

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – February 2023**  
*Chesapeake Bay Program*



# Local Leadership

*Heidi Bonnaffon*  
*LLWG 2022 Chair*

*Michelle Edwards*  
*LLWG 2023 Chair*

*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*

**Goal:** *Stewardship*

**Outcome:**

*Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.*





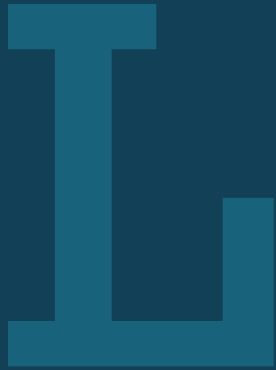
## What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?



RECENT PROGRESS  
**INCREASE**

- **Completed all management actions & tracked identified metrics:**
  - 1,300+ local officials directly engaged
  - 9,500+ local officials indirectly engaged
  - 31 training and education opportunities
  - 4.8/5 avg. rating on learning tours
  - 900+ planners directly engaged
  - 200+ planners indirectly engaged
  - 12+ local government association partners
  - Baseline survey was completed





# Learn

*What have we learned in the last two years?*





## Successes and Challenges

### What worked:

- *Engagement*: peer to peer, trusted sources, workgroup members
- *Education*: editable educational modules allowed for customization
- *Partnership*: working closely with jurisdictions and local government associations

### Gaps Filled:

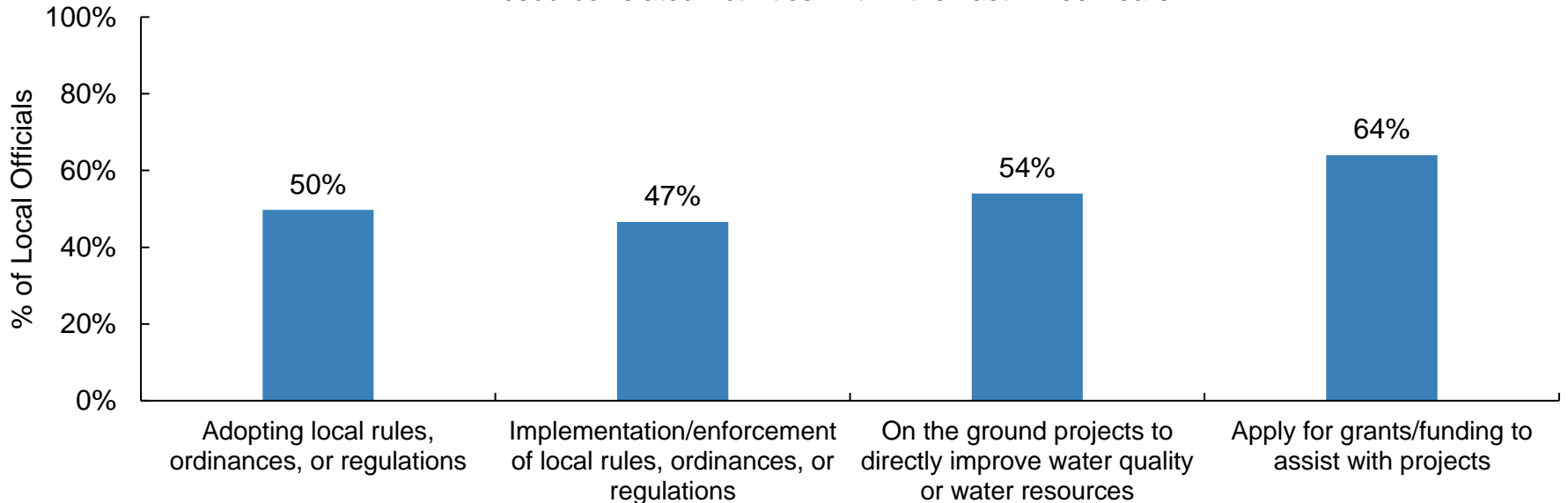
- Educational modules filled a gap for ‘tailored educational materials’
- Engagement with planners activated a network of ‘teachers’ for local officials
- Baseline survey has expanded our understanding of local officials’ knowledge and capacity



