

Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Local Government Advisory
Committee Meeting
March 5, 2015

Nick DiPasquale, March 6, 2015



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Topics for Discussion

- 2014 CBP Bay Barometer
- Management strategy Outreach and Schedule for Finalization
- Management strategy tracking, assessment and verification
- EPA CBPO Funding FY2015-16
 - ✓ Local Government Funding
- High Resolution Data Update
- CBP Governance Document

Chesapeake Bay Barometer

Challenges & Opportunities



BAY BAROMETER

2013 - 2014

Health and Restoration

in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Chesapeake Bay Program
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**How is the Bay
doing?**

...the latest science
from 2013 & 2014

At a Glance...

HEALTH AND RESTORATION AT A GLANCE

HEALTH

Water Quality

29 percent of the clean water standards were met in the Bay's tidal waters. Three major rivers in the watershed showed long-term improvements in nutrient and sediment concentrations. In the short-term, concentrations remain relatively unchanged.



American Shad

Rise in spawning shad in some watershed rivers



Juvenile Striped Bass

Rise in abundance of juvenile striped bass in the Bay in 2014

Underwater Grasses

59,927 acres of underwater grasses in the Bay in 2013; an increase from the previous year

Blue Crabs

68.5 million spawning-age female blue crabs in the Bay in 2014; a decrease from the previous year



RESTORATION

Wetlands

6,098 acres of wetlands established, rehabilitated or reestablished on agricultural lands between 2010 and 2013



Forest Buffers

7,994 miles of streamside trees and shrubs planted since 1996



Fish Passage

2,576 miles of rivers and streams reopened to migratory fish since 1989



Protected Lands

572,000 acres of land permanently protected from development between 2010 and 2013



Public Access

36 new sites for the public to enjoy the Bay and its rivers were opened in 2013



Reducing Pollution to the Bay and its Tidal Rivers

Between 2009 and 2013, our partners reduced pollution by:

- o Nitrogen: 20.28 million pounds
- o Phosphorous: 2.04 million pounds
- o Sediment: 497 million pounds



CBP Bay Barometer Highlights

Highlights

- Bay Barometer released on February 3rd 2015
- Extensive coverage – see CBP website for news coverage
- Chesapeake Bay is still impaired
- Watershed still continues to struggle against development, pollution, other challenges
- However, report shows no significant changes in the last decade of water quality monitoring
- Handful of indicators have shown sign of resilience
 1. American shad & Striped bass
 2. Underwater grasses

CBP Bay Barometer Highlights

Specific Report Highlights

- Communities have continued to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution
- Some living resources have improved in face of challenges
- Underwater grass acreage has risen 24 percent
- American shad have continued to return to Potomac River spawning grounds
- Relative abundance of young striped bass in both Maryland and Virginia
- Striped bass recovered from low numbers in 2012

Management Strategies and Local Engagement

- EPA (and the partnership) would like to thank the Chair and LGAC members for your support and input into developing these management strategies.
 - LGAC December 2014 sessions in Easton
 - Detailed/written comments to drafts of strategies.
- Special recognition to Mary Gattis who has diligently participated in numerous GIT and workgroups calls to not only wave the banner for considering local government perspectives but to advocate forums such as the earlier forum
- Success of watershed agreement will depend upon local government engagement in the continued development and implementation management strategies.

Management Strategies and Local Engagement

- One important role is the continued interaction with your peers as to key opportunities presented by these strategies
- The LGAC strategic plan priorities and actions highlights key groups that members interact with (e.g. MML, PML, MACO, VACO, VML, PSATC, PA local gov't Forum)
- We encourage LGAC to continue to use these forums to solicit comments and ideas for ways these strategies can advance local efforts to protect local, regional and downstream resources.
- LGAC members (and the coordinator) should not hesitate to call upon EPA, Bay jurisdictions and others for materials and support as you engage your peers.

Management Strategies

Schedule for Review and Completion

- **Mar. 2** – GITs/workgroups send revised strategies to the management board for sufficiency review
- **Mar. 6** – Management Board deadline for submitting final fatal flaw comments to GITs/workgroups
- **Mar. 16** – Post/release management strategies for public input
- **Apr. 20** – Public input period closes
- **May 4** – GITs/workgroups revise strategies and provide to management board for final review
- **June 15** – Final management strategies completed
- **December 15** – First biennial workplans due

Management Strategy Tracking, Assessment & Verification

- The tracking, assessing, and verification of the management strategies is a Partnership effort.
- STAR and STAC are leading the assessment of new & outdated metrics and indicators.
- ChesapeakeStat will be a host site for the Progress, Decisions, and Data tools for management strategies



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Managing Watershed Restoration

ChesapeakeStat improves information-sharing and decision-making at the Chesapeake Bay Program. As we work toward the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, we invite you to access reliable, results-oriented data and information about our progress and hold us accountable for our work.



