

Chesapeake Bay Program

Local Government Advisory Committee

2012 Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council

LGAC Overview of Issues

EPA and the Bay jurisdictions must play a major role in funding local projects and in providing much needed technical assistance to local levels of government. LGAC has identified three key principles in restoring the Chesapeake Bay:

1. *Clear Expectations*: Provide clear expectations regarding the level of effort anticipated, as well as effective tools for tracking progress toward implementation goals. Frame issues in such a way that are easily understood as to be supported by those who will be affected by these implementation activities.
2. *Consistent Regulations*: Local governments are concerned with inconsistencies between competing regulatory mandates and lack of a focused effort to coordinate multiple regulatory initiatives. It is imperative that regulations developed at all levels of government be consistent.
3. *Committed Funding*: Local governments need strong bottom-up, locally-based implementation efforts to meet the Executive Order goals. In order to do this, local governments need funding for implementation of the Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), particularly within the context of reducing stormwater loads; and provide sustained technical assistance.

	LGAC Recommendation	Status
Funding	Request to EC: Ensure that jurisdictions and federal agencies provide a stream of committed funding to help implement WIPs.	CBPO continues to provide funding to help jurisdictions and localities implement WIPs. For FY 2012 \$20.7 million were made available to the jurisdictions for WIP Implementation. In addition, the Innovative Nutrient/ Sediment Reduction grants (\$8 million) and the Small Watershed Grants (\$2 million) provide funding to local governments and organizations that work to improve the condition of their local watershed.
Technical Assistance	Request to EC: Find ways to continue and expand current technical assistance efforts.	CBPO is assisting the jurisdictions and local communities through a combination of grants and technical assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (NFWF) – Grants awarded for Green Infrastructure Showcase Projects, Local Government Capacity Building, and As-Needed Technical Assistance. - Stormwater technical coordinator – technical assistance to jurisdictions. - Continued support for CAST/MAST/VAST
Stormwater	Request to EC: Work with local governments to develop cost-effective/flexible solutions to stormwater issues that must be addressed in the WIPs.	A dozen WIP Financing workshops are being planned as a part of a University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center's (EFC) cooperative agreement with the CBPO. The workshops are being designed to help local communities address existing and future stormwater as well as rural financing programs.
EC Discussion	Request to EC: Allow more time for discussion with Advisory Committee Chairs at future EC meetings.	This request will be discussed by the planning committee for the 2013 EC meeting.