

Approach to Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2011

Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Charge

Executive Order (EO) 13508 directs: “Beginning in 2010, the Committee shall publish an annual Chesapeake Bay Action Plan (Action Plan) describing how Federal funding proposed in the President’s Budget will be used to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay during the upcoming fiscal year. … The Committee shall consult with stakeholders (including relevant State agencies) and members of the public in developing the Action Plan.” (Section 205)

The *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (Strategy) sets out the following guidance:

The FLC plans to release the first annual action plan by September 30, 2010. Timing for the development and release of subsequent annual action plans will be determined based on the most effective alignment with key information such as the release of the President’s Budget. The FLC will provide opportunities for the states, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, key stakeholders and the public to review and comment on drafts of the action plan.

The action plan will identify activities FLC agencies will undertake in the following year to carry out the actions and achieve the goals outlined in the strategy. … In addition, the FLC plans to provide a full accounting and explanation of the funding in the President’s Budget dedicated to protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. … The FLC is working with the states to consider whether, and if so how, to incorporate their Bay-related funding into the action plan to provide a comprehensive explanation of the resources being dedicated to Chesapeake watershed protection and restoration. (Strategy p. 122)

FY11 Action Plan Overview

Due to short time frames for issuing the first action plan by September 30, 2010, federal agencies have agreed that the approach to developing the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) Action Plan will may be different from that for subsequent years when more time is available.

The FY11 Action Plan is anticipated to include the following information:

- The goal, outcome and specific strategy action referenced in the strategy
- The specific activities to be taken in FY11 relative to the strategy action
- The agency or agencies leading and contributing to the specific activities
- Funding included in the President’s FY11 Budget for those activities (where significant funding is directly provided to the states it will be identified as such)
- Related State programs contributing to the action (if available)
- Projected start and end dates for the activities.

The action plan will be a published document (on-line and hard copy), released on September 30. Public comment on the released document will be requested, focusing especially on obtaining feedback on the action plan to improve it for future versions, but substantive feedback on

specific actions is welcome. A final version may or may not be prepared depending upon comments received.

Preparing the FY11 Action Plan

Guiding Development of the Action Plan:

The Federal Office Directors Group (FOD) will guide development of the action plan for the FLC. The FOD will ensure a consistent approach to formatting, set a schedule, facilitate identification of agency roles, develop overall briefings and communications information on the action plan, prepare and review drafts of the plan, and brief the FLC and other bodies. The action plan will be keyed to the Strategy. The list of actions in Appendix F is a good starting point for an overview of all Strategy actions, and FY11 activities will be keyed to the Strategy actions summarized in that appendix.

The basic schedule for action plan development is:

- Finalize process for collecting action plan information – July 23
- Consultation and FY 11 action development – July and August
- FY11 actions submitted via on-line spreadsheet – August 13
- Budget and supplementary information submitted via web form – August 20
- Draft complete action plan prepared for FOD review – August 24
- Conf call/online meeting with states (similar to pre-release meetings for the Strategy – series of approximately one hour (TBD) discussions on each topic.) – late August

A more detailed schedule is attached.

Coordinating, Lead, and Contributing Agency Roles in Developing the Action Plan:

Agencies will play one or more of the following roles in developing (and implementing) the action plan:

- Coordinating Agency for Strategy Section: A coordinating agency is responsible for working to ensure a whole section of the strategy is addressed, for example the “Restore Clean Water” section. As such, the coordinating agency consults with the specific agencies leading individual actions to ensure the information is collected and consistent. In addition, the coordinating agency carries out the overall consultation commitments for the section.
- Lead Agency for Individual Action: A lead agency is responsible for ensuring completion of an individual action identified in the strategy and action plan, including providing for the participation of all contributing agencies. In some cases there may be shared co-leads.
- Contributing Agency for Individual Action: Contributing agencies are providing resources (funding or people) to the specific action. They work with the lead agency to ensure the information on the action is accurately portrayed and the action is carried out.

A separate table identifies the agency roles for each strategy section and individual action.

Consultation on the Action Plan:

Coordinating agencies are responsible carrying out overall consultation with states and other key stakeholders during development of the action plan, as noted above. The following consultation activities have already been identified:

