

Local Government Advisory Committee Actions and Decisions March 20-21, 2025

| Call to Order & Welcome to New Members | LGAC Chair Daniel Chao | Meeting called to order at 10:02 am |
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| Overview of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement | Lucinda Power, Branch Chief of Partnerships and Accountability, Chesapeake Bay Program Contact: power.lucinda@epa.gov Rachel Felver, CBP Director of Communications, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Contact: rfelver@chesapeakebay.net | L. Power shared a broad history of the 2014 Watershed Agreement and reviewed the Agreement's vision, principles, goals, and outcomes. She also discussed the governance and management framework of the Chesapeake Bay Program. R. Felver provided context on the origins of the Land Use and Local Leadership outcomes in the Agreement. L. Power then briefly outlined the path ahead for updating the Agreement beyond 2025. |
| Overview of Proposed Changes to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement • Proposed Changes to the Agreement's Vision, Principles, and Preamble (Goshorn) • Update on the Management Board Outcome Reviews (Williams) | Dave Goshorn, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Contact: david.goshorn@maryland.gov Bo Williams, Senior Technical Advisor, Chesapeake Bay Program Contact: williams.james@epa.gov | D. Goshorn provided background on the proposed changes to the Watershed Agreement's vision, principles, and preamble. He shared that the majority of edits fall into three basic categories: 1) editorial updates, 2) changes to better reflect the Executive Council charge, and 3) language related to integrating tribal nations into the agreement. B. Williams shared the Management Board's outcome review process, and updated members on the next steps for the outcomes in the Watershed Agreement. Action: Staff will share the proposed edits to the Agreement's vision, principles, and preamble. |
| Workshop: Discuss LGAC's Perspective on Proposed Changes to the Agreement | Facilitator: Andria McClellan, VA LGAC Member | A. McClellan facilitated a plenary discussion around the proposed high-level revisions to the Watershed Agreement. LGAC members explored the following discussion questions: • What do you think of the |

proposed revisions to the vision? • What do you think of the proposed revisions to the principles? • What do you think of the proposed revisions to the themes? • What are LGAC's major concerns about the outcomes? Following the plenary discussion, members split into breakout groups to discuss the following outcomes in greater detail: land use, climate, toxic contaminants, and local leadership. **Actions:** • LGAC Chair will share <u>LGAC's</u> feedback on the proposed changes to the Agreement's vision, preamble, and principles, as well as on the local leadership, land use, climate, and toxic contaminants outcomes with Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee members during the March 27th/28th meetings. Bus Tour of Cambridge, MD Speakers at Long Wharf Park: LGAC members toured Long Wharf Park Drew Koslow, Environmental Program and Sailwinds Park to explore how federal Manager, Cambridge, MD and state commitments to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay can support local Contact: akoslow@choosecambridge.com priorities like flood mitigation, climate resilience, economic development, and Speakers at Sailwinds Park: tourism. Susan Banks, Director, Dorchester County Economic Development Contact: sbanks@choosedorchester.org **Annual Business Meeting Action:** Annual Elections for LGAC Chair, Annual Elections for First Vice Chair, and Jurisdiction Vice LGAC Chair, First Vice Chairs. Chair, and Jurisdiction • LGAC Chair – D. Chao nominated **Vice Chairs** M. Qually as LGAC Chair, seconded Executive Committee by A. McClellan. Report (Chair & First Vice • LGAC First Vice Chair – M. Qually Chair) nominated J. Hastings, seconded • <u>Coordinator's Report</u> by A. McClellan. (LGAC Coordinator) • PA Vice Chair – M. Qually nominated M. Helfrich as PA Vice • Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Chair, seconded by E. Grant. Report (Chair) • VA Vice Chair – A. McClellan

- <u>Chesapeake Bay</u>
 <u>Awareness Week</u> (CBP
 Communications Office)
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Update (CEO)

- nominated R. Baugh as VA Vice Chair, seconded by S. Noll.
- MD Vice Chair B. Williams nominated J. Hastings as MD Vice Chair, seconded by F. Dawson.
- DC Vice Chair D. Chao nominated B. Nadeau as DC Vice Chair, seconded by P. Gross.
- At-Large Vice Chair D. Chao nominated D. Phillips as At-Large Vice Chair, seconded by A. McClellan.

LGAC Chair & Vice Chair reported on the recent Management Board meetings and the outcome review process.

LGAC Coordinator recognized D. Chao and D. Phillips for their work and dedication to LGAC over the past couple of years. L. Cattell Noll also summarized LGAC members' feedback on the Agreement's vision, preamble, and principles, as well as on the proposed outcome updates.

LLWG Chair recapped the Workgroup's March quarterly meeting and local leadership outcome discussion, and updated members on upcoming local government engagement events.

