

**Citizens Advisory Committee 2012 Recommendations to the
Chesapeake Executive Council
CAC Recommendations**

	CAC Recommendation	Status
1. Citizen Engagement – Educate Our Youth	a. Every State and the District of Columbia approve an environmental literacy graduation requirement, ensuring that every watershed student receives a comprehensive, diverse environmental education before graduation from high school.	The Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy includes a goal to graduate environmentally literate students. As noted below, this strategy was adopted by the CBP Federal Partners in June 2012.
	b. Establish two year milestones for achieving the environmental literacy for all students in the watershed.	GIT 5's Education Workgroup (EWG) is developing new research-based best practices and associated metrics to be completed in Spring 2013. Two year milestones may be developed based on this work.
	c. Encourage the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bay Program to actively support the environmental education efforts of the State and local education agencies in the watershed	US Dept of Education has newly established staff-level participation with EWG. CBP is not actively pursuing a formal MOU at this time.
	d. Support the Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy, developed by NOAA in partnership with the States	Environmental Literacy Strategy adopted by Federal Partners/published June 2012; CAC requests CBP adoption at the Dec. 5 meeting.
	e. Bay Program partners support the Land and Water Conservation Fund Landscape Collaborative and funding in the federal Fiscal 2014 budget to support landscape-level conservation in the watershed	Completed. The Chesapeake Bay Commission organized a letter of support for the Fund which was signed by individual CBP partners.
	f. Establish an MOU with the Bay Program and the Bureau of Land Management and the Office of Surface Mining.	No CBP action taken to date.

	<p>Note: CAC believes we must reduce nutrient and sediment loads from <i>all sources</i> including for example, impacts associated with hydro-fracking and acid mine drainage. BLM and OSM have programs which contribute to conservation, recreation and water quality improvements in the watershed. An MOU would encourage full partnership with these agencies and help to address some issues that CAC feels are not currently being addressed by the CBP, but has impacts on the TMDL.</p>	
2. Citizen Engagement – Public Access to the Bay and Rivers	We encourage you to expand upon the current 2 percent of the watershed’s shoreline which is publicly accessible and establish new goals for land conservation and public access	Chesapeake Public Access Plan addresses this recommendation. Document is almost final; an update will be provided at the Dec. 5 PSC meeting. CAC is seeking CBP adoption.
3. Accountability – Nutrient Trading	a. Recommend full transparency, verification and public involvement in the jurisdictions’ water quality nutrient trading programs	Already occurring.
	b. Use the two-year milestones and/or the annual EC meetings to report on progress made to address the issues included in the EPA reviews of the state’s trading programs as well as other issues (such as local water quality protection) raised by numerous stakeholders	
4. Accountability – WIPs and 2 Year Milestones	<p>Each partner provide a short summary at each Executive Council meeting of its progress in meeting reductions of pollution from their top five loading sources. The summary should include areas where jurisdictions are falling short of their goals along with an explanation of measures that will be pursued to address the gaps.</p> <p>(Include specific mention of ways jurisdictions are improving the enforcement component of their work.)</p> <p>Note: This recommendation advises the jurisdictions to expand the reporting and for example, include: (1) progress on responding/revising State and DC nutrient credit trading programs to be in line with EPA’s recommendations (even if</p>	Two-year milestone progress is already incorporated into EC meeting reporting. However, reporting on just the top five loading sources has not been discussed.

	<p>they are administrative changes made in the program), (2) report on environmental literacy (administratively, if the plans are still in development and programmatically, how many school children have completed the requirements each year), (3) – 2-year milestones may not be the best forum for this- but, report where pollution reduction efforts are falling short and explain the measures that will be pursued in the coming years to address the gaps, and (4) show the public how they are improving enforcement to meet nutrient and sediment goals.</p>	
5. Communications – Beyond Water Quality	<p>The General Public Care about Clean Water for Drinking, Swimming and Fishing – NOT TMDLs and WIPs: The jurisdictions should set goals for restoration of fisheries, living resources and habitats, and stewardship.</p> <p>Note: CAC recommends using language that is plain and that links TMDLs and WIPs to relatable concepts will help the public to better understand what is being done and why. CAC also recommends the Partnership adopt new goals beyond just nutrient and sediment reductions.</p>	<p>New GIT goals (many based on the EO goals/outcomes) are being finalized through the efforts of the alignment process.</p>
6. Communications – Conowingo Dam	<p>Remember Hurricane Agnes and consider the cost of inaction in addressing sediment storage behind the Conowingo Dam.</p>	<p>Multiple CBP partners including Maryland, Pennsylvania, USGS, USACE, and EPA are working together to address this issue.</p>