

Comments for Management Strategies.....

Fish Habitat Management Strategy-If it's not already a priority, along with the other great Management Strategy Approaches, it would be excellent to coordinate Chesapeake Bay Program efforts with the fish barrier removal projects identified in the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. Engaging local leaders in the Anacostia Watershed, which encompasses Washington D.C., Prince George's County, and Montgomery County, is also desired. As of 2010, there were 146 fish blockage projects identified by the US Army Corps of Engineers totaling \$35,172,500. Coordinating efforts to fund these projects with local leaders in the Anacostia Watershed would be energy well spent to support herring, shad, and striped bass species. Please, review the [Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan](#).

Fish Passage Management Strategy- If it's not already a priority, along with the other great Management Strategy Approaches, it would be excellent to coordinate Chesapeake Bay Program efforts with the fish barrier removal projects identified in the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. Engaging local leaders in the Anacostia Watershed, which encompasses Washington D.C., Prince George's County, and Montgomery County, is also desired. As of 2010, there were 146 fish blockage projects identified by the US Army Corps of Engineers totaling \$35,172,500, but only approximately 37 were included in the Fish Passage Outcome Management Strategy, see [Attribute Table in Fish Passage Prioritization Map](#). Coordinating efforts to fund these projects with local leaders in the Anacostia Watershed would be energy well spent to support herring, shad, and striped bass species. Please, review the [Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan](#).

Tree Canopy Outcome Management Strategies-One way to address gaps in Tree Survival/Maintenance, especially in densely populated urban areas hit hard by summer storms, is to continue and increase coordination between local agencies, non-profits, and utilities intended to protect property from and assist homeowners with maintaining over hanging tree limbs threatening property and human health. This may be of special interest to less engaged homeowners who are concerned about utility cost benefits from added canopy shade but also from damage prevention through proper maintenance. This is a potential outreach strategy.

Citizen Stewardship Outcome Management Strategy-The idea that an army of local citizen volunteers will be needed to grow a diverse constituency of stewards is sound and agreeable. Several factors influencing this growth are rightly listed in the strategy. The following are comments on a few of those factors that may also serve as potential management approaches:

- **(C1) existing programs not designed for maximum impact.** This can be more plainly stated by directing CBP partners to learn the local social, economic, environmental priority issues, which have been historically identified by local leaders, and find innovative ways to assist using environmental principles that also meet CBP priorities. Allow these nexus points to be the basis for coalition building under a broader base. For example, CBP partners may consider working head on with local leaders to address self identified community issues such as technical and financial assistance for

minority and low resource farmers meeting water quality requirements, or urban blight issues such as illegal dumping and abandoned housing. These kinds of self identified community issues are already a community priority and have environmental consequences as well as social and economic. This is a win-win for both all parties involved.

- **(C3) Need additional capacity to recruit and train volunteers and leaders.** Currently, hundreds of non-profits are doing a magnificent job recruiting volunteers for Bay restoration activities, seemingly and most visibly for community and stream clean ups. To convert volunteerism into lifelong stewardship, in some communities, particularly underserved, students must be engaged in volunteerism that connects with education, community, environment, as well as economic success. Volunteer programs must also engage students with internships, jobs and college programs related to Bay restoration. This links to (C1) as a program designed for maximum impact, which addresses social needs.
- **(E1) Public opinion, perception and attitude about Bay clean up varies and poses both challenges and opportunities.** I agree with the notion that even people support healthy community initiatives, including those protecting water, but that opinions on related programs vary based on perspective. I think compromise and consensus on which programs to put forth can be made between environmental policy makers and funders and local leaders in a (C1) framework, where several community needs are considered in program development e.g. education, healthy neighborhoods and schools, job creation, urban blight, increased technical and financial assistance for minority and low resource farmers, etc.
- **(E4) Existing markets are the major drivers of consumer choices and often create disincentives for stewardship actions.** As local consumer markets may need to be changed, in terms of the availability of products that we know are harmful to the health of Bay communities and the Bay itself, for example plastic and Styrofoam products, it is imperative to work with local leaders on the best regulatory and policy approaches. In the past, regulations and policies have been brought to leaders after the fact, or after we have failed to create consensus, or compromise with them. We want to turn away from negative perceptions regarding environmental initiatives not being for all people because of nasty political fights, where local leaders are not in support of proposed market changes. Coalition building is key.
- The efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Program and partners to increase diversity are a valiant response to a nationwide conversation about increasing diversity within the ranks of environmental organizations. However, to answer subsequent requests to increase diversity, the Bay Program will need to begin with a baseline for the diversity present among the relevant Federal, State, and local agencies and Non-government Organizations. Non-governmental organizations should be compelled to present a better reflection of communities they serve and offer baseline data for their staff and baseline data for volunteers who have participated in Chesapeake Bay Restoration activities.

