



Coordinator's Report

June 2025

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Updates to the Watershed Agreement - 2025

- January - June:
 - Updating the Outcomes (focus of March LGAC meeting)
 - Updating the Goals (discussed during June LGAC meeting)
 - Updating the Vision, Mission, Preamble
- July - August:
 - Public feedback period
- September - November:
 - Revisions based on public feedback
 - Approval up the ladder at state/federal levels
- December:
 - Executive Council meets and accepts the revised Watershed Agreement

Tentative Plans for Public Feedback Period

- One pager summarizing the draft Watershed Agreement and its impacts on local governments
- Meetings between LGAC members and municipal leagues and county associations
- Announcement about public feedback period shared via local government networks (if they are interested)
- LGAC hosted Q&A webinar for local governments?
- Small group of LGAC members to review document and synthesize comments?

Response from the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC)

Recommendation #1: Building on the momentum started earlier this year, LGAC recommends that the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) begin 2025 by releasing a statement on the Advisory Committees. Such a statement could affirm the unique role of each individual independent Advisory Committee, highlight opportunities for collaboration with the full partnership, clarify the duties of the Advisory Committee Chairs as non-voting members of the Management Board (MB) and PSC, and document plans for deeper engagement with the Advisory Committees.

Response:

- 'Advisory Committees are critical and...make the partnership stronger'
- 'explore ways to better consider and factor in the advice of the Advisory Committees'
- 'The PSC invites....specific suggestions on how to more effectively and formally engage the Advisory Committees'
- A commitment to 1) clarify roles and responsibilities and 2) dedicated time at PSC and Management Board meetings for Advisory Committee feedback

Response from the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC)

Recommendation #2: As the partnership moves into Phase II, LGAC's feedback on the draft Beyond 2025 Steering Committee report is more relevant than ever. Local governments continue to be critical partners in protecting and restoring local waterways. Several of the key issues raised by LGAC in Phase I have not been fully resolved and therefore LGAC recommends the following in Phase II:

- investing in plain language communication materials to more effectively engage constituents
- increasing technical and administrative assistance to local governments and their partners
- convening key stakeholders to discuss how to balance conservation efforts and development pressure throughout the watershed

Response:

- 'propose a collaboration with LGAC and communications professionals....[to] create a "leave behind" plain-language flyer explaining the *Agreement*'
- 'The term "conservation" covers a broad spectrum of options appropriate to different situations....[and] were not meant to pose a programmatic prohibition against development'
- 'The PSC recommends we convene meaningful discussions between LGAC and [the Partnership]....[that] will help us better achieve the balance between conservation and development pressure'



Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

- Celebrated in MD, VA and PA from June 7th - 15th
- Theme: Bay in Your Backyard
- Social media toolkit

New Website!!

- Feedback on Bay Program Website:
 - Clunky, hard to navigate to specific projects
 - Fails to highlight members well
- New website!
 - New LGAC webpage
 - Local Government Activities page
 - Local Government Recent Stories page

Thank you!
