB and becoming more acute is access to the park on weekends during the summer. When the park fills-up with visitors, the park closes for all visitors, including CRAB guests who want to go sailing. This means that CRAB cannot offer sailing to persons with disabilities, wounded warriors, or disadvantaged youth on weekends during the busiest part of the year.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Given that CRAB has a distinguished record of providing persons with disabilities the opportunity to go sailing for the past 26 years and Annapolis is the "Sailing Capital of the United States", the Commission recommends the creation of a plan to bring CRAB to the Annapolis area. Specifically, the Commission recommends the establishment of a workgroup led by the AA Dept of Recreation & Parks with participation of relevant State and local partners to produce an achievable plan. A preliminary plan should be completed by December 1, 2017.

County Executive

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Instructions: