



# Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Assessment Sept. 25 2015 DRAFT

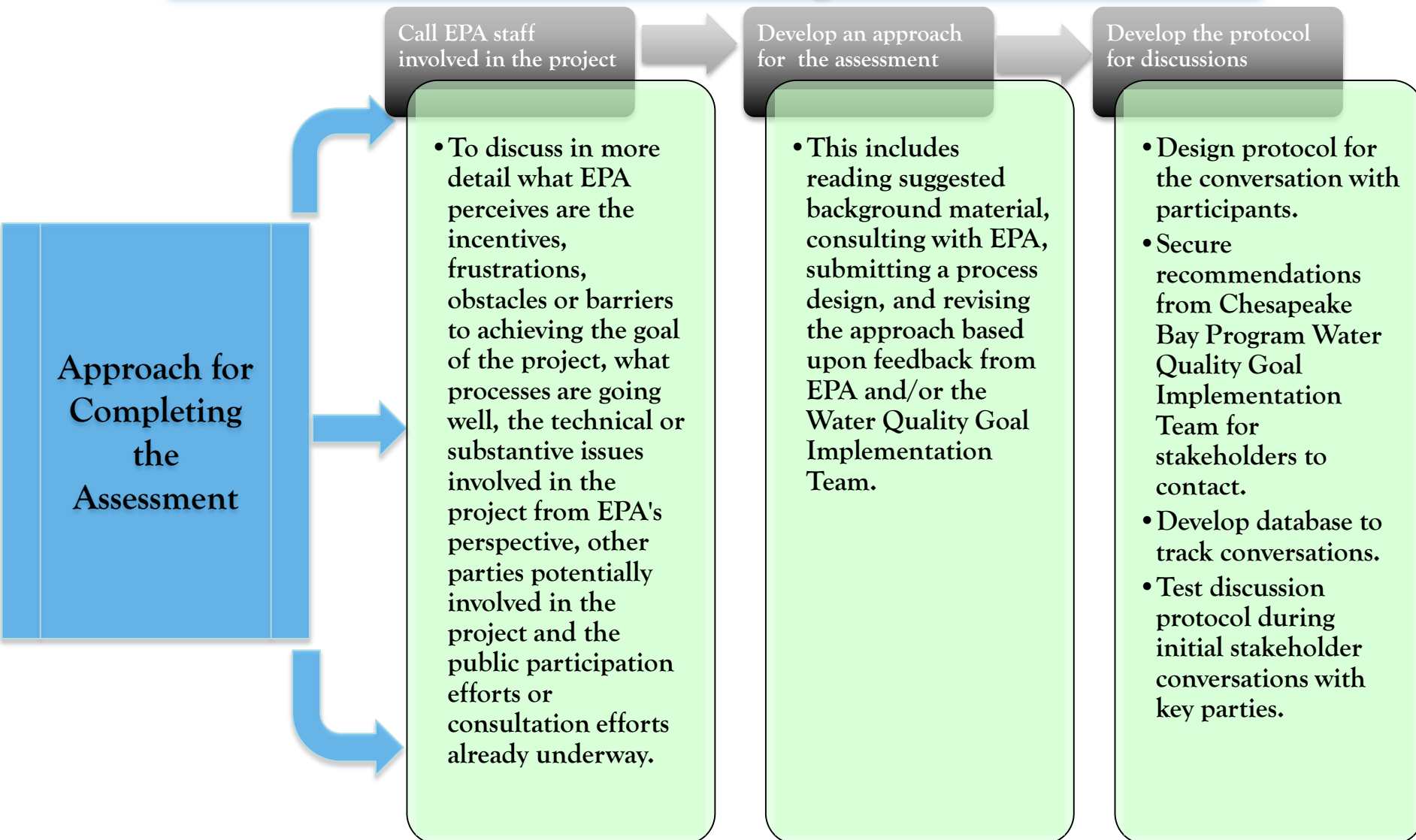
Presented to the Water Quality Goal  
Implementation Team

