

# 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM: *Developing Collaborative Watershed Partnerships*

The Local Government Forum is a yearly problem-solving meeting hosted by the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) in collaboration with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Through facilitated group discussion, participants identify issues that hinder or help advance local implementation of watershed protection and restoration initiatives. Findings and recommendations, developed during the forum, are documented and next steps are identified.



## PROBLEM STATEMENT:

As communities face increasing challenges that exacerbate competing priorities, issues related to watershed health (habitat, stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water) heighten the need for local decision-makers to enhance capacity, funding, and coordination with federal, state, regional, and local partners to **enable collaborative approaches** that foster support and action.

## BARRIERS ADDRESSED:

- Staff Capacity
- Technical Assistance and Resources
- Equitable Collaboration and Community Engagement
- Political Will
- Innovative Approaches
- Water Quality Mitigation and Restoration Funding
- Starting a Collaborative

## EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS:

- [Safe Drinking Water Conservation Collaborative](#) - WV
- [Upper Susquehanna Coalition](#) - NY
- [Walkable Watersheds](#) - VA
- [The Elizabeth River Project](#) -VA
- [Chiques Creek Restoration Initiative](#) - PA
- [Shenandoah Valley Conservation Collaborative](#) -VA
- [The Healthy Waters Roundtable](#) - MD

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.

Increase funding support and identify new and additional revenue streams and other incentives for forming collaboratives and increasing restoration project work.

2.

Utilize regional entities such as planning district commissions as planning frameworks to increase local/community stakeholder involvement and further collaborative restoration work.

3.

Utilize the American Rescue Plan and subsequent federal recovery and funding to plan for increased collaboration and project implementation at the local level.

4.

Increase engagement between local governments and local and regional not for profits to find joint areas of need and identify opportunities to share resources.

5.

Partner with MS4 utilities to increase collaborative restoration work, particularly in under-resourced communities.

6.

Expand local government community-based leadership development training and make the training more accessible at the local level.

For more information on the 2021 Local Government Forum as well as past Forums, visit [LGAC's webpage](#) or contact [LGAC@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:LGAC@allianceforthebay.org)