

Local Government Advisory Committee Actions and Decisions September 4-5, 2025

Call to Order	LGAC Chair Marty Qually	Meeting called to order at 10:02 am
Introductory Remarks: Why streamlining processes and increasing efficiency matters	Deputy Secretary Jill Whitcomb, PA Department of Environmental Protection Contact: jiwhitcomb@pa.gov	J. Whitcomb provided introductory remarks, including an update about the recent modernization of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA's efforts to streamline permitting processes, and other strategies for improved implementation of Chesapeake Bay restoration goals. Action: LGAC staff to share the Pennsylvania Clean Water Progress Teams' Recommended Strategies for Success.
Background: Key Takeaways from the CESR Report	Denice Wardrop, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Member Contact: colem@chesapeake.org Meg Cole, STAC Coordinator	D. Wardrop shared key takeaways from the 2023 Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) Report. One of the core findings of the report was that innovative policies, like pay-for-outcomes, are needed to dramatically scale up implementation of best management practices.
Background: What regulatory barriers hinder local government implementation of BMPs? • Changes in the Regulatory Landscape Impacting BMP Implementation: A Perspective from MD (Michelsen) • MS4 Planning and Success: Compliance in the Commonwealth	Erik Michelsen, Anne Arundel County, MD Contact: pwmich20@aacounty.org Justin Kauffman, HRG Inc. Contact: jkauffman@hrg-inc.com	E. Michelsen discussed lessons learned from implementation of best management practices in Anne Arundel County, MD. J. Kauffman shared challenges associated with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permitting process in PA.
(Kauffman) Panel: Opportunities to Streamline Processes for Local Governments • More Nature, Less Paperwork: Pathways to	Facilitator: Frank Dawson, MD LGAC Member Contact: frankwdawson116@gmail.com	Panelists discussed specific opportunities to streamline restoration and permitting processe without compromising environmental standards. B. Madsen shared several examples of streamlined pathways that already exist in

Speed and Scale Environmental Restoration (Madsen)	Panelists: Becca Madsen, Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) Contact: becca@policyinnovation.org Joseph Maroon, Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Contact: imaroon@vee.org Mike LaSala, LandStudies Contact: mike@landstudies.com	the Chesapeake Bay watershed, proven practices to consider adopting, and innovative ideas that have been proposed. M. LaSala shared the idea of 'watershed permits' where groups of local governments can collaborate on a single permit (e.g. MS4 permits). J. Maroon emphasised the important role of government oversight and offered several suggestions such as pre-permit meetings and technical assistance that can improve efficiency of permit review. LGAC members chimed in with their support for maintaining environmental standards, but also the urgent need for more efficient processes. Actions: LGAC staff to share EPIC's database on streamlined permitting innovations and Pay for Success One-Pager.
Discussion: Which of these streamlining opportunities balance the need for efficiency with the role of government oversight?	Marty Qually, LGAC Chair	LGAC members had a robust discussion on how local, state, and federal partners can streamline processes to more efficiently meet clean water goals. The central themes of this discussion were to make permitting processes more timely and efficient, improve the accountability and transparency of permitting processes, and focus processes on outcomes.
Business Meeting • Executive Committee Report (Chair & First Vice Chair) • Coordinator's Report (LGAC Coordinator) • Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Report (Chair)		LGAC Chair reported on his recent work with the Chesapeake Bay Program's Governance and Accountability team. LGAC Coordinator provided an overview of the process for LGAC's Annual Recommendations, shared examples of changes spurred by past LGAC Annual Recommendation letters, and recapped LGAC members' work to engage local governments during this summer's Public Feedback Period for the draft revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. LLWG Chair recapped the workgroup's August Quarterly Meeting on land use and development, and shared upcoming peer-to-peer tours in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Action: LGAC Members can reach out to Marty Qually with any questions about the work of the Governance and Accountability Action Team.