## What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?

## •Baseline Indicator established in 2022: Reported Actions

% of Local Officials Responding They have Undertaken Water Quality or Water Resource-related Activities Within the Last Three Years

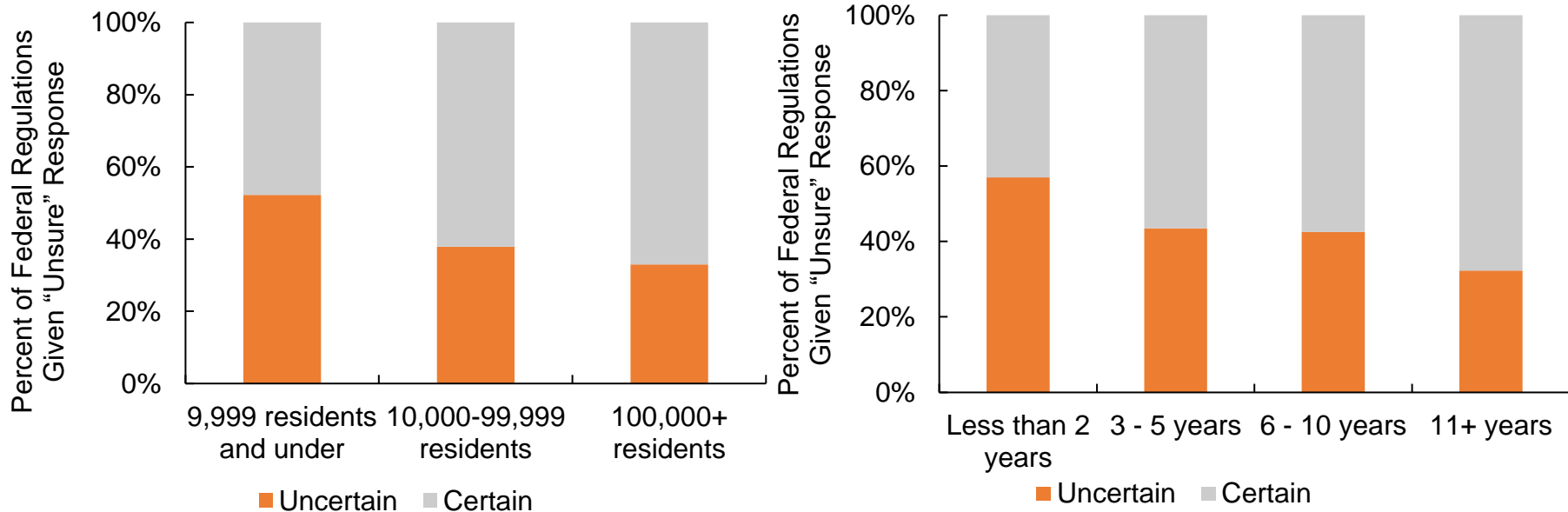




## What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?

## •Baseline Indicator established in 2022: Knowledge of Regulations

*Local Officials Self-Reporting Uncertainty Regarding Which Federal Regulations their Community is Subjected to*