- Conserve Land and Increase Public Access Section & Expand Citizen Stewardship Section: NPS is convening a Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative Partners meeting on August 4. The session will involve states and other partners and will include discussion of a proposed action plan for the “Conserve Land and Increase Public Access” and “Expand Citizen Stewardship” chapters of the strategy. NPS is also initiating direct consultations with states and partners on individual actions included in the chapters. For example:
 - One of the citizen stewardship actions addresses “expanding Chesapeake conservation corps workforces.” NPS will convene federal, state and non-governmental partners to explore how best to expand existing workforces that create jobs and carry out conservation projects in priority watersheds. NPS will help facilitate discussions leading toward a proposed strategy for expanding corps programs by 2011
- Strengthen Science Section: For science EO activities, USGS will be the primary lead and will work through CBP Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting (STAR).
- Develop Environmental Markets Section: USDA has leadership for the Environmental Markets objective. USDA recently established and is in the process of staffing an Office of Environmental Markets. Al Todd, Assistant Director, Ecosystem Services & Markets, USDA Forest Service, has been detailed to that office to get things up and running. Al has established an interagency Environmental Markets working group that has met twice already and will be taking leadership for developing FY11 Action Plan items for the Environmental Markets objective. The team has discussed but not yet resolved the issue of how best to engage the states. At this point we are reaching out to states to communicate existence of the team and gain insight in appropriate times for EMT engagement with states regarding TMDL/offsets development (near term focus).
- Restore Clean Water Section: EPA will provide briefings on the Action Plan to the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Goal Implementation Team during their August 16th and September 13th meetings.
- Fish & Wildlife Section:
 - Actions Related to Oysters and Fisheries: NOAA will coordinate these via the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT 1), which includes state, federal, and other jurisdictional fishery management authorities in the bay. The GIT will be involved in development and review of FY 11 EO action planning. Activities to address the Strategy’s blue crab outcome will continue to be primarily coordinated via the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee. An updated blue crab benchmark stock assessment is underway with assistance from NOAA and the states.
 - Actions related to black duck and brook trout: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is consulting with existing broad-based, regional partnerships to engage State, local, and NGO partners and academia. Action planning discussions have been or will be held with the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, Black Duck Joint Venture, and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to identify subwatersheds for focused action in FY 2011 and discuss leveraging of funds.
- Revitalize Habitats Section: Federal partners are using the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Habitat Goal Implementation Team as the primary forum for discussion among State, local, and NGO partners and academia about how to most effectively implement these

actions. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to host an action-planning workshop on June 30, 2010 that focused on implementing actions specific to achievement of the wetland restoration, stream restoration, and land conservation outcomes.

- Climate Section: USGS and NOAA will consult with STAC and STAR regarding this section of the action plan.

In terms of consultation and briefing on the overall action plan, the federal partners will provide:

- briefings on the draft Action Plan to the Chesapeake Bay Management Board during its August 31 meeting;
- additional briefings in late August for various stakeholder groups;
- briefings in late August to Chesapeake Bay Program advisory committees: Citizen's Advisory Committee, Local Government Advisory Committee, and Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee.

DRAFT Detailed Schedule:

Jul 22 FOD finalize lead and supporting agencies

Jul 23-29

1. FOD members provide POCs and contact information for support roles to lead/co-leads as needed
2. Communicate briefing paper to FLC members/CEQ on approach to action plan.
3. Finalize input format/spreadsheet with database team

Jul 27-Aug 13 **Step One:** Lead agencies develop FY 11 actions, leads, due dates in conjunction with contributing agencies and submit on on-line spreadsheet by COB August 13.

Simultaneously, lead and contributing agencies should be working towards identifying funds for the FY11 actions. These must be submitted via web form on August __ (see below).

Lead agencies are responsible for keeping other agencies in the loop and implementing and tracking state and other consultations.

Aug 16-18 All agencies review spreadsheet on-line; contributing agencies add comments and suggestions for drafted FY11 actions.

Aug 19-20 Lead agencies edit and revise FY11 actions based on comments and consultations with contributing agencies.

Aug 23 Data Team loads final actions into web-form.

Aug 24-25 **Step Two:** Lead and contributing agencies enter funding by agency via web form.

Aug 26 Data Team runs report and **Action Plan Ver 1** to goes to FOD for review

Aug 26-30 **Submit FOD** comments on Ver 1.

Aug 30 – Sep 3

1. **FOD working group consolidate agency inputs to build Revised Draft (ver 2)**
Action Plan. Coordinate with activity leads to ensure changes are correctly incorporated.
(5 days)
2. Aug 31 CPB MB Meeting – determine any updates needed for MB presentation.

Sep 7-10

1. **Agencies submit Ver 2 for internal agency review**
2. Schedule meeting with states for online/phone review of all actions with interested parties. (earlier?)

Sep 13-14 FOD (FOD working group) make revisions based on agency input to produce **Ver 3**

Sep 15-24

1. **Submit Ver 3 to CEQ/OMB/FLC** for final review and clearance (8 days)
2. Potential PSC meeting. Determine any inputs/updates needed for PSC.

Sep 27-29 **Final revisions** based on FLC/ CEQ/OMB input

Sep 30 **Release FY 11 Action Plan (=Ver 4)**

Sep 30- Oct 30 Public comment on Action Plan