



Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership
Principals' Staff Committee
May 22, 2020

Actions and Decisions

Effects of COVID-19 on Watershed Implementation and Bay Health

- NOTE: The jurisdictions reported multiple impacts on their operations due to COVID-19 including budget and staff shortfalls, monitoring and reporting interruptions, scaled back hatchery production, agricultural sector problems, and shut down projects. Nevertheless, they are adjusting to the crisis with innovations such as virtual inspections and remote data analysis and are largely staying on track to meet partnership timelines. There is, however, much uncertainty about additional future impacts, especially on budgets and staffing.

2020 Executive Council Meeting Planning

- Decision: The PSC agreed to continue to move forward with August 18 as the date for the Executive Council meeting and that the meeting would be virtual, using web-based technology.
- Decision: The PSC agreed that the COVID-19 pandemic would be a theme of the Executive Council meeting.
- Note: Potential associated topics for the meeting are green jobs/job funding programs, land conservation with forest restoration strategy, healthy forests, and DEIJ.
- Note: A small group of PSC jurisdictional members will consider drafting a letter to Congress and/or mayors to make sure Chesapeake watershed restoration is considered in any future stimulus funding.

CBP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Strategy and Statement

- Decision: The PSC approved moving the *DEIJ Statement* forward to the Executive Council for their consideration for signature at the August meeting. All voted “aye” and all are working hard to move the document forward – with the caveats of clearing any issues with grant making, removing the word “intentionally” (before “incorporate”) in the first bullet and any other editing that may need to be done prior to consideration for signature by the EC members.
- Decision: CBP staff will send the Draft EC *DEIJ Statement* out for review with comments due by June 15. In addition, the *DEIJ Strategy* and its draft PSC Endorsement language will be sent out to PSC members for review and comments, also due by June 15 (more than two weeks), so that the documents can be in final form by the EC meeting. There will be a PSC check-in meeting to review status of the EC *DEIJ Statement* and vote on endorsement of the *DEIJ Strategy* (tentatively on Friday, June 26). If necessary, the *DEIJ Statement* will move forward for EC consideration independent of the *DEIJ Strategy* and its endorsement.
- Note: West Virginia indicated they would likely step aside on endorsement of the *DEIJ Statement* and *Strategy* since they did not sign on to the *DEIJ* outcome and do not participate in

related partnership activities related to the outcome, such as workplans and reporting requirements. EPA responded that it would not require WV to participate.

Conowingo WIP Development and Revised Timeline

- Decision: The PSC approved the use of Nitrogen-based effectiveness for targeting.
- Decision: The PSC agreed to adjust the timeline for development and public release of the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan. PSC Chairman Ben Grumbles will contact the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee to try to address some of the concerns with geographic scale and multiple scenarios, discussed by PSC members.