9/28/15

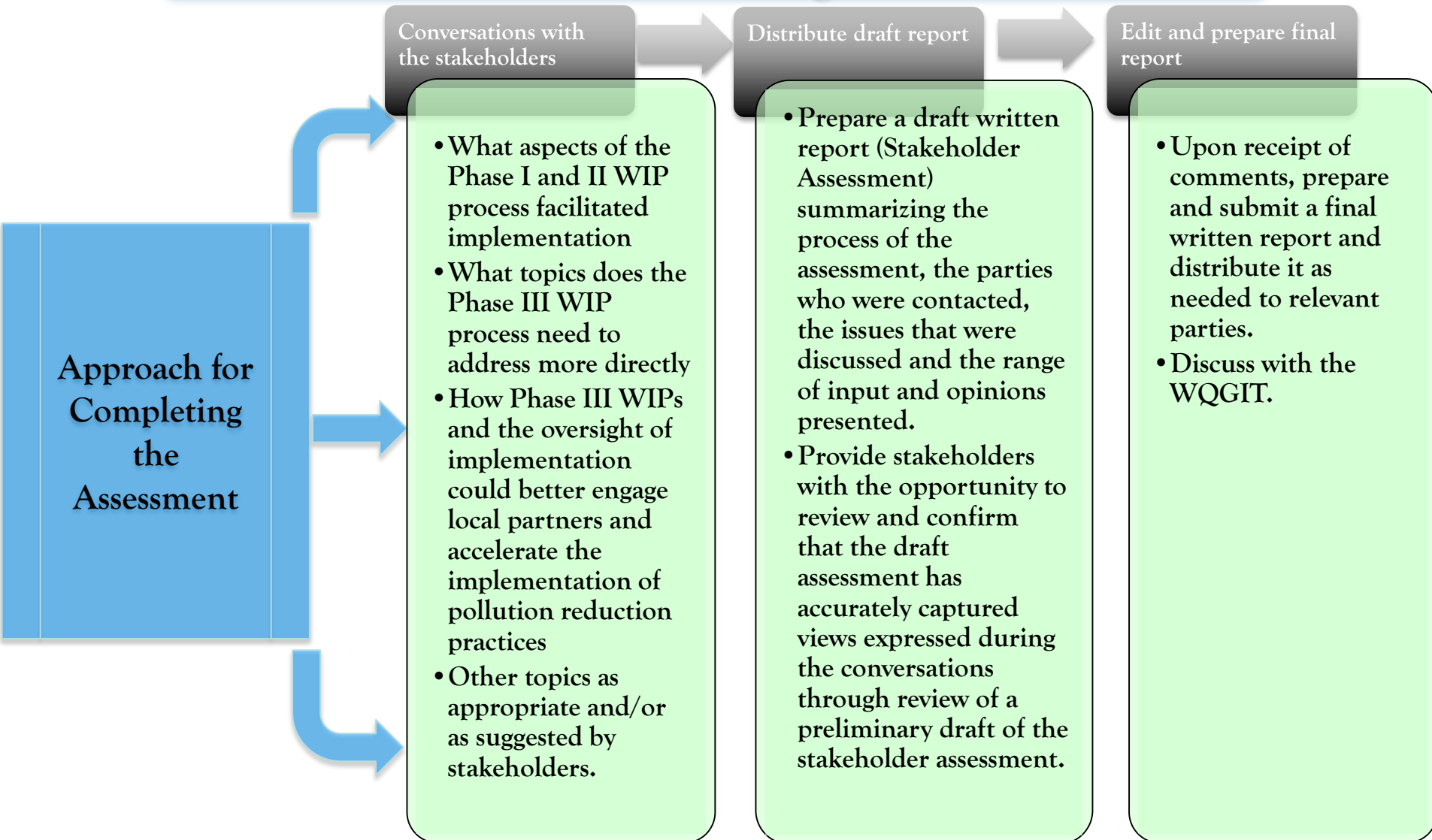
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# Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Assessment

## Process Design



# Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Assessment Process Design





# Three Stories

- Story One
  - *Implementing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and meeting applicable water quality standards in the Bay and its tidal rivers is our highest priority*
- Story Two
  - *The Bay TMDL is one priority among many, largely because of regulatory or institutional mandates*
- Story Three
  - *The Bay TMDL is an unfair burden that impinges on other priorities*