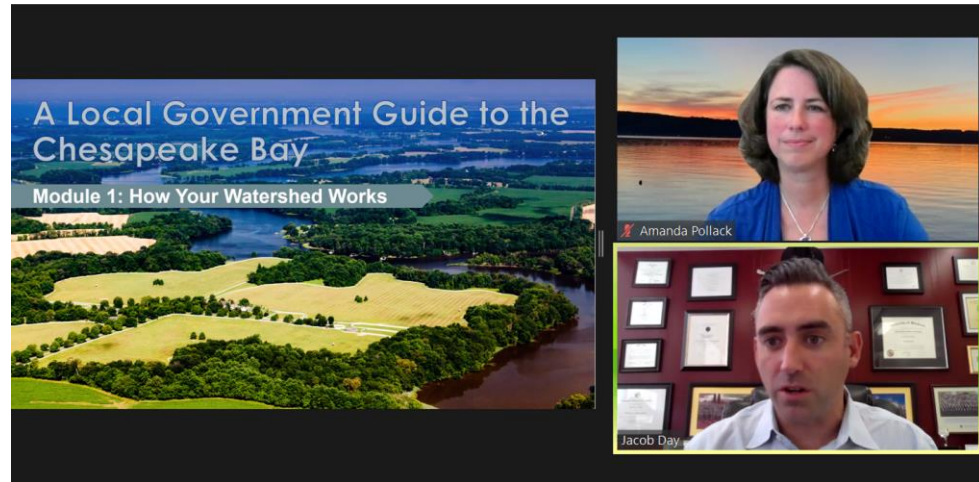
## Successes and Challenges

### What didn't work:

- Lengthy survey approval process & challenging indicator development
- Limited response in the baseline survey

### Obstacles:

- Capacity issues in accessing new federal funding
- Funding peer to peer learning exchanges can be challenging







## On the Horizon

- **Federal funding** – a large infusion of federal dollars via ARPA, BIL and IRA means local governments have more access to funding
- **Climate change** – local governments are acknowledging and addressing the impacts of climate change, especially flooding
- **Turnover** – local elected official turnover continues to be a challenge
- **Workforce** – ongoing issues with capacity and training, supply chain challenges, and labor shortages

A large, stylized teal letter 'A' logo is positioned on the left side of the slide. The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of an outdoor garden area with various plants and a group of people in the distance. The slide has a dark teal header and a light green footer.

# **Adapt**

*How does all of this impact our work?*



## Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- Continue to **expand and deepen engagement** networks through educational opportunities
- Incorporate **educational programming** into local elected officials training programs
- **Expand capacity building**, particularly around accessing new federal funding
- Focus engagement on **officials with the greatest needs**, those from smaller communities and those who are newly elected
- **Balance engagement activities** between virtual and in-person



## Equitable and inclusive restoration ...

- In May 2021, the LLWG had a meeting focused on DEIJ
- **Meeting Recommendations** to ensure our work is equitably distributed and/or focused on historically underrepresented communities include:
  - Expand regional and/or county-level chapter or association educational opportunities
  - Identify/build strategic partnerships with 3+ trusted sources for underrepresented communities and invite them to join the LLWG

A large, stylized teal letter 'F' logo is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a dark blue background. The 'F' is composed of solid teal blocks.The background of the slide is a photograph of a group of people walking on a dirt trail in a natural, wooded area. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid. The people are dressed in outdoor or business-casual attire. One man in the foreground is wearing a dark jacket with a circular logo on the sleeve. The trees in the background are tall and thin, possibly pines or cypresses.

# Fill the Gap

*How can the Management Board help achieve the Outcome?*



## Filling the Gap

We need **your** help with...

- Requesting Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG) funds to support the Peer2Peer Engagement (Bus Tours)
- Tailoring the educational modules regionally/statewide
- Identifying underrepresented communities and inviting them to join the LLWG

Over the next 2 years, we plan to accelerate our collective efforts

***We ask for your continued support!***





## THANK YOU!

- Thanks to...
  - 1) strong partnerships with local government associations
  - 2) support from **YOU** and **YOUR jurisdiction...**
- ...we are *increasing the knowledge and capacity* of local officials.



## THANK YOU Jurisdiction Representatives!

- DE → Jim Sullivan
- DC → Julia Wakeling
- NY → Janet Thigpen
- PA → Tree Zuzzio, Megan Lehman
- VA → Jake Kline
- MD → Les Knapp, Kathy Stecker, Phillip Stafford
- WV → Megan Diehl



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**Discussion**