

Management Board
Actions & Decisions - Annotated
June 13, 2013

New Chesapeake Watershed Agreement – Continuing Review & Negotiation

Agreement Development

- **Action:** Consider alternative means of communication to help build consensus in developing the new agreement, for example a chat room.
A comment page has been developed on chesapeakebay.net for stakeholder comments.
- **Action:** Next meeting include a discussion about management strategies; distribute draft elements document.
Complete.
- **Action:** Create a clear system for agreement version naming to help with version control.
Complete.
- **Action:** Agreed to create a higher level *Issue Resolution Committee* (IRC) to help review the agreement as it develops and to resolve outstanding issues and make decisions. Each signatory should name a primary member and a backup. (EPA named Jim Edward as primary and Carin Bisland as backup).
Issue Resolution Committee members have been identified and will meet for the first time on July 12, 2013.
- **Action:** Create a clear system for tracking comments on the draft agreement and how comments will be resolved (accepted or rejected) in the draft agreement. This should be noted in the schedule.
A comment registry has been developed to keep track of internal and external comments.
- **Decision:** Current draft of the Agreement will be posted to the CBP website.
The abridged version of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement is available for partners and stakeholders on the CBP website.

Key Comment: Communication messaging is missing key points about historical and cultural value of watershed and “restoration and protection.”

Key Comment: Each partner should commit to do public/stakeholder outreach, ie. at stakeholder meetings or to conduct a listening session.

- **Action** – CBP Communications office will develop a stakeholder lists to help develop targeted outreach plan.

Goals

Healthy Watersheds Goal

- **Action:** New goal for consideration: Protect state identified healthy waters and watersheds recognized for their exceptional quality and high ecological value.
 - VA, PA, NY will vet language internally and report vote to CBP staff by Wednesday, June 19. All other members recommend language to PSC for consideration.
 - GIT 5 Chair will vet language with GIT5 and report vote to CBP staff by Wednesday, June 19.*The Healthy Watersheds Goal remains within the agreement, but the PSC requested that background information be circulated on each jurisdiction’s healthy watersheds program, or similar jurisdictional programs. This information was sent to the Management Board before the July Management Board meeting.*

Environmental Literacy Goal

- **Action:** New goal for consideration: Every student in the region graduates environmentally literate having participated in meaningful watershed educational experiences

- VA will vet language internally and report vote to CBP staff by Wednesday, June 19. All other members recommend language to PSC for consideration.

At the June 27 Principals' Staff Committee meeting, several PSC members expressed the concern that they do not have enough control over their jurisdictions' Departments of Education to work toward an environmental literacy goal, especially with the funding implications of such a goal and its outcomes. This goal was therefore removed and placed on the list of additional issues for consideration.

Water Quality Goal

- **Action:** New goal for consideration: Reduce pollutants to achieve the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the Bay and its tributaries while protecting human health.
 - VA will vet language internally and report vote to CBP staff by Wednesday, June 19. All other members recommend language to PSC for consideration.
- The goal was revised and approved as, "Reduce pollutants to achieve the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the bay and its tributaries and protect human health."
- The Toxic Contaminants outcomes were removed and placed on the list of additional issues for consideration.

Goal Introduction Narrative

- **Action:** Revise the disclaimer language in the Goals introduction and take to the Management Board for consideration:
 - Current language "The goals and outcomes identified herein are not binding and neither restrict nor compel the partners to take any specific actions. Further, it does not release any of the partners from the requirements of the Clean Water Act or any other federal or state statutes or regulations."
- The non-binding language has been removed and will be reconsidered at a later date.
- The Goal Introduction language was revised on July 9, 2013 according to suggested revisions by PSC members.

Land Use Goal

- **Decision:** The following language was proposed and rejected: Support land use practices which protect and restore water quality and living resources.
 - Language not advanced; ** four reds card votes: VA, PA, WV, NY; DC, DE green; LGAC yellow
 - Key Comment: Land use can be addressed elsewhere in agreement; Maryland will raise this issue at the PSC.

Stewardship Goal

- **Decision:** Agree to an overarching Stewardship Goal.
- **Action:** New goal proposed for consideration: Stewardship Goal: Foster a dramatic increase in the number of stewards who support and carry out local conservation and restoration to achieve the goals and commitments of this agreement.
 - Yellow – MD, VA, PA, DE, NY, WV NY, DC; Green – LGAC
 - Comments are due by Wednesday, June 19. Will move to PSC if no objections.

At the June 27 meeting the PSC members felt that they'd need to consider measurable outcomes as part of assessing stewardship as a goal. Others felt it would be more appropriate to address stewardship within the management strategies of existing goals. This goal was removed and placed under the additional issues for consideration list.

Agriculture Outcome

- **Action:** New goal proposed for consideration: Work with producers to apply new conservation practices on 4 million acres of agricultural working lands in high priority watersheds by 2025 to improve water quality in the Chesapeake bay and its tributaries.
 - Vote: Goes forward to PSC: Green: all rom, de, ny (level of effort in whip), dc,

- Yellow: pa, va, wv, (lgac abstain)

The PSC removed the Agriculture Outcome from the Water Quality Goal due to discrepancies over including an outcome for one source without including an outcome for every source. It has been listed for further consideration.