**2018 Executive Council Commitments and Advisory Committee Recommendations**

**Agricultural Technical Assistance Directive**

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|  | Directive Commitment | Action Lead | Status |
| 1 | Technical Assistance:  Strive to provide stable and sufficient technical assistance in order to help farmers implement the conservation practices necessary to meet Bay TMDL goals. | * Jurisdictions identify TA needs and gaps through WIP Development. * Ag Workgroup for gaps analysis. * Ag workgroup to convene USDA, CBC, EPA, and jurisdictions to identify where programs will meet gaps. | Jurisdictions submitted draft WIPs on April 12.  Not started. Discussion on ag technical assistance directive actions is on the agenda for the April 18 Agriculture Workgroup meeting. |
| 2 | Technical Assistance:  Diversify and expand the network of public, private and nonprofit providers of technical and financial assistance to ensure that on-farm support is available to meet the agricultural sector load reductions. | Ag Workgroup for recommendation. Examples of areas to explore include:  USDA – Contribution Agreements  NFWF – Through RFP process for SWG and INSR | Not started. Discussion on ag technical assistance directive actions is on the agenda for the April 18 Agriculture Workgroup meeting. |
| 3 | Technical Assistance:  Expand technical assistance capacity through the use of cooperative agreements and other tools that combine federal, state, local and private resources to target priority agricultural resource concerns. | To Ag Workgroup for recommendations | Not started. Discussion on ag technical assistance directive actions is on the agenda for the April 18 Agriculture Workgroup meeting. |
| 4 | Technical Assistance:  Enhance and coordinate critical agricultural conservation programs to ensure they offer the flexibility and capacity needed to incentivize farmers to install practices, including riparian forest buffers, to help meet the goals of the Bay TMDL. | To Ag Workgroup for recommendations. Example of a potential path forward may include:   1. CBP Convene listening sessions with farmers, stakeholders, etc. to determine areas where flexibility and capacity are needed. 2. USDA – collect information on what specific needs farmers have through the outreach they are planning under their 3-year plan for the Chesapeake Bay | Not started. Discussion on ag technical assistance directive actions is on the agenda for the April 18 Agriculture Workgroup meeting. |
| 5 | Workforce Development:  Enhance the job climate for government technical assistance professionals by exploring how to make training and certification more streamlined and accessible, along with the development of two-year certification programs, innovative training forums and education loan assistance programs. | Ag Workgroup for recommendations. Example of action – Convene a meeting with Land Grant universities to explore what they are doing with certification, identify skills needed for that certification program to be acceptable to the TA providers. | Not started. Discussion on ag technical assistance directive actions is on the agenda for the April 18 Agriculture Workgroup meeting. |
| 6 | Evaluation:  Report on progress made toward this directive at the 2019 Chesapeake Executive Council meeting. | Management Board | Not started. |

**Citizens Advisory Committee**

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|  | Committee Recommendation | Lead for Responding | Status |
| 1a | Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans and Local Planning Targets  Encourage jurisdictions to continue with the development of programmatic infrastructure and financial support for meaningful BMP verification as a part of implementation of Phase III WIPs, particularly in accounting for growth and land use changes as stated in the EPA expectations document. | Environmental Protection Agency | The draft Phase III WIPs were posted on each jurisdiction’s website on or before April 12, 2019. The Environmental Protection Agency is currently conducting their review.  The CAC state/DC delegations also plan to submit comments on the draft Phase III WIPs. |
| 1b | Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans and Local Planning Targets  Recommend the jurisdictions integrate *Watershed Agreement* outcomes into the water quality restoration plans to incentivize practices that offer corollary ecological benefits and to encourage meaningful participation in local planning targets supporting local economies and communities. | Environmental Protection Agency | The draft Phase III WIPs were posted on each jurisdiction’s website on or before April 12, 2019. The CAC state/DC delegations plan to summit comments on the draft Phase III WIPs. |
| 2a | Forest buffers and wetlands  Develop programmatic, policy and financial capacity for increasing forest buffers and establish the Phase III WIPs and two-year milestones. | Citizens Advisory Committee  Environmental Protection Agency | The draft Phase III WIPs were posted on each jurisdiction’s website on or before April 12, 2019.  CAC plans to invite experts to their May meeting to discuss potential options moving forward to address this need. |
| 2b | Forest buffers and wetlands  Include technical assistance and education on multi-functional forest buffers like nut and fruit trees are riparian production crops on agricultural lands – as some U.S. jurisdictions and Central American countries have had great success. | Citizens Advisory Committee  Communications Workgroup | CAC is interested to learn from the jurisdictions if there are other programs in the watershed. They are aware of the one in PA.  The Communications Workgroup is developing a forest buffers communications strategy that may uncover additional information about multi-functional forest buffers. |
| 2c | Forest buffers and wetlands  Meet with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to encourage the prioritization of forest buffers and wetlands to help meet water quality goals. | Environmental Protection Agency | Not occurred; EPA is encouraged to meet with USDA to have this conversation. |
| 2d | Forest buffers and wetlands  Communicate to local implementers the co-benefits and cost savings that buffers and wetlands provide in protecting drinking water sources and flood mitigation. | Communications Workgroup  Local Leadership Workgroup | The Communications Workgroup is currently developing a forest buffers communications strategy that will help address this need. The Local Leadership Workgroup, in coordination with the Communications Workgroup and Local Government Advisory Committee, is developing a local engagement strategy to recommend the best ways the entire Bay Program can communicate and engage with local governments across the watershed. These two strategies will help efforts to engage local implementers.  The Local Leadership Workgroup will help encourage jurisdictions to support and enact wetland and buffer BMPs. |
| 2e | Forest buffers and wetlands  Reformulate state funding vehicles such as Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant programs and State Revolving Local Funds for forest buffers on non-agricultural lands. | Environmental Protection Agency | This request arose from the review of the forest buffer outcome during the first round of the strategy review system and because it aligned with CAC’s interest in accelerating buffers and wetlands, they decided to amplify this opportunity for program review. Status unknown. |
| 3f | Forest buffers and wetlands  Simplify the information and process the states provide for landowners to find and apply for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Wetlands Reserve and other conservation practices. | Management Board  Forestry Workgroup  Environmental Protection Agency | A follow-up discussion with the Forestry Workgroup is needed, as well as additional clarity from EPA and then individual conversations with the Management Board. |
| 4a | Environmental education and literacy  Encourage you to also consider going further and including elements of workforce development and training to support the next generation of stewards with options for living wage environmental careers such as: storm water control, water and wastewater operations; construction and maintenance of green infrastructure; stream rehabilitation; and pollution control and cleanup. | Local Government Advisory Committee  Citizens Advisory Committee | CAC will participate in the upcoming Local Government Forum, sponsored by LGAC that will discuss workforce development. |
| 4b | Environmental education and literacy  Strongly encourage the jurisdictions that do not yet have the capacity to pursue all actions in the proposed Environmental Literacy directive to at least meet the baseline of participating in the conference of high-level leaders every two years to discuss progress of *Watershed Agreement* Environmental Education goals and outcomes. Participation will increase understanding which can begin to build capacity based on the successful models used in other jurisdictions. | Education Workgroup | The Executive Council committed to the importance of environmental literacy at the 2018 Executive Council meeting.  CAC will participate in the upcoming Environmental Literacy Summit that will be held in Virginia in June of this year. |

