

Elected Officials Watershed Education Guidebook Outline

Goal: Develop an elected officials handbook introducing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, Bay Program Partners working on enacting the Agreement Goals and Outcomes and Trusted Sources for resources and assistance. Keep to 10 pages with visual and graphic representation of information.

- **Introduction (one page)**

- As an elected official within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, you're part of a larger community. We are all working *locally* to help achieve a common goal: improved water quality across the region.
 - i. Insert Regional Map for visual context
- Here's what you need to know:
 - i. The What: What is a watershed
 - ii. **The Who: What is the Ches Bay Watershed community comprised of (represented graphically - flow chart?):**
 1. 6 watershed states and DC
 2. EPA, Chesapeake Bay Commission
 3. Numerous federal agencies
 4. Universities
 5. Non-profits
 6. Local Communities and Governments

- **Opportunities & Challenges**

- The How: What are the greatest Opportunities (innovation, resources/expertise, etc.)
 - i. Include list of some general BMPs
 1. importance of native species! keep it BASIC
 - ii. Ultimately it's up to you to meet local needs, why it's important to identify your **local priorities** and fit water resource projects into the context of meeting greater community goals
 1. Identify your priorities (**What matters to your community? Create worksheet that elected officials can go through and identify**)
 - a. Environmental:
 - i. Flooding
 - ii. Regulatory
 - iii. Agriculture
 - iv. Stream health
 - v. Wildlife habitat (land and water)
 - vi. Climate resilience
 - vii. Local water quality impairments
 - b. Non-environmental:
 - i. Economic Development
 - ii. Recreation
 - iii. Public health
 - iv. Public safety

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- v. Property values
 - vi. Transportation
- The Why: What are the biggest Challenges (condition of the local watershed/Chesapeake Bay/development, scarce resources, agriculture, climate change, etc. etc. -- things that make it necessary to each do our part in our community)
 - a. Regulations - federal, state, local (*keep this brief, possible to express as graphic*)
- **What are the ways in which you, as an elected official, can address these priorities?**
 - Serve as the champion/support local efforts
 - Work closely with your staff to: (depending on level of interest/expertise)
 - i. Create local plans
 - ii. Align local priorities with ordinances, codes, policies
 - iii. Implement projects on the ground (from planning and design phases to maintenance) - ensure the right people are involved
 - Provide opportunities for staff training
 - Talk to your community about their interests and priorities
 - Consider collaborating with neighboring communities
 - Educate yourself (MOST Center, other resources we can point them to?)
 - Network with your peers
 - Budget/plan
- **State-specific context and resources**
 - What makes your state unique (*PA as example*)
 - i. Government structure
 - ii. Mix of urban and agriculture
 - iii. Susquehanna River the biggest contributor to the Bay
 - State resources and opportunities
 - i. Trusted sources
 - ii. Agencies/grants/loans
 - iii. workshop/networks etc
- **Baywide resources (regional and federal)**
 - Opportunities that exist by being part of the Bay
 - i. Grants and loan programs
 - ii. Technical resources/expertise
 - iii. Workshops/educational opportunities (maybe only in state section?)
 - iv. Networking
 - **Bay Program's success**
 - i. **Highlight success as** shown by recent water quality monitoring data, and increases in SAV and fisheries
 - ii. Must report what you do in order to get credit, tee up next section about who to report to

MOCK UP/STORYBOARDING

Page 1: Cover Page (**photo**)

Insert About Page or TOC (?) - include background information

Page 2: Intro

Pages 3-5: Opportunities & Challenges

Page 6: Things EOs can do

Pages 7-9: Resources (State & Baywide)

Introduction to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed & Partners

As an elected official within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, you're part of a larger community. We are all working *locally* to help achieve a common goal: improved water quality across the region. (ref page 16)



(need to receive permission to use)

The Who: What is the Ches Bay Watershed community comprised of/ partnership (**represented graphically**)

Opportunities & Challenges (3 pages)

- **(1 page)** The How: What are the greatest Opportunities (innovation, resources/expertise, etc.) **(text box)**
 - i. Include list of some general BMPs **(text box)**
 - 1. importance of native species! keep it BASIC
 - ii. Include photos on this page **(1-3 photos)**
- **(1 page worksheet/list)** Ultimately it's up to you to meet local needs, why it's important to identify your **local priorities** and fit water resource projects into the context of meeting greater community goals **(text box)**
 - i. Identify your priorities ***(What matters to your community? Create worksheet based on benefits list Rachel sent us)***
 - 1. Environmental **(text box)**
 - 2. Non-environmental **(text box)**
- **(1 page)** The Why: What are the biggest Challenges (condition of the local watershed/Chesapeake Bay/development, scarce resources, agriculture, climate change, etc. -- things that make it necessary to each do our part in our community) **(text box)**
 - i. Regulations - federal, state, local **(possible to express as graphic/text box)**
 - ii. Include photos on this page **(1 - 3 photos)**

What are the ways in which you, as an elected official, can address these priorities? (1 page) *each bullet point will have its own text box or represented as an overall graphic (ref pg 17 of CBF handbook) | each bolded word could be highlighted*

- Serve as the **champion and support** your local water resource efforts
- Work closely with your staff to: (depending on level of interest/expertise)
 - **Create local plans**
 - **Align local priorities** with ordinances, codes, policies
 - **Ensure the right people are involved** when implementing projects on the ground (from planning and design phases to maintenance)
- **Provide opportunities for staff training**
- **Talk to your community** about their interests and priorities
- **Collaborate** with neighboring communities
- **Educate yourself** (MOST Center, other resources we can point them to?)
- **Network with your peers**
- **Budget/plan**

Resources (3 or 4 pages)

State-specific context and resources (*text box + 1-2 state specific photos*)

- What makes your state unique (*PA as example*)
 - i. Government structure
 - ii. Mix of urban and agriculture
 - iii. Susquehanna River the biggest contributor to the Bay
- State resources and opportunities (include contact information/links)
 - i. Trusted sources
 - ii. Agencies/grants/loans
 - iii. workshop/networks etc

Baywide resources (regional and federal) (*1-2 pages*) (*full page text box in outline*)

- Opportunities that exist by being part of the Bay (**1-2 photos**) (**include contact information/links**)
 - i. Grants and loan programs
 - ii. Technical resources/expertise
 - iii. Workshops/educational opportunities (maybe only in state section?)
 - iv. Networking
- Bay Program's success (**ref talking points + possible graphic and own page**)
 - i. Highlight success as shown by recent water quality monitoring data, and increases in SAV and fisheries
 - ii. Must report what you do in order to get credit, tee up next section about who to report to
 - iii. *For more information, contact the Local Government Programs Director Jennifer Starr (add her contact info)*