

**Advisory Committee Comments to the Executive Council
September 5, 2018**

Agricultural Technical Assistance Directive

	Comment Summary	Federal Position
1	Technical Assistance Strive to provide stable and sufficient technical assistance in order to help farmers implement the conservation practices necessary to meet Bay TMDL goals.	
2	Technical Assistance Diversify and expand the network of public, private and nonprofit providers of technical and financial assistance to ensure that on-farm support is available to meet the agricultural sector load reductions.	
3	Technical Assistance Expand technical assistance capacity through the use of cooperative agreements and other tools that combine federal, state, local and private resources to target priority agricultural resource concerns.	
4	Technical Assistance Enhance and coordinate critical agricultural conservation programs to ensure they offer the flexibility and capacity needed to incentivize farmers to install practices, including riparian forest buffers, to help meet the goals of the Bay TMDL.	
5	Workforce Development Enhance the job climate for government technical assistance professionals by exploring how to make training and certification more streamlined and accessible, along with the development of two-year certification programs, innovative training forums and education loan assistance programs.	
6	Evaluation Report on progress made toward this directive at the 2019 Chesapeake Executive Council meeting.	

Citizens' Advisory Committee

	Comment Summary	Federal Position
1	<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommends continued advocacy for full federal funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program. 	
2a	<p>Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans and Local Planning Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage jurisdictions to continue with the development of programmatic infrastructure and financial support for meaningful BMP verification as a part of implementation of Phase III WIPs, particularly in accounting for growth and land use changes as state in the EPA expectations document. 	
2b	<p>Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans and Local Planning Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend the jurisdictions integrate Watershed Agreement outcomes into the water quality restoration plans as a way to incentivize practices that offer corollary ecological benefits and to encourage meaningful participation in local planning targets supporting local economies and communities. 	
3a	<p>Forest buffers and wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop programmatic, policy and financial capacity for increasing forest buffers and establish the Phase III IPs and two-year milestones. 	
3b	<p>Forest buffers and wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include technical assistance and education on multi-functional forest buffers like nut and fruit trees are riparian production crops on agricultural lands – as some U.S. jurisdictions and Central American countries have had great success. 	
3c	<p>Forest buffers and wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to encourage the prioritize area water goals. 	
3d	<p>Forest buffers and wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate to local implementers the co-benefits and cost savings that buffers and wetlands provide in protecting drinking water sources and flood mitigation. 	
3e	<p>Forest buffers and wetlands</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reformulate state funding vehicles such as Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant programs and State Revolving Local Funds for forest buffers on non-agricultural lands. 	
3f	<p>Forest buffers and wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplify the information and process the states provide for landowners to find and apply for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Wetlands Reserve and other conservation practices. 	
4a	<p>Environmental education and literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage you to also consider going further and including elements of workforce development and training to support the next generation of stewards with options for living wage environmental careers such as: storm water control, water and wastewater operations; construction and maintenance of green infrastructure; stream rehabilitation; and pollution control and cleanup. 	
4b	<p>Environmental education and literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strongly encourage the jurisdictions that do not yet have the capacity to pursue all actions in the proposed Environmental Literacy directive to at least meet the baseline of participating in the conference of high-level leaders every two years to discuss progress of <i>Watershed Agreement</i> Environmental Education goals and outcomes. Participation will increase understanding which can begin to build capacity based on the successful models used in other jurisdictions. 	

Local Government Advisory Committee

	Comment Summary	Federal Position
1a	<p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State and federal governments must increase funds allocated for local implementation. 	
1b	<p>Phase III WIPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs include an estimate of the cost to implement the programs and practices outlined in the WIPs so that we all have a better understanding of the funding needed at the local level to meet pollution reduction targets. 	

2a	Local government engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create more opportunities to engage in open dialogue in meetings with local government officials. 	
2b	Local government engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide clear direction from regulatory agencies on how to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements. 	
2c	Local government engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulatory agencies should work closely with local government trusted sources to ensure that regulatory requirements and other vital information is broadly disseminated. 	
3a	Tools and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend an evaluation of the nature, sufficiency and scope of technical assistance resources and program available to local governments be conducted for the purpose of establishing new, re-tooling existing, or expanding state and/or federal programs to achieve greater effectiveness in WIP implementation. 	
3b	Tools and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage Executive Council members to participate in LGAC's September 2018 Local Government Forum which will focus on filling gaps at the local level. 	
4a	Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jurisdictions should support local government staffing gaps, programs to train targeted groups (including offenders, veterans and other disadvantaged populations) to perform such functions as installing and maintaining green infrastructure. 	
4b	Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jurisdictions should support a student loan forgiveness program for people who choose to work in the public sector. 	

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee

	Comment Summary	Federal Position
1a	Climate Change - Consider effects of climate change on water quality and ecosystem health and ensure restoration successes continue as we move forward.	
1b	Climate Change - Support better understanding, predictive tools and adaptive approaches in order to respond effectively to existing and future climate-related threats.	