

Chesapeake Bay Program Local Government and Scientific Advisory Committees: Summary of Issues & Requests

Chesapeake Bay Program's Executive Council Meeting, July 9, 2012

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC): STAC is focusing its efforts on understanding how multiple models could function in a regulatory environment, how market-based policies such as nutrient trading could bring momentum to restoration efforts, and how adaptive management strategies could offer the flexibility to achieve success given ever-changing information.

Request to EC: Support immediate efforts to test multiple models in the estuary and watershed.

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC): EPA and the Bay jurisdictions must play a major role in funding local projects and in providing much needed technical assistance to local levels of government. LGAC has identified three key principles in restoring the Chesapeake Bay:

1. *Clear Expectations:* Provide clear expectations regarding the level of effort anticipated, as well as effective tools for tracking progress toward implementation goals. Frame issues in such a way that are easily understood as to be supported by those who will be affected by these implementation activities.

2. *Consistent Regulations:* Local governments are concerned with inconsistencies between competing regulatory mandates and lack of a focused effort to coordinate multiple regulatory initiatives. It is imperative that regulations developed at all levels of government be consistent.

3. *Committed Funding:* Local governments need strong bottom-up, locally-based implementation efforts to meet the Executive Order goals. In order to do this, local governments need funding for implementation of the Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), particularly within the context of reducing stormwater loads; and provide sustained technical assistance.

Request to EC: Ensure that jurisdictions and federal agencies provide a stream of committed funding to help implement WIPs.

Request to EC: Find ways to continue and expand current technical assistance efforts.

Request to EC: Work with local governments to develop cost-effective/flexible solutions to stormwater issues that must be addressed in the WIPs.

Request to EC: Allow more time for discussion with Advisory Committee Chairs at future EC meetings.

Citizens Advisory Committee 2012 Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Citizen Engagement:

Educate Our Youth – The Future Stewards of the Watershed:

- Every State and the District of Columbia approve an environmental literacy graduation requirement, ensuring that every watershed student receives a comprehensive, diverse environmental education before graduation from high school
- Establish two year milestones for achieving the environmental literacy for all students in the watershed.
- Encourage the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bay Program to actively support the environmental education efforts of the State and local education agencies in the watershed.
- Support the *Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy*, developed by NOAA in partnership with the States.
- Bay Program partners support the Land and Water Conservation Fund Landscape Collaborative and funding in the federal Fiscal 2014 budget to support landscape-level conservation in the watershed.
- Establish an MOU with the Bay Program and the Bureau of Land Management and the Office of Surface Mining.

Public Access to the Bay and Rivers –Less than 2% of the 11,600 miles of tidal shore is publicly accessible:

- We encourage you to expand upon the current 2 percent of the watershed's shoreline which is publicly accessible and establish new goals for land conservation and public access.

Accountability:

Nutrient Trading: Success of the Bay TMDL partially hinges on Nutrient Trading- Trust but Verify:

- Recommend full transparency, verification and public involvement in the jurisdictions' water quality nutrient trading programs.
- Use the two-year milestones and/or the annual EC meetings to report on progress made to address the issues included in the EPA reviews of the state's trading programs as well as other issues (such as local water quality protection) raised by numerous stakeholders.

WIPs and 2 Year Milestones – Verify Results and Report Implementation:

- Each partner provide a short summary at each Executive Council meeting of its progress in meeting reductions of pollution from their top five loading sources. The summary should include areas where jurisdictions are falling short of their goals along with an explanation of measures that will be pursued to address the gaps.
 - Include specific mention of ways jurisdictions are improving the enforcement component of their work.

Beyond Water Quality:

- The General Public Care about Clean Water for Drinking, Swimming and Fishing – NOT TMDLs and WIPs: The jurisdictions should set goals for restoration of fisheries, living resources and habitats, and stewardship.

Conowingo Dam

- Remember Hurricane Agnes and consider the cost of inaction in addressing sediment storage behind the Conowingo Dam.