

CHAIRMAN'S LIGHTNING ROUND UPDATES

- ▶ CBC FY2020 Audit Report
- ▶ Conowingo WIP
- ▶ Climate Change in the WIPs
- ▶ Chesapeake Bay Program DEIJ Initiative
- ▶ Federal Policy/Appropriations Updates

CBC FY 2020 Audit Report

- ▶ Year ended June 30, 2020
- ▶ Strong cash and investment position.
- ▶ Financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear in all material respects.
- ▶ No management changes are recommended.

Conowingo WIP

Background

- ▶ Dam captured sediment and nutrients, reducing pollution entering the Bay.
- ▶ When TMDL established in 2010, believed trapping capacity would continue through 2025.
- ▶ More recent science shows reservoir no longer has long-term ability to store sediment and nutrients.
- ▶ In 2017, Principal Staff Committee committed to creating and executing a separate Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).

Conowingo WIP

Where We Are Now

- ▶ Over last year, draft CWIP was developed. Released for public comment on 10/14, with comments due by 12/21.
- ▶ WIP focuses on the most effective BMPs (mostly agriculture) in the most effective areas of the Susquehanna watershed. Estimated cost \$53 million/year.
- ▶ The level of implementation needed to achieve the targeted load reduction is large – over 600,000 acres of N-based nutrient management, 216,000 acres of conservation tillage, etc.
- ▶ Financing strategy to be released in phases, first in December describing necessary features of system, final in March. Ultimately, Partnership will be responsible for funding.

Climate Change in the WIPs

PREVIOUSLY . . .

- ▶ Narrative strategy in Phase III WIPs*
- ▶ 9M lbs. N
 - Allocation method same as TMDL
- ▶ Continue to investigate
- ▶ Numeric goals in 2022-2023 Milestones

Climate Change in the WIPs

LOAD FACTORS

- ▶ Rainfall
- ▶ Air Temperature
- ▶ Wetland Area Change
- ▶ Sea Level Rise
- ▶ Ocean Temperature
- ▶ Salinity

ALLOCATION FACTORS

- ▶ Watershed Influence
- ▶ NPS v wastewater
- ▶ 2025 v 2035

Climate Change in the WIPs

DECISIONS SO FAR

- ▶ Numeric targets for 2025
 - ▶ 5M lbs. N
 - ▶ Allocation based on watershed influence*
- ▶ Narrative for 2035
 - ▶ 10M lbs. N

DECISIONS REMAINING

- ▶ Allocations for 2035
- ▶ Open Water designations

*with adjustment for NY

Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Initiative

Strategy

Restoration from the Inside Out:

A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Strategy
for the Chesapeake Bay Program

April 2020



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Developed by Skéo Solutions
for the Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Workgroup
of the Stewardship Goal Implementation Team



Statement

Chesapeake Executive Council Statement in support of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice



CEJ Vision from the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement:
Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, connected lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage, and a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice:
Just as natural ecosystems depend on biodiversity to thrive, the program success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort depends on the equitable, just and inclusive engagement of all communities living throughout the watershed. This means to include a wide range of people of all race, ethnicity, income level, faith, genders, ages, sexual orientations and disabilities, along with other diverse groups, as well as promoting equal employment opportunities and expanding the diversity of the workforce and participants in restoration and conservation activities. For this effort to be successful it will require us to honor the culture, history and social concerns of local populations and communities.

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners acknowledge that individually, each partner has established policies and programs with the goal of advancing environmental and public health protection for all. Through these programs, the seven Bay jurisdictions, EPA, other federal agencies, Chesapeake Bay Commission and partners are working to address and advance diversity and environmental justice issues. We also recognize that there is more we must do as a united partnership, and for this reason we explicitly and tangibly commit to diversity, equity, inclusion and environmental justice. Partners will continue to build on the work, sharing best practices, and with the acknowledgment that this work may indeed look different across the jurisdictions and areas represented as a partnership, we will move forward together. Further, we recognize the importance of addressing racism and other forms of discrimination in our efforts, structures and acts of daily practice.