**Local Government Advisory Committee**

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|  | Committee Recommendations | Lead for Responding | Status |
| 1a | Local government engagement  Create more opportunities to engage in open dialogue in meetings with local government officials. | Communications Workgroup, Local Leadership Workgroup, LGAC | In-progress. In 2018-19, LGAC sponsored nine Virginia roundtables, 14 Pennsylvania forums and on-going elected official panels at state conferences. |
| 1b | Local government engagement  Regulatory agencies need to provide clear direction (to the jurisdictions) on how to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements. | Management Board | Not started. |
| 1c | Local government engagement  Regulatory agencies should work closely with local governments’ trusted sources to ensure that regulatory requirements and other vital information is broadly disseminated. | Management Board | In-progress. The Phase III WIP process began to take into account local government engagement and we need to continue to build upon that. |
| 2a | Tools and Resources  Recommend an evaluation of the nature, sufficiency and scope of technical assistance resources and program available to local governments be conducted to establish new, re-tool existing, or expand state and/or federal programs to achieve greater effectiveness in WIP implementation. | Local Government Advisory Committee | The final report from the September 2018 Local Government Forum was released in April 2019.  LGAC will continue to work with each jurisdiction to develop a circuit-rider network and encourage them to seek out opportunities. Maryland and Virginia are in the process of having active discussions on these topics. LGAC members will work with their jurisdictions to see what can be developed/modeled going forward. |
| 2b | Tools and Resources  Encourage Executive Council members to participate in LGAC’s September 2018 Local Government Forum which will focus on filling gaps at the local level. | Management Board | Complete |
| 3a | Workforce Development  Jurisdictions should support programs to train targeted groups, including offenders, veterans and other disadvantaged populations, to perform such functions as installing and maintaining green infrastructure.  NOTE: LGAC members recommend editing this request to read, “offer opportunities for training to all”. | Management Board, Diversity Workgroup | In-progress. This topic will be the theme for the September 2019 Local Government Forum. LGAC decided at their November 2018 meeting to focus on underserved populations as their main priority in regard to workforce development. |
| 3b | Workforce Development  Consider a student loan forgiveness program for people who choose to work in the public sector. | Management Board | In-progress. This topic will be the theme for the September 2019 local government forum. |

**Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee**

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|  | Committee Recommendation | Lead for Responding | Status |
| 1a | Climate Change  Consider effects of climate change on water quality and ecosystem health and ensure restoration successes continue as we move forward. | Climate Workgroup, WQGIT, STAR and STAC | In-progress. Being addressed through [STAC-sponsored science synthesis](http://chesapeake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/STAC-Sponsored-Science-Synthesis-Project-Request-for-Proposals_20190306.pdf) activity. |
| 1b | Climate Change  Support better understanding, predictive tools and adaptive approaches in order to respond effectively to existing and future climate-related threats. | STAC and STAR | In-progress. Being addressed through [STAC-sponsored science synthesis](http://chesapeake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/STAC-Sponsored-Science-Synthesis-Project-Request-for-Proposals_20190306.pdf) activity. |