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Search under way for CRA executive director

After six years at the helm, Bob Parks has announced he will step down as executive director of Chester River Association at the end of the year.

"I believe it is time for new leadership and ideas for CRA and also time for me personally to move on," said Parks. "Simply put, it's time for me to 'let go.'"

A national search is currently under way for a new executive director. Parks said that in order to guarantee a smooth transition, he will remain at the river advocacy organization until his replacement has been named.

Commenting on Parks' resignation, CRA board president Marcy Ramsey said: "Bob will be a tough act to follow." Under his leadership, she noted, CRA added two conservation planners, a septic specialist and, most recently, a policy director. Those hires, she added, have strengthened CRA's ability to push for a healthy river. Parks was also instrumental in CRA's legal victory over Velsicol (now Eastman) and in hiring a lobbyist in Annapolis, where on the legislative front CRA has achieved notable success.

Parks commended CRA's board, staff and donors. He and his wife Marilyn will continue to live in Kent County. "We can think of no better place to live and we will continue to support the community we love," he said.