Jurisdiction Meeting Report-outs and Member Updates

- DC Report-Out: Brianne
 Nadeau
- DE Report-Out: Don Phillips
- MD Report-Out: Josh Hastings
- NY Report-Out: Suzy Ryan
- PA Report-Out: Marty Qually
- VA Report-Out: Richard Baugh
- WV Report-Out: LGAC Coordinator

- DC The DC Delegation shared that the city has recently had to reallocate funds away from watershed priorities. They have also raised concerns about the projected environmental impacts of the proposed RFK stadium.
- DE The DE Delegation has no major concerns or revisions in regards to the draft revised *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. DE underscored the importance of using direct, one-on-one initiatives to build successful partnerships between the Chesapeake Bay Program and local municipalities. They also suggested that the unique skills and talents of LGAC's members could be harnessed to produce a study of the municipal elected officials that LGAC works with.
- MD The MD Delegation welcomed a new LGAC member, Councilmember John Carroll. The delegation also reviewed the draft revised *Watershed Agreement* and suggested that a request for additional resources to implement the agreement be included in LGAC's public feedback letter. Lastly, the MD is looking forward to the upcoming MD Peer-to-Peer tour in Prince George's County this fall.
- NY The NY Delegation discussed the draft revised *Watershed Agreement* and efforts to reach out to NY local governments for public feedback. They also raised concerns about the lack of biodiversity priorities in the draft revised agreement.
- PA The PA Delegation reviewed the draft revised *Watershed Agreement* and underscored the importance of having funding available for local government implementation of the agreement. PA looks forward to the upcoming PA Peer-to-Peer tour in Lancaster and York later this month.
- VA The VA Delegation discussed the draft revised *Watershed Agreement*, particularly the language of the student experience outcome, and they heard from the VA Department of Historic and Natural Resources about VA's new Office of Sustainability.
- WV LGAC staff has been working to fill the vacancy in WV and hope to have a new member appointed soon.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates	Khesha Reed, Deputy Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Contact: reed.khesha@epa.gov	Action: LGAC staff to share the LGAC Members Expertise/Skillsets Survey. K. Reed provided an overview of the process for revising the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and shared updates on the Chesapeake Bay Program's operating budget.
		Action: LGAC staff will share a <u>summary of the</u> <u>public feedback received</u> on the draft revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
Small Group Discussions on Annual Recommendations		LGAC members self-selected into breakout groups to discuss possible Annual LGAC Recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Council later this fall. Breakout groups were divided by recommendation topics. Recommendation topics included feedback on the revised Watershed Agreement, land use and conservation, and regulatory barriers and streamlining solutions. Action: LGAC Chair, Vice-Chair, and Staff will draft LGAC's annual recommendations letter. In October, LGAC Members will have the opportunity to review the draft and provide edits. In November, the LGAC Executive Committee will meet to review and approve the final letter.
Final Thoughts/Actions from this Meeting		Staff shared action items from the meeting.
Adjourn	Marty Qually, LGAC Chair	Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

LGAC Members Present: Richard Baugh, Emeritus Member Phil Briddell, John Carroll, Daniel Chao, Frank Dawson, Cindy Dyballa, Jasmine Gore, Elizabeth Grant, Penny Gross, Sheila Finlayson, Josh Hastings, Michael Helfrich, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Sheila Noll, Don Phillips, Marty Qually, Susan Ryan, and Bruce Williams.

LGAC Staff: Laura Cattell Noll and Kayli Ottomanelli.

LLWG Staff: Rick Mittler.

Speaker/Guests Present: Marisa Baldine (Alliance), Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Keith Bollt (EPA CBPO), Caitlin Bolton (MWCOG), Maura Christian (VA DEQ), Meg Cole (CRC STAC), Carrie Decker (MD DNR), Melissa Fagan (EPA CBPO), Rachel Felver (Alliance), KC Filippino (Hampton Roads PDC), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Sushanth Gupta (MWCOG), Emily Heller (EPA CBPO), Kelly Hitz (PA OA), Justin Kauffman (HRG), Les Knapp (MDE), Mike LaSala (LandStudies), Matt Konfirst (EPA), Alex LoCurto (Alliance), Becca Madsen (EPIC), Joseph Maroon (VEE), Tou Matthews (CRC STAC), Erik Michelsen (Anne Arundel

County, MD), Sabine Miller (MD DNR), Khesha Reed (EPA CBPO), Kristin Saunders (UMCES), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC), Erin Vesey (PA DEP), Denice Wardrop (STAC), Sophie Waterman (CBP USGS), and Jill Whitcomb (PA DEF	P).