

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – February 2023
Chesapeake Bay Program



Local Leadership

Heidi Bonnaffon
LLWG 2022 Chair

Michelle Edwards
LLWG 2023 Chair

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...

Goal: *Stewardship*

Outcome:

Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.



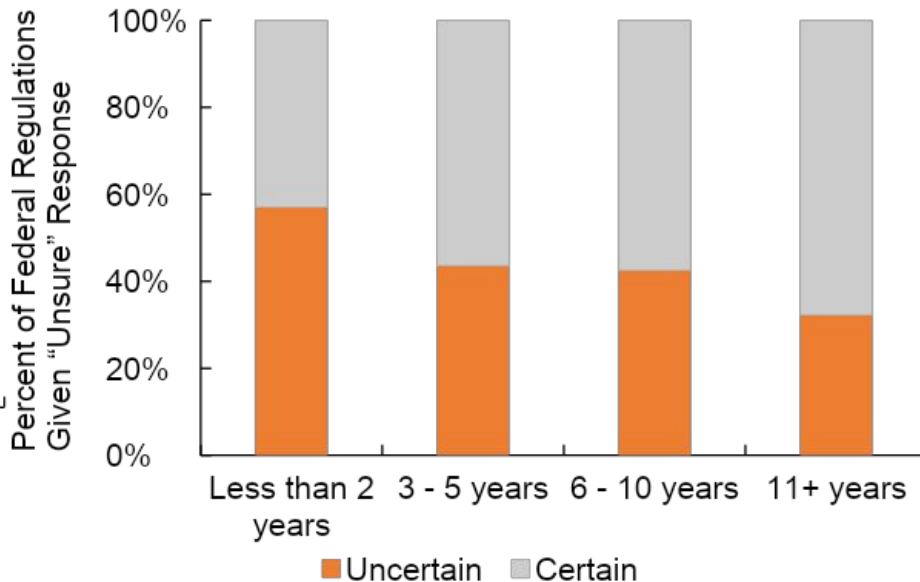
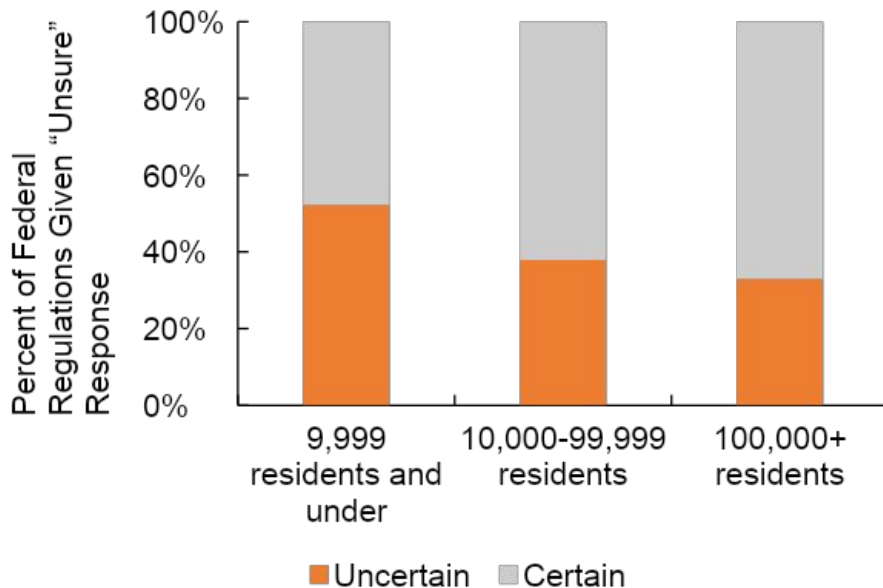


What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?



■ **Baseline Indicator established in 2022: Knowledge of Regulations**

Local Officials Self-Reporting Uncertainty Regarding Which Federal Regulations their Community is Subjected to

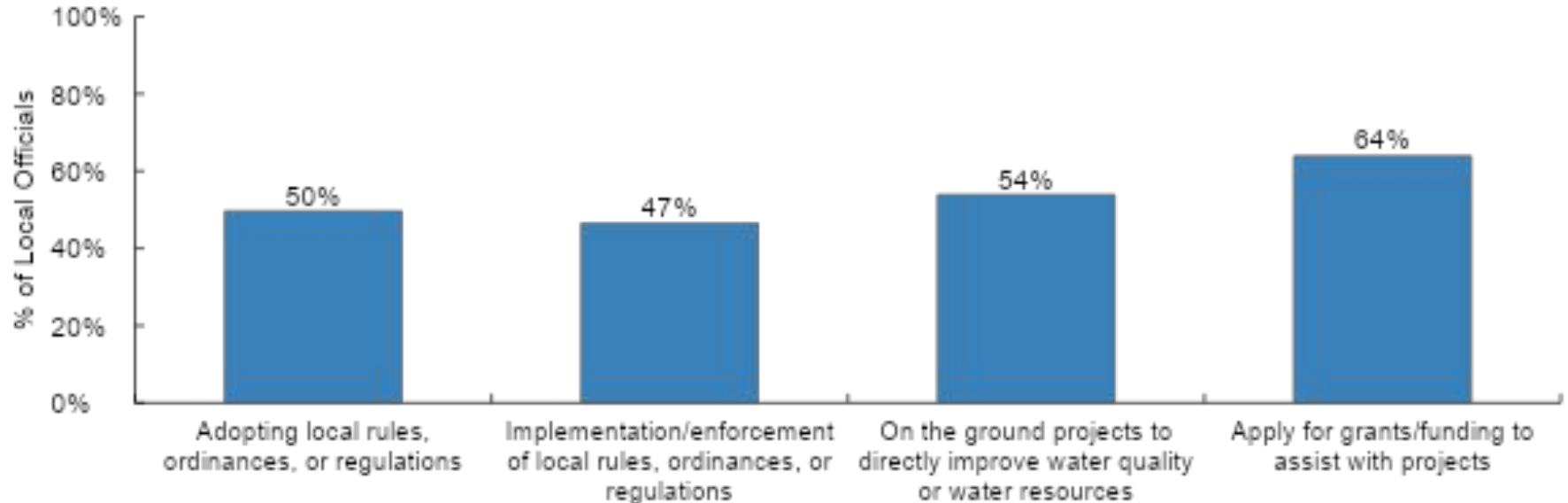




What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?

