

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

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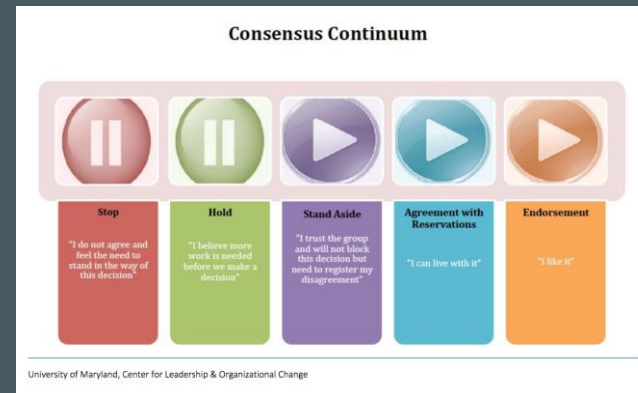
CBP CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

WHAT THE GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT DOES SAY...

A) *“Consensus building among the Program partners (all parties can live with the decision) remains the preferred decision-making approach.”* (Version 3.1, pg 17)

B) The CBP Consensus-Building Process:

1. Discussion of the item
2. Formation of a proposal
3. Call for consensus
4. Identification and addressing of concerns
5. Modification of the proposal



(Version 3.1, pg 19)

C) Decision-making by...

- GITs, Workgroups, Action Teams is done by consensus,
- EC, PSC, and Management Board is done by consensus, but *“as a last resort if consensus cannot be reached, a supermajority vote will be utilized.”*

(Version 3.1, pg 18)

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WHAT THE GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT **DOES NOT** SAY...

A consensus decision is an intentionally high bar to meet and, therefore, once met can only be reversed or modified by meeting an equally high bar (i.e. a subsequent consensus decision) by the group that made the original decision or a higher group.

So what does this mean?

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WHAT THE GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT DOES NOT SAY...

When seeking a change to a previous consensus decision...

#1: The proposal that you are seeking consensus on is, “Should we change the previous decision?”, NOT “Should we keep the previous decision?”

#2: Therefore, the burden of achieving consensus is on those proposing the change, not on those proposing to remain with the current policy/decision.

#3: IF the original proposal was initiated by your group (i.e. it was not charged for your group to consider by a higher group*) AND your group was unable to come to consensus to change, THEN your group has a second decision to make by simple majority vote:

- Table the proposal indefinitely until and if new information comes to light which warrants the proposal’s reconsideration, OR
- Elevate the proposal to a higher group for consideration at the higher group’s discretion.

** If the proposal was charged to your group by a higher group, then you are obligated to report the lack of consensus back up to the higher group*