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LOCAL LAND USE TO INFORM CHESAPEAKE BAY CLEANUP

Local Government Advisory Committee hears from EPA Region III Administrator in Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Annapolis, MD November 10, 2015— Local Governments throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed have provided the Chesapeake Bay Program with land use data which will be used to better manage the Chesapeake Bay Watershed restoration effort according to EPA Region III Administrator Shawn Garvin. Garvin delivered this news while meeting with members of the Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council (LGAC) at their Fall 2015 quarterly meeting.

The LGAC, along with many of the more than 1,800 local governments they represent, questioned the accuracy of land use data used in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, or pollution diet, which was approved in 2010. Since that time the Chesapeake Bay Program and the US Geological Survey have been working with local governments and others, such as the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, to secure local data which more accurately represents various land uses across the 64,000 square mile watershed.

The new land use data is being incorporated into a model which, when combined with actual water quality monitoring data, will inform decision making at the federal, state and local levels. Local agencies will have an opportunity to review the data over the course of the next year to ensure its accuracy.

The Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) was created by the Chesapeake Executive Council through the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.

The Local Government Advisory Committee's mission is:

"To share the views and insights of local elected officials with state and federal decision makers and to enhance the flow of information among local governments about the health and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed."

For more information on meetings, publications, meeting minutes, and agenda, please visit:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/local_government_advisory_committee

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