■ **Baseline Indicator established in 2022: Reported Actions**

% of Local Officials Responding They have Undertaken Water Quality or Water Resource-related Activities Within the Last Three Years





What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?



RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE

■ Completed all management actions & tracked identified metrics:

- 1,300+ local officials directly engaged
- 9,500+ local officials indirectly engaged
- 31 training and education opportunities
- 4.8/5 avg. rating on learning tours
- 900+ planners directly engaged
- 200+ planners indirectly engaged
- 12+ local government association partners





Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?





Successes and Challenges

What worked:

- *Engagement*: peer to peer, trusted sources, workgroup members
- *Education*: editable educational modules allowed for customization
- *Partnership*: working closely with jurisdictions and local government associations

Gaps Filled:

- Educational modules filled a gap for ‘tailored educational materials’
- Engagement with planners activated a network of ‘teachers’ for local officials
- Baseline survey has expanded our understanding of local officials’ knowledge and capacity



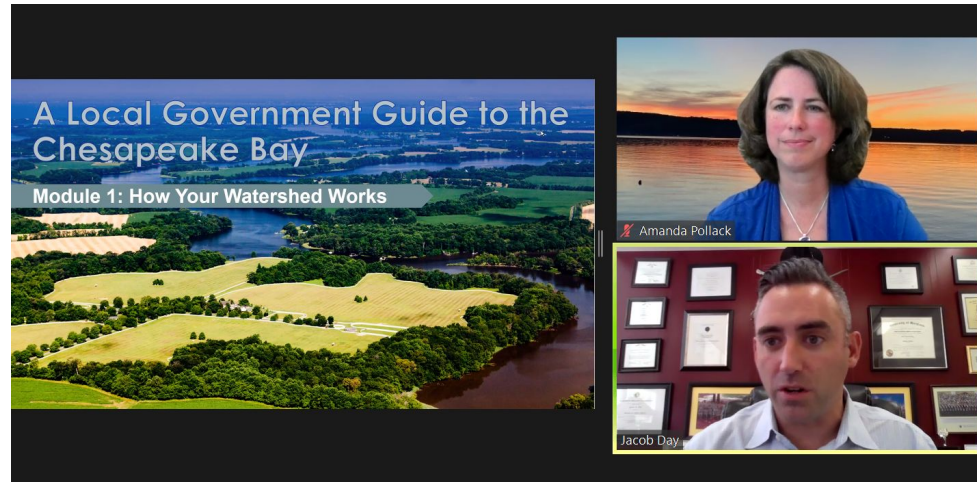
Successes and Challenges

What didn't work:

- Lengthy survey approval process & challenging indicator development
- Limited statistical value in the baseline survey

Obstacles:

- Capacity issues in accessing new federal funding
- Funding peer to peer learning exchanges can be challenging





On the Horizon

- **COVID-19** – Lingering impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on local governments (supply chain, labor shortage etc.)
- **Climate change** – local governments are acknowledging and addressing the impacts of climate change, especially flooding
- **New federal funding** – a large infusion of federal dollars via ARPA, BIL and IRA means local governments have more access to funding
- **Turnover** – local elected official turnover continues to be a challenge



Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- Continue to **expand and deepen engagement** networks through educational opportunities
- Incorporate **educational programming** into local elected officials training programs
- **Expand capacity building**, particularly around accessing new federal funding
- Focus engagement on **officials with the greatest needs**, those from smaller communities and those who are newly elected
- **Balance engagement activities** between virtual and in-person



Equitable and inclusive restoration ...

- In May 2021, the LLWG had a meeting focused on DEIJ
- Meeting Recommendations to ensure our work is equitably distributed and/or focused on historically underserved communities include:
 - Expand regional and/or county-level chapter or association educational opportunities
 - Identify/build strategic partnerships with 3+ trusted sources for underserved communities and invite them to join the LLWG

F

Fill the Gap

*How can the Management Board
help achieve the Outcome?*





Filling the Gap

- Thanks to...
 - 1) strong partnerships with local government associations
 - 2) support from YOU and YOUR jurisdiction...
- ...we are *increasing the knowledge and capacity* of local officials.
- Over the next 2 years, we plan to accelerate our collective efforts

We ask for your continued support!



THANK YOU Jurisdiction Representatives!

- DE □ Jim Sullivan
- DC □ Julia Wakeling
- NY □ Janet Thigpen
- PA □ Tree Zuzzio, Megan Lehman
- VA □ Jake Kline
- MD □ Les Knapp, Kathy Stecker, Phillip Stafford
- WV □ Megan Diehl



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A photograph of a group of people sitting at several tables on a covered outdoor patio. The patio has a stone fireplace in the foreground and large windows in the background that look out onto a wooded area. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. The word "Discussion" is overlaid in a large, dark blue serif font on the bottom left of the image.

Discussion