

**CBP Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
Actions and Decisions
September 24, 2013**

Draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Issues Resolution Committee

Decision: The PSC had no objections or changes to the recommendations made by the Issues Resolution Committee (IRC) (with the exception of the toxics and land use outcomes which were deferred for discussion until later in the agenda).

Vision

Decision: The PSC supports a broader vision statement—to reflect more vibrant cultural heritage and recreational values—in the draft agreement.

(For: CBC, PA, MD, DC, Federal, NY, DE; Against: VA, DE)

Level of Support for Management Strategies

Decision: No decision was reached regarding jurisdictions' discretion to choose level of support for management strategies. MB Chair Nick DiPasquale and Scott Mandirola (WV) agreed to work together to develop clearer language and will provide to the PSC for further consideration.

- Clarification language was developed and is included on p. 3 (paragraph three, Goals and Outcomes section) of the current draft Agreement for PSC consideration today.

Goals, Outcomes and Management Strategies

Decision: No vote was taken on the issues of nomenclature (goals, outcomes, outputs) or how to reduce the required number of management strategies. Jim Edward (EPA) agreed to develop clarification language to address the issue of developing management strategies for each outcome.

- Clarification language is included in the draft Agreement on p. 8 (last paragraph, Management Strategy Development and Implementation section) for PSC consideration.

Goals and Outcomes

- Blue Crab Management Outcome: "Improve the ability to manage for a stable and productive crab population and fishery by working with the industry, recreational crabbers, and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. Evaluate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions that will provide stability for crabbing businesses and accountability of the harvest for each jurisdiction."

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.

(For: CBC, PA, MD, DC, Federal, NY, DE; Against: VA, WV)

- Oyster Outcome:** “Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 to recover the benefits of fish habitat and water quality improvements that healthy oyster reefs provide.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.
(For: CBC, DE, PA, NY, MD, DC, Federal; Against: WV, VA)
- Forage Fish Outcome:** “By 2016 develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.
(For: Unanimous; Against: none)
- Fish Habitat Outcome:** “Continue to identify and characterize critical spawning, nursery and forage areas within the Bay and **tidal** tributaries for important fish and shellfish and use **existing and** new tools to integrate information and conduct assessments to inform restoration and conservation efforts.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement with revisions as noted in bold.
(For: CBC, PA, WV, MD, DC, Federal, NY, DE; Against: VA)
- Wetlands Outcome:** “Create or re-establish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025. These activities may occur in any land use (including urban) but primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.
(For: Unanimous)
- SAV Outcome:** “Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress towards this ultimate outcome ~~will be measured by achieving~~ **as measured against** 90,000 acres of SAV by 2017 and 130,000 acres by 2025.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement with revisions as noted.
(For: Unanimous)
- Tree Canopy Outcome:** “Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.
(For: Unanimous)
- Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome:** “Assess planned research and opportunities for new research to improve knowledge of the effects of contaminants of emerging concern on the health of fish and wildlife by 2015 so future strategies can be considered.”

Decision: The outcome **does not** carry forward into the draft agreement.
(For: CBC, PA, MD, DC, Feds; Against: WV, VA, NY)

- Toxic Contaminants Reduction Outcome: “Identify **existing and new** practices and an implementation schedule by 2015 to reduce loadings of PCBs and mercury to the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.”

Decision: The outcome **does not** carry forward into the draft agreement.
 (For: CBC (would like to have a broader outcome but will live with this one), MD, DC, Feds; Against: WV, PA, VA, NY, DE)
- NEW Water Quality “commitment”: “By 2015, analyze new science, monitoring data and other information to determine if the current EPA outcome of “60% of segments attaining bay water quality standards by 2025” is appropriate for inclusion as an outcome in this agreement. If the analysis indicates that a revision is needed, work with the Bay jurisdictions, other federal agencies and partners to adopt a 2025 water quality standards attainment outcome for incorporation into this Agreement by 2025.”

Decision: No vote taken; tabled until more detailed information is provided to the PSC.
- Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome: “By 2015, develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide methodology and metrics for measuring the rate of land conversions of agricultural and forest lands, and for measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.
 (For: Unanimous)
- Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome: “By 2017, evaluate policy options and identify potential incentives, resources and other tools that could assist local governments in their efforts to better manage and, when possible, reduce the rate of consumption of agricultural and forest lands, and rate of conversion of porous landscape to impervious surface.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.
 (For: CBC, WV, PA, MD, DC, Feds, NY, DE; Against: VA)
- Public Access Site Development Outcome: “By 2025 add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible. (2010 baseline year)”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement.
 (For: Unanimous)
- Environmental Literacy Goal and Outcomes:

 - *Environmental Literacy Goal*: “Enable ~~every~~ **every** students in the region to graduate with the ~~ability~~ **knowledge** to use scientific evidence and citizenship skills to act responsibly to protect and restore their local watershed.”

- *Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience Outcome:* “Increase the number of students participating in teacher-supported meaningful watershed educational experiences in elementary, middle and high school.”
- *School and School System Model Development Outcome:* “The Partnership will support and highlight models of sustainable schools and local education agencies that use system-wide approaches for environmental education.”
- *Environmental Literacy 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.”

Decision: The outcome carries forward into the draft agreement with revisions as noted.

(For: CBC, WV, PA, MD, DC, Fed, NY, DE; Against: VA)

- *Local Government Goal and Outcomes:*

- *Local Government Leadership Goal:* “Engage, empower and facilitate local governments as partners in the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.”
- *Leadership Capacity Outcome:* “Build leadership capacity of local governments to implement local actions by increasing local government officials’ knowledge of local water resources issues and the economic, cultural and policy incentives available to support implementation of actions that help achieve the goals of the Agreement.”
- *Local Tools and Resources Outcome:* Increase delivery of tools and resources: such as GIS-based analytical tools; water quality monitoring data; an environmental finance clearing house; technical assistance; to empower local governments to develop and implement locally based approaches to water resource protection and restoration.”
- *Economic Incentives Outcome:* Provide economic incentives to local governments who participate in the implementation of actions that help achieve the goals outlined in the Bay Agreement.”
- *Financing Strategies Outcome:* Increase the number of communities utilizing creative financing strategies to implement local actions that help achieve the goals of the Agreement.”

Decision: No vote taken. The Local Government Advisory Committee will discuss the issue at its meeting on September 27. *A revised proposal/language will be put forward for PSC consideration.*

- The current draft Agreement (for PSC consideration today) no longer contains local government goals and outcomes, but the concepts have been spread throughout the agreement in various places. The revised language appears is highlighted in yellow.

- **Governance Goal and Commitment:** “Support and enhance the Partnership to ensure its continued leadership in managing the nation’s most comprehensive and coordinated approach to large scale watershed protection, restoration and adaptation.”
“Commitment [management action]: Update governance guidelines for the Partnership to: identify existing and emerging roles responsibilities and working relationships between all signatories and other partners; and clarify the relationship between EPA and the jurisdictions specific to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.”

Decision: The outcome *does not* carry forward.

Call for Recommendation for the EC to endorse the Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy

Decision: The PSC agreed to temporarily table the CAC recommendation while the Partnership continues its consideration of an Environmental Literacy goal and outcome in the draft Agreement.

PSC Conference Call

- **Action:** Since several agenda items remain unresolved—including timeline, local government goal and outcomes, and level of jurisdiction participation—the PSC will reconvene via conference call within the next two weeks to discuss these issues and to review the Editorial Board’s revised version of the draft Agreement.