**Principals’ Staff Committee**

**Actions and Decisions on IRC and GIT Recommendations**

**April 13 & 14, 2014 Retreat**

**With 4-23-14 IRC and 4-24-14 GIT Recommendations on Outstanding Issues**

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| Color Key:  Green – PSC approved; no need to revisit  Blue - general PSC approval, but need one or two signatories sign off  Yellow – additional work needed; bring back to PSC for further consideration  Suggested language edits/additions  Suggested deletions: ~~strikethrough~~ |

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| **Issue and IRC Leads** | **PSC Decision**  **4-14-14** | **IRC Recommendations 4-23-14**  **Or other Follow-up** | **Recommended or Resolved Language** |
| **1. Participatory Language**  Lead: WV, NY, MD, EPA | The PSC agreed to remove “Within 90 days…” from the recommended language changes based on the discussion on 4/14/14  Also agreed as separate addendum on participation would not be included in final agreement.  NY and WV need additional time to review the new language. | NY has agreed to the recommended language | **MD Participatory Language Option with suggested edits from AM PSC Discussion 4-14-14**  Add to Preamble: “The signatories to this voluntary Agreement commit to achieving the goal of restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and its living resources.  Add to the end of the first paragraph in the Goals and Outcomes section: Signatories will participate in achieving the outcomes of this Agreement in the manner described in the “management strategies development and implementation” section below.  Add the following as a new second paragraph in the Management Strategies Development and Implementation section:  Participation in management strategies or participating in the achievement of outcomes is expected to ~~will~~ vary by signatory, based on differing priorities across the watershed. This participation ~~and~~ may include sharing knowledge, data or information; educating citizens or members; working on future legislation; and developing or implementing programs or practices. Management strategies, which are aimed at implementing outcomes, will identify participating jurisdictions and other stakeholders, including local governments and nonprofit organizations, ~~and~~ will be implemented in ~~encompass~~ two-year periods. ~~Within ninety (90) days of the execution of this Agreement, signatories and other partners shall identify have identified the management strategies and outcome implementation efforts they will participate in for the first two years of this Agreement. In Addendum A, which shall be~~ The signatories and other partners shall thereafter update and/or modify such commitments every two years. Specific management strategies will be developed in consultation with stakeholders, organizations and other agencies, and will include a period for public comment and review prior to final adoption. The Principal Staff Committee will report on adoption of management strategies at the next Executive Council meeting and report on implementation of management strategies every two years.  Add to Affirmation and Signatures section: “As Chesapeake Bay Program partners, we acknowledge that this agreement is voluntary and subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This agreement is not a contract or an assistance agreement. We also understand that this agreement does not pre-empt, supersede or override any other law or regulation applicable to each signatory.” |
| **2. Climate Change**  Lead: MD | The PSC agreed to include the Resiliency Goal with an outcome on monitoring and assessment and an outcome on adaptation.  (Option 1)  PSC will consider the language of the adaptation Outcome, and the Monitoring and Assessment outcome.  “Changing environmental conditions” will remain in the Preamble, Principles, and Management Strategies sections. | IRC recommended MD work with CBC to address their comments to the language.  Language reflects changes from this exchange | **Introductory Language**: Changing ~~environmental and climate~~ **climatic and sea level** conditions ~~will have multiple and complex effects on the Chesapeake Bay. Rising sea levels and changes in precipitation patterns may make restoration more difficult to achieve, and increasing air and water temperatures may affect the integrity of healthy waters and watersheds. Building resiliency to these impacts now will ensure healthy and resilient Bay ecosystems and communities in the future~~. **may** **alter the Bay ecosystem and human activities, requiring adjustment to policies, programs and projects to successfully achieve our restoration and protection goals for the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.  This challenge requires careful monitoring and assessment of these impacts and application of this knowledge to policies, programs and projects.**  ~~Climate~~ **Resiliency Goal**: Increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay watershed including its **living resources**, habitats, public infrastructure and human communities to withstand adverse impacts from ~~climate change~~ changing environmental and climate conditions.  **Monitoring and Assessment Outcome**:  ~~Support monitoring activities to deliver routine and sustained climate science, information products and services~~. **Continually monitor and assess the trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects.**  **By 2017, complete a study of best management practices commonly employed to control nutrient and sediment runoff and consider necessary management adjustments.**  **Adaptation Outcome**:  **Continually pursue, design, and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise**. (Modified Resilient Restoration Outcome)  Preamble: Much progress has been made, but there is more to do especially in the face of continued challenges such as changes in population, loss of farm and forest lands and *changing environmental conditions*.  Principles: The Partners will: *anticipate changing conditions, including long-term trends in sea level, temperature, precipitation, land use and other variables*.  Management Strategy Development and Implementation: Management strategies may address multiple outcomes if deemed appropriate. Goal Implementation Teams will re-evaluate biennially and update them as necessary, with attention to changing *environmental and economic conditions*. Policy changes to address these conditions and minimize obstacles to achieve the outcome may be identified. |
