



Partnership Responses to Advisory Committee 2023 Recommendations to the Executive Council

Local Government Advisory Committee
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
Stakeholders Committee

January 11, 2024



Chesapeake Bay Program

40 years of science, restoration and partnership

TODAY WE WILL...

Review draft responses
to the advisory
committees' formal
recommendations to
the Executive Council

Solicit feedback from
advisory committees

Solicit feedback from
the Management Board
on the draft responses



2023 ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Local Government Advisory Committee

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Stakeholders Committee

2023 RECOMMENDATIONS:

Local Government Advisory Committee

Recommendation 1: LGAC urges jurisdictions to create regulatory sandbox opportunities for testing that is more straightforward and inclusive than established regulatory channels. Local governments are excellent partners for sandboxing.

- **Response:** The MB believes that sandboxing is worthwhile and should be explored. Proposes using LGAC quarterly meetings for exploring and suggests inviting the jurisdiction members to participate.
- Commits to working with the jurisdictions to explore what sandboxing opportunities exist that could serve as a model for future adoption.
- Recommends each jurisdiction report out on progress towards meeting this LGAC recommendation at future MB meetings.

2023 RECOMMENDATIONS:

Local Government Advisory Committee

Recommendation 2: LGAC requests that the EC expand support for the jurisdiction's current programs that meet the goals of Circuit Rider efforts.

- **Response:** The partnership has long supported circuit rider programs and commits to collaborating with LGAC, the federal agencies and jurisdictions to identify and expand upon local government assistance needs in FY 2024.
- MB urges each jurisdiction to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current local assistance programs and a gap-analysis of funding and other technical support needs—and report back to the MB in 2024.
- EPA commits to the continued funding in 2024 thru Most Effective Basin Funding, CBRP and CBIG grants, and to explore the potential for increasing funding for capacity building and technical assistance for local government assistance programs through these grants.
- EPA commits to working with FOD, MD, PA and VA to determine if there are additional resources that could supplement the work and staffing for those local assistance programs.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT BOARD FEEDBACK

Did we interpret your recommendations correctly?

Is there anything you would like to clarify so our response is on target?

Any questions or concerns?

Opportunities for clarification?

2023 REPORT:

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Recommendation 1: Consult a wide array of stakeholders to refine program goals, objectives, and implementation strategies; to identify tractable, equitable solutions; and to build willingness to support the Bay Program's initiatives.

- Exploring the potential to increase impacts of water quality and restoration investments on living resources may refocus attention areas that matter most to people.
- 2025 represents a key opportunity to engage stakeholders and reconsider what restoration means beyond achieving the Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) targets.

2023 REPORT:

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Response 1: We have some opportunities in motion already and look forward to exploring others and invite STAC to be a resources to this work.

The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee is:

- Developing a post 2025 partnership plan (2022 EC charge).
- Conducting small group discussions on thematic topics and will invite STAC members to join, as those groups form recommendations for our collective future activities.

2023 REPORT:

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Recommendation 2: Continue development of incentive programs that focus on achievement of pollutant reduction outcomes rather than on best management practice (BMP) implementation.

- Improving effectiveness will require innovation in policy as well as pollution control.
- Innovations can be developed/tested through targeted experimentation (i.e., local sandboxing).
- Opportunities for substantial, sustained reductions in nonpoint source nutrient loads via more effective/systematic approaches to addressing nutrient mass imbalances.

2023 REPORT:

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Response 2: We appreciate the recommendation and look forward to working through options across the partnership.

- We would appreciate STAC's assistance with helping us define measurable outcomes that are not nutrient/dissolved oxygen focused, to include a meaningful way to measure success.
- We appreciate the concept of sandboxing and look forward to working with STAC to help identify possible options where this concept can be employed.
- Following up with sandboxing opportunities is also a priority for the Local Government Advisory Committee.

2023 REPORT:

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Recommendation 3: Recognize that effective adaptive decision-making embraces opportunities to revisit and refine program goals, objectives, and implementation strategies, in addition to improving practice implementation.

- Restoring the Bay is primarily a problem of decision-making in the face of multiple objectives, uncertainties, and limited resources, requiring accelerated innovation and an approach of learning while doing.
- Robust methods exist for optimizing decisions based on available information while using appropriate logic frameworks.

2023 REPORT:

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Response 3: STAC was instrumental in setting up our current Strategy Review System (SRS) process.

- We look forward to your assistance in future evaluation and adaptation of that process, as part of the Beyond 2025 efforts.
- We invite and encourage STAC to bring forward more information to the partnership regarding decision science and how we may be able to employ that.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT BOARD FEEDBACK

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2023 REPORT:

Stakeholders Committee

Recommendation 1: Relying on the work already completed by the Forest Buffer and Wetlands Actions Plans, charge the PSC to approve within six months the specific actionable items for each jurisdiction to accelerate the implementation and close the progress gaps for water quality restoration. This should include identifying champions in each jurisdiction responsible for leading the effort, outlining the short and longer-term funding needs, establishing ambitious yet reasonable expectations of progress by 2025, and incorporating stakeholder feedback.

Recommendation 2: We strongly recommend the continued and sustained funding for the high-resolution land-use and land-change data and analysis, so local governments can rely on complete assessments of existing and trending losses of tree canopy and wetlands for land-use decision-making.

2023 REPORT:

Stakeholders Committee

Recommendation 3: We encourage the Executive Council to work with the Chesapeake Watershed Congressional Delegation to ensure the next Farm Bill adequately supports Chesapeake Bay restoration and conservation Goals outlined in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Additionally, we encourage the Governors and DC Mayor to commit to preserving forests and wetlands by enhancing their conservation programs and identifying matching funds for potential Farm Bill conservation provisions.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT BOARD FEEDBACK

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THANK YOU!

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