The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# ADDRESSING THE WORD “CITIZEN(S)” IN THE WATERSHED AGREEMENT

CBP MANAGEMENT BOARD

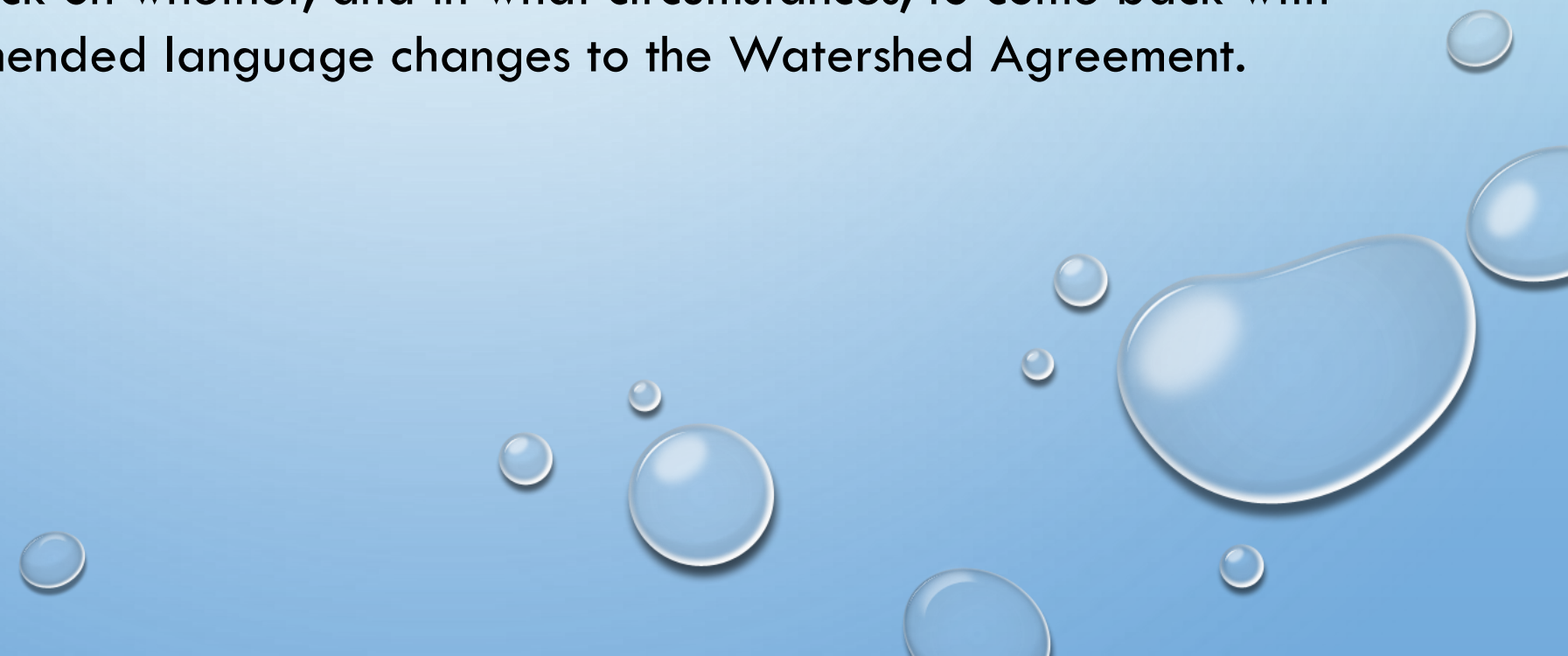
MAY 12, 2022

## Background:

- At the February Management Board meeting, the Stewardship GIT requested consideration of removal/replacement of the word “citizen(s)” from the Stewardship Goal and Citizen Stewardship Outcome (and Workgroup name).
- In response, the MB charged the Stewardship GIT and GIT 6 to discuss and come back to MB with a proposed path forward.
- In subsequent discussions, it was realized that the word “citizen(s)” appears 17 times throughout the Watershed Agreement.



## Purpose of today's presentation:

1. Brief MB on use of the word “citizen(s)” in the Watershed Agreement.
  2. Get MB feedback on whether, and in what circumstances, to come back with specific, recommended language changes to the Watershed Agreement.
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# Why consider removing or replacing the word “citizen(s)”?