M. Augustin from the Chesapeake Conservancy provided some background on Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, shared updates on this year's theme, and supplied communication materials for promoting the week across different platforms.

K. Fritz shared updates on the impact of federal funding freezes on the Alliance and introduced T. Leigh, a new Local Government Specialist, who will provide direct technical assistance to local governments within Delmarva.

Actions:

- LGAC members will participate in the <u>Advisory Committees Briefing</u> <u>on April 3rd</u> to hear updates on the Agreement decisions and provide any additional feedback.
- LGAC and Local Leadership

| | | Workgroup Chairs/Vice Chairs will identify opportunities to collaborate more closely, including a possible joint meeting. Staff to share the Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week Proclamation with LGAC members, as well as elected officials on the upcoming VA & PA Peer-to-Peer tours. |
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| Jurisdiction Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates | DC Report-Out: Brianne Nadeau DE Report-Out: Don Phillips MD Report-Out: Bruce Williams PA Report-Out: Michael Helfrich VA Report-Out: Richard Baugh WV Report-Out: Josephine Saikali (WV Jurisdiction Rep) NY Report-Out: Suzy Ryan | DC - The DC Delegation has been grappling with local budgetary issues, and is also focused on passing a bottle bill to reduce plastic pollution. DE - The DE Delegation is planning a meeting with state leaders for later this year. MD - The MD Delegation discussed leadership nominations and briefed members on the upcoming MD Peer-to-Peer tour scheduled for this fall. PA - The PA Delegation recognized the recent passing of long-serving LGAC Member John Thomas, briefed members on the upcoming PA Peer-to-Peer tours, and received an update on the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan from PA DEP. VA - The VA Delegation briefed members on the upcoming VA Peer-to-Peer tour in April, received funding updates from VA DEQ, and had a robust discussion about the future of the local leadership outcome. WV - LGAC Staff have requested a new member be appointed. J. Saikali provided funding and legislative updates for WV. NY - The NY Delegation provided state updates and shared that a NY member has been appointed to newly formed CBP Agricultural Advisory Committee. |
| Chesapeake Bay Program Updates | Khesha Reed, Deputy Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Contact: reed.khesha@epa.gov | K. Rheed provided background on the new CBP administration, and shared staffing and budget updates. |

| | Keith Bollt, Life Scientist, Chesapeake Bay Program Office Contact: Bollt.Keith@epa.gov | |
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| Workshop: Setting the Stage for a Discussion on Conservation | Facilitator: Josh Hastings, MD LGAC Member | To prepare for the June LGAC Meeting, members began to discuss land use challenges in their communities, different definitions of conservation, how LGAC can clarify roles for state/federal partners in local land use issues, and what it means for local governments to 'elevate conservation' within the Chesapeake Bay Program. Members also provided feedback on the draft objectives for the June LGAC Meeting. Actions: Staff to share the Mentimeter results from the workshop discussion. KC Filippino shared the CBT's Conservation Land-Use Policy Toolkit for members' reference. This toolkit was also used in the creation of the Protect Local Waterways Preserving Local Character and Landscapes module. |
| Final Thoughts/Actions from this Meeting | | Staff shared action items from the meeting. |

LGAC Members Present: Richard Baugh, Emeritus Member Phil Briddell, Daniel Chao, Frank Dawson, Amy Dubois, Cindy Dyballa, Jasmine Gore, Elizabeth Grant, Penny Gross, Josh Hastings, Michael Helfrich, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Sheila Noll, Don Phillips, Kelly Porter, Marty Qually, Susan Ryan, and Emeritus Member Bruce Williams.

LGAC Staff: Laura Cattell Noll and Kayli Ottomanelli.

LLWG Staff: Rick Mittler.

Speaker/Guests Present: Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Keith Bollt (EPA CBPO), Katie Brownson (USFS), Maura Christian (VA DEQ), Meg Cole (CRC STAC), Carrie Decker (MD DNR), Rachel Felver (Alliance), KC Filippino (Hampton Roads PDC), Kate Fritz (Alliance), David Goshorn (MD DNR), Norm Goulet (NVRC), Emily Heller (EPA CBPO), James Hutzler (VACo), Les Knapp (MDE), Tom Leigh (Alliance), Jeff Lerner (EPA CBPO), Alex LoCurto (Alliance), Bianca Martinez Penn (EPA CBPO), Tou Matthews (CRC STAC), Sabine Miller (MD DNR), Lindsey Milstein (DOPC), Serena Moncion (ICPRB), Lucinda Power (EPA CBPO), Khesha Reed (EPA CBPO), Josephine Saikali (WV Region 9), Mitchell Smiley (VML), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC), Suzanne Trevena (EPA), Erin Vesey (PA DEP), and Bo Williams (EPA CBPO).