| **3. Environmental Literacy**  Lead: GIT 5 | Revisit goal and outcomes together - Hold on goal until hearing from all signatories and their education depts.  Consider “Enable” | **IRC jurisdiction representatives to finalize position by noon 4/24/14.**  **IRC recommends incorporating STAC language.**  WV (4/24/14) – Supports, if local Boards of Ed can participate as able & Management Strategies are at local level.  PA – can live with  VA – still concerned but may be able to live with if Literacy Plan is the management strategy. | **Environmental Literacy Goal**: Every student in the region graduates with the knowledge and skills to act responsibly to protect and restore their local watershed. |
| Revisit | **IRC recommends incorporating STAC language.** | **Student Outcome**: **Continually increase the number of students participating** ~~Every student participates~~ in at least one teacher-supported meaningful watershed educational experience in elementary, middle, and high school. **By 2014, develop baseline metrics to establish and measure outcomes related to student participation in teacher supported meaningful watershed educational experiences and related activities.** |
| Revisit | **IRC recommends incorporating STAC language.** | **Sustainable Schools Outcome**: **Continually increase the number of schools in the region working** ~~All schools in the region work~~ towards maintaining their buildings, grounds, and operations using best practices to support environmental and human health **and maximize student involvement**. |
| Revisit | **IRC recommends incorporating STAC language.**  VA – still concerned but may be able to live with if Literacy Plan is the management strategy. | **Environmental Literacy Plan Outcome:** **Steadily increase support for and recognition of sustainable schools and local education agencies that use system-wide approaches for environmental education**.  By 2016, all states complete an environmental literacy plan that details system wide approaches for environmental education to meet the provisions of this agreement. |
| Revisit | **GIT 5 recommends incorporating into the Student Outcome because it is effectively a strategy for that outcome.** | **Metrics Outcome:** ~~By 2014, develop baseline metrics to establish and measure outcomes related to student participation in teacher supported meaningful watershed educational experiences and related activities.~~ |
| **4. Stewardship**  Lead: D.C., GIT 5 | The PSC decided to include a Stewardship Goal in the agreement.    The PSC needs to further consider whether it will be included as a stand-alone goal with 2 outcomes (Option 1), or a joint stewardship/ literacy goal (Option 2).  The PSC will also revisit adding local leadership and diversity outcomes under a Stewardship Goal. | **The IRC recommends Stewardship and Environmental Literacy are separate goals.**  DC revised the Local Leadership Outcome 4/24/14.  **Jurisdictions could live with diversity as an outcome or as a Principle. No consensus recommendation made.**  EPA: Diversity Outcome or work into Stewardship Outcome  MD: Diversity Outcome  VA: Principle, but fine as Outcome  DC: Principle  DE: Can live with either | **Introductory Language offered in the Stewardship Issue paper:**  The long-term future success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort will depend on local leadership; local *action* that depends primarily on a strong citizen stewardship Building a larger, broader, and more diverse constituency of stewards for watershed restoration is needed to achieve the many other goals and outcomes outlined in this Agreement. Stewards bring the ACTION element for implementing the rest of the Agreement. There are over 600 local conservation and watershed organizations in our region that are educating and empowering citizens to restore and protect their local streams and rivers. There are tens of thousands of local citizen volunteers who donate their time and talent to our shared goals.  **Stewardship Goal:** Increase the number and diversity of local citizen stewards and local governments that actively support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.  ***Citizen Stewardship Outcome*:** Increase the number **[and diversity]** of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.  ***Stewardship Metrics Outcome***: By 2015, work with Chesapeake Bay Program partners and other wide ranging academic, local government and citizen organizations to develop a metric for evaluating progress in citizen stewardship.  **Revisiting:**  ***Local Leadership Outcome:***~~Engage, empower, and facilitate leadership by local governments and increase the number of local governments that have implemented innovative financing strategies to meet agreement goals. (2010 Baseline year)~~ **Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.**  ***Diversity Outcome:* Identify minority stakeholder groups who are not currently represented in the leadership, decision making and implementation of the current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage them in the partnership.** |