CHESAPEAKE PROGRESS

Our progress is measured by accurate, up-to-date and accessible information on environmental health, habitat restoration and funding.



CHESAPEAKE DECISIONS

Our work is guided by a decision-making framework that supports adaptive management: learning while doing and adjusting our efforts as needed.



CHESAPEAKE DATA

Our decisions are influenced by a range of environmental data, which reach beyond those stories that are told by our indicators of environmental health and restoration success.



Access our TMDL [tracker](#), Two-Year Milestone [progress tool](#), Best Management Practice [review table](#), or Tracking Healthy Watersheds [tool](#).

[Learn more about the Watershed Agreement](#)



EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office Funding

FY 2015 / 2016



EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office Funding

President's Budget

FY 2014 Enacted Budget: \$70 million

FY 2015 Enacted Budget: \$73 million

Highlights:

- Over \$29 million in state implementation and accountability grants
 - Including \$5 million “set aside” for local governments
- Over \$4.8 million in water quality monitoring grants
- \$6 million in Small Watershed Grants
- \$6 million in Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants
- Includes new funding for:
 - Citizen Monitoring Program
 - Climate Change Coordinator position
 - Land Cover Tool and development
 - Implementation fund for Agreement management strategies

FY 2016 President's Budget: \$70 million

EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office Funding

Local Government

- EPA FY 2014 Grants sets aside \$5 million for local government implementation of WIP and milestone commitments
 - Specific language included in 2014 grant guidance
 - Jurisdiction decide CBIG or CBRAP grants Programs
- EPA FY 2015 grants will also set aside \$5 million for local government
 - See 2015 Grant guidance (released on 3/3/15)
 - Guidelines place priority focus on WIPs
 - Some projects may benefit WIPs and management strategies
- FY15 grant guidance now available:
- <http://www.epa.gov/region3/chesapeake/grants.htm>. (pgs 38-41)
- EPA will review 2014 local government grants distribution annually
 - Grant Project officers will complete first review by summer 2015
 - Will adjust grant guidance if needed

High Resolution Land Cover and elevation Data

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- **CBP has traditionally relied on 30 m resolution land cover data to inform regional scale policy decisions**
- **Limitations of 30 m resolution scale; unable to fully detect**
 - urban tree canopy
 - Turf grass in small yards
 - Narrow roads
 - Small buildings
- **High resolution data key to Phase 6 CBP model and the 2017 midpoint assessment.**
- **High resolution data would inform goals outlined by CB watershed Agreement and would also assist local governments by:**
 - Informing comprehensive planning
 - Land conservation prioritization
 - Stormwater utility fee structures
- **EPA will be doing an assessment of how these resources have been used and allotted by jurisdictions**

High Resolution Land Cover and elevation Data

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- High resolution data will be funded initially by a consortium of federal, state, regional and local agencies and other organizations
- Initial invest will come from jurisdictions CBP grants
 - No expected significant impact to local government funding
- Some local jurisdictions actually collecting high resolution data; CBP collection may reduce the cost of those efforts by filling gaps
- Land use workgroup will continue to reach out to local jurisdictions and will work with LGAC and jurisdictions for continued engagement as the project moves forward.
- EPA and consortium is committed to answering any concerns expressed by LGAC or other local partners.
- Land use workgroup review of statement of work by March 6
- Vote of approval by PSC by Mid-march

Chesapeake Bay Governance Updates

- **CBP continue to make progress resolving issues related to governance**
- **Advisory committees no longer have vote at management board**
- **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) expressed concern about lack of vote**
 - **CAC submitted letter to PSC in December 2014**
 - **Recommend Advisory committees have voice in management board**
 - **Recommended that CBP reconsider circumstances under which super majority vote takes place – use super majority votes as last resort and PSC should be involved in resolving cases where GIT or workgroup unable to reach consensus**
- **GIT 6 working to resolve these issues**
- **PSC will be discussing governance once meeting is rescheduled.**