

Agreement Timeline Options

Background: The PSC agreed to a timeline for the new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement that would have the new Agreement completed and signed at the December 12 Executive Council meeting. That timeline included a 30 day public comment period on the final draft. Due to multiple setbacks, including the Federal government shutdown, a final draft was not available for public review in October. Therefore, the PSC must approve a new timeline for the completion of the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. Following are two options for your consideration.

Option 1: Draft Agreement ready for Public release at December 12, 2013 EC meeting. Final signed at an EC meeting in the Spring 2014

Pros: Most of the issues of concern related to the current draft Agreement have been worked through. There is a high likelihood of getting agreement on the remaining issues if the PSC can take some time to discuss them in a conference call over the next couple of weeks. It would be the centerpiece of the EC meeting

Cons: There may not be adequate time by December 12 to brief EC members on the Agreement. At least one signatory will be changing administrations and the new administration would have to be briefed on the new Agreement.

Option 2: EC issues a directive for public review beginning at the end of January and signing the final in Spring 2014

Pros: It would give adequate time for signatory review of the draft prior to going out for public review. The directive would keep the timeline on track, since it would be a commitment of the EC.

Cons: There will not be a draft that the EC members can release in December, making the December EC meeting less meaningful.