The impacts of discrimination and continuing environmental, economic and health disparities disproportionately burden underserved communities, including those of color, low-income status and indigenous populations. This undue access to clean water and air, fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation, and results in inequitable impacts on the human health and the surrounding environment for these communities. Disparities are only exacerbated by such environmental factors as climate change and pollution, and public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners believe the full diversity of people who live, work and recreate in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have a right to benefit from, and help guide, the future of an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water and air, abundant fish and wildlife, connected lands, access to the water and a vibrant cultural heritage.

We reaffirm our commitment to embrace diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in all areas of the Chesapeake Bay Program to achieve our mission. As a partnership, we commit to:

- Strengthen and improve diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in our organizational structure, leadership, policies, strategic goals, restoration and conservation activities, workshops and program delivery, including guidance on including DEI and environmental justice criteria in grant targeting and evaluations.
- Engage, recruit and retain leadership, staff, appointees, interns and volunteers that reflect the diversity of people living within the Chesapeake Bay region.
- Foster a culture of inclusion, respect and mutual learning within the Chesapeake Bay Program by leading organizational change and empowering new voices and perspectives in our outreach, engagement and internal decision-making.
- Following consultation and coordination, determine how to best include federally recognized tribes in the Bay watershed in partnership activities.
- Building long-term relationships, partnerships and increased collaborative planning with organizations led by and primarily serving communities of color and other underserved populations that result in informed and mutually beneficial decisions and outcomes.
- Ensure the benefits of our cultural, restoration and partnership programs are distributed in a fair and equitable manner without adverse, disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations, especially those of lower economic status, indigenous, historically underserved communities and people of color.
- Continuing to learn and share best practices as an organization in our evolving understanding of how best to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

Action



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice

Action Statement

Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee

The Chesapeake Bay watershed is home to diverse communities with rich variation in culture, demographics and perspectives. It is important to embrace this diversity and promote the meaningful involvement, treatment and inclusiveness of all people in the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. In doing so, we will be better able to achieve healthy local streams and lands, as well as a vibrant Chesapeake Bay that is shared by all people throughout the watershed.

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Recognizing this, the Chesapeake Bay Program accepts the report and recommendations in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Strategy (DEIJ Strategy) - developed by an independent consultant for the Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Workgroup of the Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT) and finalized in 2020. To the extent consistent with state and federal law and policy, members of the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) will strive to implement the recommendations of the DEIJ Strategy. The Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Workgroup, which was formed in 2014, started working with an independent DEIJ consultant in 2018 to conduct a DEIJ readiness assessment of the partnership and developed a tailored DEIJ strategy that recommends the partnership:

- Increase racial and ethnic diversity among partnership staff and leadership.
- Help partners develop as DEIJ leaders who understand, respect and embrace cultural diversity.
- Provide partners with the tools to continuously assess progress towards diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice goals.

The DEIJ Strategy contains recommendations that are grouped into four DEIJ framework focus areas. The consultant developed these recommendations based on interviews with Chesapeake Bay Program teams and leadership, a DEIJ readiness survey, a review of key partnership policy documents and input from the Diversity Workgroup. They provide a visionary framework to be used by the partnership as a guide to help integrate DEIJ into the implementation of management strategies and inform biennial logic and action plan activities that achieve the outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Initiative

FIVE PSC ACTION STATEMENT COMMITMENTS

1. Within six months, a draft implementation plan will be presented to the PSC.
2. Within three months, explore a process for a community advisory board.
3. Advancement of the DEIJ Strategy through work plan development and implementation for all GITs.
4. Meaningful inclusion of DEIJ milestones on the agendas for the Management Board and PSC meetings at a minimum every six months with a commitment to update the Chesapeake Executive Council annually.
5. Meaningful consideration of DEIJ in development of any future Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement(s).

Federal Policy/ Appropriations Updates

- ▶ America's Conservation Enhancement Act signed October 30
- ▶ FYI 2021 Appropriations
- ▶ National Recreation Area Advisory Council
- ▶ Transition