

Climate Change Action by the Executive Council

Principals' Staff Committee Climate Change Action Team

Chair: Ann Jennings

March 2, 2021

Overview:

- ▶ Climate Change Action Team Members
- ▶ Review Charge from the Principals' Staff Committee
- ▶ 2014 EC Statement on Climate Change; More Recent Findings/Actions on Climate Change
- ▶ Climate Change Action Team's Proposed Format for 2021 Executive Council (EC) Action
- ▶ Input and Discussion from the PSC
- ▶ Next Steps for the Climate Change Action Team

Climate Change Action Team Members

Chris Brosch	Delaware	Program Administrator, Delaware Dept. of Ag
Lauren Townley	New York	NYS DEC - Division of Water, Bureau of Water Resource Management
Melissa Deas	DC	Dept of Energy & Environment Climate Program Analyst
Adrienne Kotula	CBC	Virginia Director
Teresa Koon	West Virginia	Assistant Director, WV DEP Division of Water and Waste Management
Mark R Bennett	USGS/Fed. Govt.	Center Director, Virginia and West Virginia Water Science Center
Suzanne Dorsey	Maryland	MDE Assistant Secretary
Josh Lookenbill	Pennsylvania	Acting Co-Director of the DEP Bureau of Clean Water
Mike Dunn	EPA/Fed. Govt.	Acting Chief of Staff to EPA Region 3 Administrator
Ann Jennings	Virginia	Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources

PSC Charge to the Climate Change Action Team

- ▶ Communicate an EC position that confirms and reinforces the current science-based understanding that climate change is causing severe detrimental impacts on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed - communities and natural resources - and urgent attention is warranted.
- ▶ Update the EC position on climate change by modifying the existing language of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement or preparing a new EC Directive.

Prior EC Action on Climate Change - 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

“Changing climatic and sea level conditions **may** alter the Bay ecosystem and human activities, requiring adjustment to policies, programs and projects to successfully achieve our restoration and protection goals for the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. This challenge requires **careful monitoring and assessment** of these impacts and **application of this knowledge** to policies, programs and projects.

GOAL: **Increase the resiliency** of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.

Monitoring and Assessment Outcome

Continually monitor and assess the trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects.

Adaptation Outcome

Continually pursue, design and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise.”



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

 [magnifying glass icon]

Discover the Chesapeake

Learn the Issues

State of the Chesapeake

Take Action

In the News

Who We Are

What We Do

The Scientific, Technical Assessment & Reporting (STAR) team works to coordinate the monitoring, modeling and analysis needed to explain and communicate the health of and changes in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Upcoming Meetings

January 28, 2021
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Joint C/S/STAR
January 2021 Meeting

[Export this Event >>](#)

February 25, 2021
10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Scientific, Technical
Assessment and
Reporting (STAR)
Team Meeting
February 2021

[Export this Event >>](#)

March 25, 2021
10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Scientific, Technical
Assessment and
Reporting (STAR)
Team Meeting March
2021

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Watershed Agreement

Climate Resiliency Goal

Climate Monitoring and Assessment
Climate Adaptation

Workgroups and Action Teams

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

Criteria Assessment Protocol
Workgroup

“All aspects of life in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—from living resources to public health, from habitat to infrastructure— are at risk from the effects of a changing climate. As one of the most vulnerable regions in the nation, the Chesapeake Bay is expected to experience major shifts in environmental conditions.” CRWG, Management Strategy.

“The Chesapeake Bay, at over 165,000 square kilometers it is the largest estuary in the Americas. The watershed consists of six states and Washington, D.C. It is unique for its size, small tidal range, and shallowness. All these factors combined make it particularly vulnerable to climate change” UMCES President Peter Goodwin, Climate Change Impacts on Chesapeake Bay. World Water Day Presentation. 2020

“The United States and the world face a profound climate crisis. We have a narrow moment to pursue action at home and abroad in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of that crisis and to seize the opportunity that tackling climate change presents ... The scientific community has made clear that the scale and speed of necessary action is greater than previously believed. There is little time left to avoid setting the world on a dangerous, potentially catastrophic, climate trajectory.” President Biden’s Executive Order: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. 2020

EC Action -- Format Options Discussed

- ▶ EC Modification/Addendum to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
- ▶ EC Directive

Preamble language succinctly and clearly describe the state of science on the impacts of climate change on the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Input and Discussion from the PSC

Next Steps for the Climate Change Action Team

- ▶ Draft preamble language for EC Directive
- ▶ Brainstorm measurable goals for EC Directive
- ▶ Language presented for PSC consideration at next PSC meeting