



Local Government Advisory Committee

to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Local Government Advisory Committee/
CBP Local Leadership Workgroup
PA Jurisdiction Meeting
Talking Points
March 23, 2023 | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Introductions:

- Attendees
 - LGAC
 - Michael Helfrich, Mayor, City of York
 - Donna Iannone, Commissioner, Sullivan County
 - Leo Lutz, Mayor, Columbia Borough
 - Lisa Schaefer, Executive Director, County Commissioners Assoc of PA
 - John Thomas, Commissioner, Hampden Township
 - James Wheeler, Environment Officer, PSATS
 - Phil Briddell, Former Commissioner, York Township
 - LLWG
 - Leslie Rhoads, PA Municipal League/Sustainable PA
 - Pam Shellenberger, PA York County Planning Commission
 - Liz Feinberg, NFWF
 - Tree Layton Zuzzio, PA Community & Economic Development
 - Ron Grutza, PA State Association of Boroughs
 - PA
 - Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP
 - Kristen Wolf, PA DEP
 - Rich Heineman, PennDOT Bureau of Maintenance and Operations Section Manager
 - CBP Representative
 - Lee McDonald

Facilitator: Tree Layton Zuzzio

Notetaker: Laura Cattell Noll

- Please introduce yourself, who you represent, and one goal you have for this discussion.
- Overarching Questions:
 - What do local governments need in the next 2 years to implement watershed restoration?
 - What does “restored waterways” mean to local governments?
 - How do local governments want to be involved in the next version of the Bay Agreement?
- Based upon previous input these are specific priorities:
 - LGAC Priorities
 - Introducing the new Governor to the Chesapeake watershed

- government (DNR, DEP, PENN DOT) paying their fair share on stormwater
- Green Jobs initiatives and how that is working with PA Agencies and partners
- Discuss the conundrum of the Bay doing better causing the possibility of the drive to improve to decrease.
- SB 283 and companion bill in house to be introduced requiring PA DOT to maintain all surface and subsurface drainage on state highways within boroughs with population less than 2,500 people. These bills should include all municipalities.
- LLWG Priorities
 - Partnership with CCAP, PSATS, PSAB, PML are key
 - Continue to appeal to local priorities (quality of life, flooding, outdoor recreation economy, downtown revitalization etc)
 - Focus on capacity building for smaller communities
 - Expand peer to peer tour, but continue other engagement (conferences, articles etc)
- Jurisdiction Priorities
 - DCED
 - Plan implementation funding
 - Invasive species
 - Biofilters, specifically freshwater mollusks
 - DEP
 - Providing direct programmatic, administrative, technical, and financial assistance to our counties and working through issues to ensure their success.
 - Funding delivery systems need to be easier to access, but with the right amount of accountability (reporting project implementation is essential for our legislature and other funders).
 - Working together with other state and federal agencies to better coordinate the funding streams and systems – learning from each other and identifying internal / inherent hurdles to funding delivery
 - People – increased, dedicated and long-term funding (not year to year) is needed to ensure current and future workforce is available for administration, design/build, maintenance and verification.
 - Augment funding toward local personnel at the conservation districts, through our Chesapeake Bay Technical Assistance Program, Nutrient and Manure Management Program, Watershed Specialist Program, and Conservation District Fund Allocation Program.
 - Funding to incentivize public-private partnerships – including the Community Clean Water Coordinator program, EPA State Capacity Grant for county technical assistance, and the PACD Growing Greener Grant for Agriculture Plan Reimbursements.

- Build future capacity. For example, we participate in a monthly call with Penn State Extension to discuss the outcomes and action items from the December 2022 PA in the Balance.
- CBP Priorities
 - Science
 - Identify new and emerging scientific data and studies which could modify our progress reporting and adaptive management approach, as well as the goals and outcomes under the Watershed Agreement.
 - Enhance our monitoring and reporting capabilities to improve our understanding of existing conditions and trends.
 - Define the existing and emerging challenges (e.g., climate change conditions, increasing growth, diversity, equity, inclusion and justice considerations) to accomplishing the partnership's work under the Watershed Agreement, and how addressing those challenges might alter our collective restoration priorities, including the possibility of extending the target date for completing restoration of water quality beyond 2025.
 - Identify opportunities to leverage action across multiple goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement.
 - Restoration
 - Develop and begin to implement a communication strategy that identifies key partnership successes, associated ecosystem improvements and areas where more effort is needed.
 - Provide snapshots of outcome attainability under the Agreement (e.g., which outcomes are likely to be met by the date(s) set by the partnership, which won't, and why) and options for communicating these snapshots to demonstrate progress in achieving our outcomes and the remaining work to be done, including gaps to be addressed.
 - Partnership
 - Focus on moving beyond 2025 by seeking ways in which restoration can be relevant to all communities within the watershed.
 - Assess the overall partnership to determine whether we
 - Are effectively hearing from and listening to all stakeholders, and
 - Have systems of evaluation and decision-making to enable meaningful action and allocation of partnership resources.
 - Based on this assessment, develop recommendations for potential improvement.

Open discussion of other local priorities

This is an opportunity to discuss unique priorities (local, jurisdictional, CBP) and find opportunities for overlap, support and brainstorming.

Note Taker Notes:

End/Final thoughts or takeaways

Top 2-3 Takeaways:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.