The strategy also highlights current efforts that are certainly commendable. I would like to see more local success stories as a result of these good programs. Also, thoughts on current programs that can coordinate and help foster stewardship is greatly appreciated. For example, homeowners who benefit from rainscapes programs may be interested in stewardship programs or can help spread the word in their neighborhood. Maybe we should follow up with these folks

receiving funding for projects in regards to other fun, community based activities Lastly, concerning current efforts, it is also good to have the groups, organizations, and/or agencies leading the efforts to hire from the communities they serve. This helps build lasting legacy.

Other comments on stewardship are:

- Creating a new or make existing government and NGO programs more efficient by designing success pathways from grade school to College Degree programs to Internships to Green Careers creating a professional environmental steward class for the future. The success of such programs is based on tracking results for students engaged in our programs grade school to college. **WHY?** Some communities can't afford to be environmental stewards without financial and education investment. A distressed community needs progressive education and economic strategies to build a better community/ environment.
- Champion new issues that are based on needs identified by community leaders. Engage diverse leaders on urban blight to guide the identification of needs toward areas where The Chesapeake Bay Program and partners can collaborate. Where are the win-win issues that have been long standing in these communities and have not received enough focus from the environmental community? Is it a commutative impacts bill, illegal dumping, redevelopment, abandoned housing?!
- Fund and develop new, diverse environmental groups. The regional political infrastructure supporting for Chesapeake Bay related issues lacks diverse **ORGANIZATIONAL** representation.

TOXICS- its all about PCBs. We should be looking to be proactive about regulating and monitoring for new toxics. Why not a regulatory strategy based on inspecting and increased reporting from bad actors?

Diversity Outcome Strategy-This strategy rightly embraces the notion that decision makers should be a reflection of the communities that will be impacted by subsequent environmental policies. It is an excellent start. With that said, there are some areas I would like to contribute comments. First, under the “**Baseline and Current Conditions**” section and under “**Environmental Justice Conditions Present Challenges**” there should be mention of Environmental Justice as a prevailing principle in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. Second, I would like to see the Maryland Commission of Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities involved as a State Representative and Clean Water Action and Green For All as non profits representatives and Broccoli City as an organization to help implement this strategy. Green For All and Broccoli City have already embarked on successful marketing to African-American and Latino communities to encourage engagement in environmentally related issues. Their expertise would be useful to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Also, one factor influencing success as stated in the strategy is “**Reaching Diverse Communities with Employment Opportunities and Professional Development.**” There is a lack of recruiting at Minority Serving Institutions, Community Colleges, and Historically

Black Colleges with the intent to develop environmental professionals to enter non-profits and local agencies. Recruiting is an action word that should be added. Concerning all environmental justice related foci, it would be prudent to survey and share information with the various environmental justice entities in the Bay Watershed, for example in the Washington D.C. and Maryland area, there are at least two, the Maryland Commission on Environmental and Sustainable Communities and the DMV Environmental Justice Coalition.

As for “**Current Efforts and Gaps,**” it is concerning to see that many of the non-profits who are at the table fighting for environmental laws and policies, which impact diverse communities, have not yet offered baseline data suggesting how they may become more diverse. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake has led the way so far.

The **Employment and Professional Engagement** management approach is excellent. It is certainly reasonable to incorporate employment and professional engagement in environmental literacy initiatives and programs. This will be key to build long term, sustainable stewards in under-served, low-income communities. The **Promoting Environmental Justice management** approach is also excellent. We know that environmental justice is not just about where you live, but who makes decisions for you. The “Key Area of Emphasis” focusing on bringing more qualified, diverse parties to the table is primed to address inclusion as a desired environmental justice principle for mainstream groups to adopt.

Environmental Literacy- *The Management Approach* identified as **S1** should be more descriptive and directive in terms of how students will receive professional development. Environmental advocates have called for professional development and environmental literacy to environmental education that prepares students to qualify for acceptance into higher education programs(See Diversity Outcome Management Approaches under Potential Actions). These college and university programs in related fields such as hydrology, environmental engineering, geology, etc. will be the precursor for job attainment in the field. In fact, in the name of professional development literacy programs should be coordinated with Degrees programs; then non-profits that can offer entry level jobs, or internships. Ultimately, these working professionals will be more likely to serve the environmental interest of their communities in an economically sustainable way.

The section identified as *Cross Outcome Collaboration and Multiple Benefits* should be sure to identify the Employment and Professional Engagement Workgroup, working to meet the Stewardship Goal, as collaborator.

Public Access Site Development Outcome –This outcome should be sure to include attention to the access residents have to local streams and rivers. In Los Angeles, environmentalist and decision makers are rightly rethinking past decisions to line the Los Angeles River with concrete. It was originally done to manage storm water. Here in the Chesapeake Bay Region, local streams are becoming more and more “hard” in the name of storm water management. Local streams lined with large rocks, stones, and chain links destroy the natural character of earthly, soft, and green stream banks. They also block access to the water. Children are less able to interact with the water, or aquatic life in the water because of these man-made barriers. We need to be mindful not to destroy habitat, prevent wild life access, and recreational access to local streams and rivers

in the name of just any kind storm water management. These storm water management techniques designed to protect stream banks and reduce soil erosion should be greener, natural, and should not deter, or prevent access, particularly in residential communities.

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