| **5. Toxic Contaminants**  Lead: Adhoc Toxics Team: Greg Allen, EPA; Scott Phillips, USGS; & Russ Baxter, VA & others | The PSC agreed to a separate toxics goal with two outcomes (research and reduction) based on CBC suggested language.  Also agreed to:  - Remove the date in the research outcome.  - Revise the second outcome to add a sentence focusing on PCBs.  - A second sentence will be added about using the research to develop management strategies for other contaminants in future years. | **IRC consensus decision to recommend the Introductory Language, Goal, and the Research Outcome to the PSC.**  **EPA, CBC, MD, DC, VA, WV, and DE agreed to recommend the Policy and Prevention Outcome.**  **Pa wasn’t able to check with their PSC member yet.**  **NY was not on the call.** | **Introductory Language**: Toxic contaminants harm fish and wildlife in the Bay and its watershed, and create risks to human health that limit the amount of fish that people can eat. Reducing the impacts of toxic contaminants is critical to improve the health of fish and wildlife, thereby improving their recreational value for citizens.  **Toxic Contaminants Goal:** Ensure that the Bay and its rivers are free of effects of toxic contaminants on living resources and human health.  **Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome**: **Continually increase our understanding of the impacts and mitigation options for toxic contaminants.** Develop a research agenda and further characterize the occurrence, concentrations, sources and effects of mercury, PCBs and other contaminants of emerging and widespread concern. In addition, identify which BMPs might provide ~~a dual~~ **multiple** benefit**s** of reducing nutrient and sediment pollution as well as toxic contaminants in waterways.  **Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome: Continually improve practices and controls that reduce and prevent the effects of toxic contaminants below levels that harm aquatic systems and humans.**  ~~By \_\_\_\_\_~~~~evaluate the implementation of existing programs, policies, and practices, and additional policies, programs, and practices informed by the Toxics Contaminants Research Outcome as needed, to further reduce or eliminate loadings of persistent bioaccumulative and toxic contaminants (PBT) and non-PBT contaminants to prevent harm to fish, wildlife, and citizens of the region.~~ **Build from existing programs to reduce the amount, and effects, of PCBs in the Bay and watershed.  Use research findings to evaluate the implementation of additional policies, programs, practices for other contaminants that need to be further reduced or eliminated.** |
| **6. TMDL/WIPS – Water Quality Attainment Outcome**  Lead: EPA | The PSC agreed to consider clarifying language about reporting annual progress rather than projecting progress. EPA will develop this language as a Water Quality Outcome, or for the Water Quality Introduction section. | **The IRC recommends the Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome, as revised by EPA and with STAC’s recommendation, to the PSC.** | **Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome:** **Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water-quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.** |
| **7. Impervious Surfaces**  Lead: CBC & GIT 3 | The PSC agreed to both outcomes with modifications:  Methods and Metrics Outcome: Change the date to 2016. | **The IRC recommends the revised Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome to the PSC.**  **STAC’s recommendations incorporated.** | **Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome**: **Continually improve the knowledge of land conversion and the associated impacts throughout the watershed**. By 2016, develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide methodology and local-level metrics for characterizing the rate of farmland, forest, and wetland conversion, measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage and quantifying the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds, and communities. Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with local governments, elected officials, and stakeholders.  **Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome**: **Continually improve the capacity of local governments to reduce land use conversions**. By 2017, with the direct involvement of local governments or their representatives, evaluate policy options, incentives, and planning tools that could assist local governments in their efforts to ~~strategically track, manage, and~~ reduce the rate of ~~consumption~~ **conversion** of wetlands, and agricultural and forest lands ~~and the rate of conversion of porous landscapes~~ to impervious surface~~s~~., and **D**evelop ~~an outcome~~ **strategies** for **supporting local governments’ and other efforts in** achieving those reductions by 2025 **and beyond**. |
| **8. Environmental Justice**  Lead: MD |  | **The IRC recommends the inclusion of an Environmental Justice Principle to the PSC.** | **Environmental Justice Principle**: **Promote environmental justice through the meaningful involvement and fair treatment of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income in the implementation of this agreement**. |
| **9. Governance**  Lead: CBC | The PSC will revisit Decision #1, Option B with the language compromise recommended by MD and EPA. | **The IRC recommends the Goal and Outcome Authority language, as edited by the IRC, to the PSC.** | **Goal and Outcome Authority:**  Add language to the Agreement stating: Any changes or additions to goals are ~~finalized~~ **approved** by the Executive Council. Changes or additions to outcomes are ~~finalized~~ **approved** by the Principles Staff Committee, although significant changes or additions will be raised to the Executive Council for approval. |
| The PSC agreed to Decision 2 Option A with one change:  “Public comment” is revised to be “public input” |  | **Transparency:**  Add language to the Agreement stating: Proposed changes to goals and outcomes or the addition of new goals or outcomes are open for public input before being finalized. Final changes or additions are publicly posted to the Bay Program website. |
| **10. Blue Crab Management Outcome** | Agreed  PSC to consider GIT changes. | **GIT1’s Executive Committee and Fisheries GIT stakeholders proposed additional language changes after the PSC retreat to further clarify the intent of the outcome.**  **No consensus IRC recommendation**.  CBC - prefers original.  MD - ok with change.  GIT recommends incorporating STAC’s concepts into Management Strategy. | **Blue Crab Management Outcome:** ~~Improve the ability to~~ **M**anage for a stable and productive crab ~~population~~ ~~and~~ fishery**,** ~~by~~ **including** working with the industry, recreational crabbers, and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. **By 2018**, **e**valuate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions **for the purpose of accounting for and adjusting harvest by each jurisdiction.** ~~that will provide stability for crabbing businesses and accountability of the harvest for each jurisdiction.~~ |