



**Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
Actions and Decisions
July 19, 2022**

Next Steps for the Watershed Agreement and Bay TMDL

- Decision: The PSC will recommend to the EC that they charge the PSC with delivering (over the next year) an assessment snapshot of each outcome along with an assessment of relevant science and emerging issues—ones that could affect our ability to reach our goals and outcomes by 2025 and beyond. Included in this charge, the EC will task the PSC with initiating planning discussions (a series of meetings or a forum) on getting to 2025 and next steps beyond 2025.
- Note: The partners should consider integrating the findings from STAC's CESR Report as well as findings from the CBP's Strategy Review System and using the Biennial SRS Meeting in Spring 2023 to help shape this work.

Changes from CAST19 to CAST21

- Decision: Decision: Several jurisdiction representatives requested more information about how the CBP plans to correct the omitted fertilizer data in CAST 19 and its impacts. CBPO staff will schedule (in early August) individual meetings with the jurisdiction partners and their technical staff to answer questions and to inform the partners about the updates to CAST 19 and CAST 21. Further, CBPO staff will work with the partners to schedule a follow-up PSC meeting (virtual) in late August to address the lingering questions about updating CAST 2019 and releasing CAST 2021.

Conowingo WIP Financing/Nutrient Assignments

- Decision: The PSC reached consensus that the Susquehanna jurisdictions (PA, NY, and MD) can address the Conowingo nutrients loads through the actions outlined in the Conowingo WIP using a phased approach that extends beyond 2025. This phased approach will allow time to build the organizational infrastructure to implement the Conowingo WIP.

Implementing Monitoring Analysis Recommendations

- Decision: The PSC agreed to hold a kick-off meeting to discuss how to implement the Monitoring Analysis Recommendations. The partners agree to identify high-level monitoring program managers (with funding decision-making ability) to attend the fall meeting.
- Action: PSC members are requested to send their representatives' names to Lee McDonnell (mcdonnell.lee@epa.gov) by August 12.

Accelerating Progress on Wetlands and Forest Buffers

- Decision: The Forest Buffers team agreed to return to the next PSC meeting with a short list of *specific actions* (possibly pulled from the state plans) the PSC members can take to accelerate progress. The team will also provide the PSC with an updated chart.
- Note: The Wetlands Workshop is scheduled for August 2-3, per the request of the PSC. The focus of the workshop is to understand the barriers to achieving the wetlands outcome, identify approaches to overcoming those barriers, and developing an action plan to implement



identified actions. In December, the steering committee will present a draft final Action Plan to the Management Board, and if approved, submit it to the PSC at its next meeting. The steering committee will work with the participants to develop appendices for each Jurisdiction.

- Action: The steering committee requests that each PSC jurisdiction member send a high-level participant to the workshop and commit to completing their appendices after the workshop.
- Note: Kathy Boomer pointed out an exciting grant opportunity to explore/test outreach strategies to increase landowner willingness to adopt conservation practices, including wetlands and forest buffers: <https://foundationfar.org/grants-funding/opportunities/achieving-conservation-through-targeting-information-outreach-and-networking-action-program-request-for-applications/>. Results should facilitate spreading success to regional scales. No match required and coordinated with NFWF to facilitate implementation.

Executive Council Meeting Planning

- Note: The 2022 EC Meeting will be held in Washington, DC, tentatively at EPA Headquarters. Possible dates include, October 11, 12, 13.

Partnership Response to EC Climate Change Directive

- Decision: The PSC approved the workplan with its list of nine climate actions recommended by the Climate Directive Action Team and will commence with implementation.

Changes to the Watershed Agreement

- Decision: The PSC approved by consensus a recommendation to the Executive Council for the 17 edits to the Watershed Agreement's general text, goals and outcomes, Vision statement, and signatory page, as presented. These changes substitute original language with new language that is more inclusive to those who are not currently citizens of the United States. The PSC requested that a second "Amendments" page clearly identifying these 17 changes be added to the document (versus adding these 17 changes to the bottom of the existing Amendments page that identified the previous changes from January, 2020).
- Note: These changes to the Watershed Agreement will next be submitted for public input (as required by the Watershed Agreement) and then will be framed to the EC as part of a larger set of actions the partnership is taking to implement the DEIJ Directive.

Partner Updates

- PA submitted its Phase 3 WIP to EPA Region 3.
- The 2021 Department of Defense's Annual Chesapeake Bay Program Progress Report is now available at: www.denix.osd.mil/chesapeake/dod-cbp-annual-progress-reports/
- VA hopes to tap into the \$175M in DOD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program with an award of a Sentinel Landscape designation for the Virginia Security Corridor. The Virginia Security Corridor application is a collaborative effort between DOD, Fed and State Agencies as well as NGO's, non-profits, and NASA. If Virginia is awarded this designation, it will provide for a true landscape approach as VA would close a gap between MD



and NC which currently have designations. Please contact Terry Lasher (terry.lasher@dof.virginia.gov) for more information about this ongoing effort in VA.