## Words Matter:

- Stewardship of the Bay and watershed depends on the cooperation of all 18 million people living here. We need everyone “under the tent.”
- Use of the term “citizen” is not inclusive, and can be off-putting. It tells a story of who is welcome and invited and who is not. Why risk turning away people we need? The term can be limiting to our work and partnerships.
- Many consider the word as psychology of an exclusive “club” -- even for a 4th grader who knows their parents aren’t citizens, or for anyone whose family came from outside of the US. It makes them question whether it is open to or applies to them.
- **Know Your Audience:** The demographic makeup of the watershed’s population is growing in diversity by leaps and bounds, increasing the importance of giving attention to inclusivity.
  - ❑ *2017-18 school enrollment data shows ~8% of the students in the watershed jurisdictions (more than half a million students) were English Language Learners, which means so are their families.*
  - ❑ *In MD schools alone, from 2000 to 2020, Hispanic students increased **330%** and Asian students increased **60%**. Newcomers to the US are increasing rapidly [one figure notes growth at 8% per year, ongoing].*
  - ❑ *Citizenship / legal status (or lack of) cannot be assumed. The term can offend regardless.*

# Watershed Agreement: Where does “citizen(s)” appear and how may we address it?

## **#1: General Text (11 times)**

### Examples:

Preamble: “Local governments are key partners in our work, as are individual **citizens** **residents**, businesses, watershed groups and other non-governmental organizations.”

Principles: “Achieve Goals and Outcomes in a timely way and at the least possible cost to **our citizens** **the public**.”

Stewardship description: “Tens of thousands of local **citizen** volunteers continue to donate their time and talent to our shared goals.”



Watershed Agreement: Where does “citizen(s)” appear and how may we address it?:

## **#2: Citizen Stewardship Outcome (2 times)**

Example:

**~~Citizen~~ Stewardship Outcome:** Increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized ~~citizen~~ volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds”

## Watershed Agreement: Where does “citizen(s)” appear and how may we address it?:

### **#3: Goals (2 times)**

Examples:

**Stewardship Goal:** Increase the number and diversity of local ~~citizen~~ stewards and local governments that actively support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams, rivers, and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.

**Land Conservation Goal:** Conserve landscapes treasured by our ~~citizens~~ people in order to maintain water quality, and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.

Watershed Agreement: Where does “citizen(s)” appear and how may we address it?:

## #4: Vision Statement

Example:

**Vision:** The Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage and a diversity of engaged ~~citizens~~ residents and stakeholders.



# Watershed Agreement: Where does “citizen(s)” appear and how may we address it?:

## AFFIRMATION

As Chesapeake Bay Program Partners, we recognize the need to accelerate implementation of actions necessary to achieve the Goals and Outcomes outlined herein and realize our shared Vision of a healthy and vibrant Chesapeake Bay watershed.

As Chesapeake Bay Program Partners, we acknowledge that this Agreement is voluntary and subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This Agreement is not a contract or an assistance agreement. We also understand that this Agreement does not pre-empt, supersede or override any other law or regulation applicable to each signatory.

We, the undersigned members of the Chesapeake Executive Council, re-affirm our commitment to support the Goals of this Agreement and to work cooperatively in its implementation. We agree to work both independently and collaboratively toward the Goals and Outcomes of this Agreement and to implement specific Management Strategies to achieve them. Every citizen of this great watershed is invited to join with the Partnership, uniting as a region and embracing the actions that will lead to success.

Date: June 16, 2014

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission



*Ronald E. Miller*

For the State of Delaware



*Jeff Mahoney*

For the District of Columbia



*Vernant C. Gray*

For the State of Maryland



*Arthur E. Bland*

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



*Tom Corbett*

For the State of New York



*Andrew Cuomo*

For the Commonwealth of Virginia



*Eric J. Wallick*

For the State of West Virginia



*Earl Ray Tomblin*

For the United States of America



*Jim McInnis*

on behalf of the Federal Government and the  
Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay:  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Defense  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Transportation



Chesapeake Bay Program  
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

## #5: Signature Page

“Every citizen resident of this great watershed is invited to join with the Partnership, uniting as a region and embracing the actions that will lead to success.”

# Requested Decisions – go forward or not?

*Come back to MB later (July) with recommended language changes to all, none, or some of these?*

#1: General Text?

#2: Citizen Stewardship Outcome?

#3: Stewardship and Land Conservation Goals?

#4: Vision Statement?

#5: Signature Page?

## Requested Decisions –



### Part 2

IF any changes are made, the value is best realized if there is public awareness that it has been done. Requests:

- EC Chair make remarks at the next EC meeting about inclusive language and how in any next iteration of the watershed agreement we will be cognizant and choose terms more carefully.
- Communications and Web Teams work to assure that CBP websites are in line with the approved changes (Stewardship and Diversity Workgroups available to consult).