## Story One

*Implementing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and meeting applicable water quality standards in the Bay and its tidal rivers is our highest priority*

- Complete the Chesapeake Bay TMDL on schedule
- There are substantial benefits to the Bay and local waters
- EPA needs to provide backstop measures to stay on schedule
- Advocates for the Bay have worked hard to secure funding
- Monitoring shows less improvement than modeling



## Story Two

*The Bay TMDL is one priority among many, largely because of regulatory or institutional mandates*

- Recognize political and financial realities at state and local levels
- The Bay TMDL schedule can't be met
- Too much uncertainty and confusion about what is and what will be required
- Demands keep growing while support has not kept up



## Story Three

*The Bay TMDL is an unfair burden that impinges on other priorities*

- The Bay is not important for my jurisdiction or sector
- We need more support and a realistic schedule
- Participation should be voluntary – no unfunded mandates
- No backstops and contingencies





## Lots of Good Work to Date!

- Early outreach and continued communication
- Stakeholders can work out differences when involved early
- Money & technical support are vital
- Show local benefits
- Listen – adapting model & mandates







## Many Shared Concerns and Ideas

- 1) Equity
- 2) Communication
- 3) Collaborative Leadership
- 4) Accountability for Results
- 5) Funding and other resources
- 6) Cost-effectiveness
- 7) Adaptability
- 8) Schedule
- 9) Bay Model



## Key Concerns and Ideas: Equity

- Treat sectors and jurisdictions fairly
- Target funding and support to where needed most, e.g., rural areas
- Be transparent and equitable in burdens and benefits





## Key Concerns and Ideas: Communication

- Need more opportunities for shared learning
- States - communication strategy about what, why, resources, and the implications of success and failure
- EPA - clear communication strategy for each state and each sector
- Marketing plan Bay-wide to show the value to local waters and local economies





## Key Concerns and Ideas: Collaborative Leadership

- Can the Bay Program be an authentic partnership?
- At the state level, engagement is limited to sharing information
- Bring localities and sectors within states to work with each other, to learn together, and to build consensus for actions that reflect experience





## Key Concerns and Ideas: Accountability for results

- Need more testing and/or verification for BMPs, which will drive up costs
- Too little credit has been given for some jurisdictions or sectors
- More flexibility on the “how”





## Key Concerns and Ideas: Funding and other resources

- Localities and sectors feeling the pain!
- Worry about changes in Phase III
- Funding and regulatory structures need to keep up with demands





## Key Concerns and Ideas: Cost-effectiveness

- Need more consideration about the cost-effectiveness of practices
- Trading is problematic – inconsistent in watershed
- Most cost-effective practices generally involve agriculture



## Key Concerns and Ideas: Adaptability

- Focus on results, not checking off boxes
- Create more innovative and cost-effective BMPs





## Key Concerns and Ideas: Schedule

- States had too little time to learn from and gain support from localities & sectors
- Localities too - for elected officials and local stakeholders
- 2025 deadline is not practical – will harm planning and implementation
- But - concerns that easing schedule means abandoning TMDL and provoking lawsuits





## Key Concerns and Ideas: The Bay Model

- Confusion over Model has been harmful
- Model is being asked to guide decisions at scales that are not suitable.
- Too many assumptions don't match realities
- But - Model may be better than monitoring due to lag time



## Participant Questions

- Will loads change? will the TMDL have to be reopened?
- How to make reductions real to the people who have to make them?
- Will there be a new model for funding for Phase III?
- What does the 60% represent? Jurisdictions have different views of what this means ...



## Completing the Assessment

- Invest the time to read the collective input of over 100 colleagues from across the watershed
- Asking the WQGIT, via a small team, to take responsibility for converting findings and observations into a follow through action plan
- Need to ensure that the assessment findings are used to guide decision making by the Partnership on Phase III WIP expectations
- Bring forward that follow through action plan to the Management Board and the Principals' Staff Committee at their January 2016 meetings for review, feedback and adoption



# Questions & Discussion

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