

Recommended Language Changes to 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Principals' Staff Committee Presentation
July 19, 2022

2014 Watershed Agreement Recommended Edits

The word “citizen(s)” may be considered exclusionary by:

- Non-citizens,
- Children of non-citizens (although they may legally be citizens),
- People who care about the Chesapeake Bay but do not live in the watershed,
- Tourists

“Citizen(s)” occurs 17 times in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement



2 0 1 4

As amended, January 24, 2020

2014 Watershed Agreement Recommended Edits

The 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement may be modified,
“As the signatories identify new opportunities or concerns” (pg 3)

Has been modified previously (3 Outcomes)



2 0 1 4

As amended, January 24, 2020

2014 Watershed Agreement Recommended Edits

17 Occurrences of “Citizen(s)”

General Text = 11 times

Outcome Text = 2 times
“Citizen Stewardship” Outcome

Goal Text = 2 times
“Stewardship” & “Land Conservation” goals

Vision Statement = 1 time

Signatory Page = 1 time

All occurrences (17) of “citizen” and “citizens” in Watershed Agreement with edits recommended by Management Board for PSC approval at July 19, 2022 PSC meeting.

Recommended deletions are in red strikeout
Recommended insertions are in red text that appears BELOW the insertion.



Color Coding:

Green = General Text (11 times)

Blue = Outcome (2 times)

Yellow = Goal (2 times)

Orange = Vision Statement (1 time)

Red = Signatory Page (1 time)

2 0 1 4

As amended, January 24, 2020

2014 Watershed Agreement Recommended Edits

17 Occurrences of “Citizen(s)”

Approach to identifying edits:

- Maintain original intent
- Minimize text changes
7 of 17 occurrences addressed by simply deleting the word.
- Be as consistent as possible
7 of 17 occurrences replaced with “public”, “people”, or “communities”.

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Important Caveats

1) Approving changes does not:

- Require new signatures,
- Imply recommitment to or modification of any Goals or Outcomes.

Rather, the changes are simply correcting the unintentional use of a term that we have since learned may be interpreted as exclusionary.

2) Will be clearly documented on a new “Amendments” page(s) (current pg 17)

AMENDMENTS TO GOALS AND OUTCOMES

As discussed on page 3 of this Watershed Agreement, the signatory partners recognized that:

“As the signatories identify new opportunities and concerns, Goals or Outcomes may be adopted or modified. Any changes or additions to Goals will be approved by the Executive Council. The Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) will approve changes or additions to Outcomes, although significant changes or additions will be raised to the Executive Council for approval. Proposed changes to Goals and Outcomes or the addition of new ones will be open for public input before being finalized.”

On January 24, 2020, the PSC approved the following modifications to three 2014 Watershed Agreement outcomes. The PSC agreed that final approval of these edits to the original outcomes by the Executive Council was not necessary:

Diversity: “Identify ~~minority~~ stakeholder groups not currently represented in the leadership, decision-making or implementation of current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage these groups in the Partnership’s efforts.”

Fish Passage: “Continually increase ~~available~~ access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed’s freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migration routes by opening ~~1,000 additional stream-miles~~ **an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage**. Restoration success will be indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.”

Land Use Methods and Metrics: “Continually improve our knowledge of land conversion and the associated impacts throughout the watershed. By ~~2016~~ **December 2021**, develop a watershed-wide methodology and local-level metrics for characterizing the rate of farmland, forest and wetland conversion, measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage and quantifying the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds and communities. Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with local governments, elected officials and stakeholders.”

17

2014 Watershed Agreement Recommended Edits

Next Steps (if approved)

Step #1: Submit recommended edits for public input and address as appropriate.

Step #2: Submit all 17 edits* to EC at their Fall meeting with recommendation to approve.

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Discussion and Approval?