

Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting

September 25, 2020

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Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

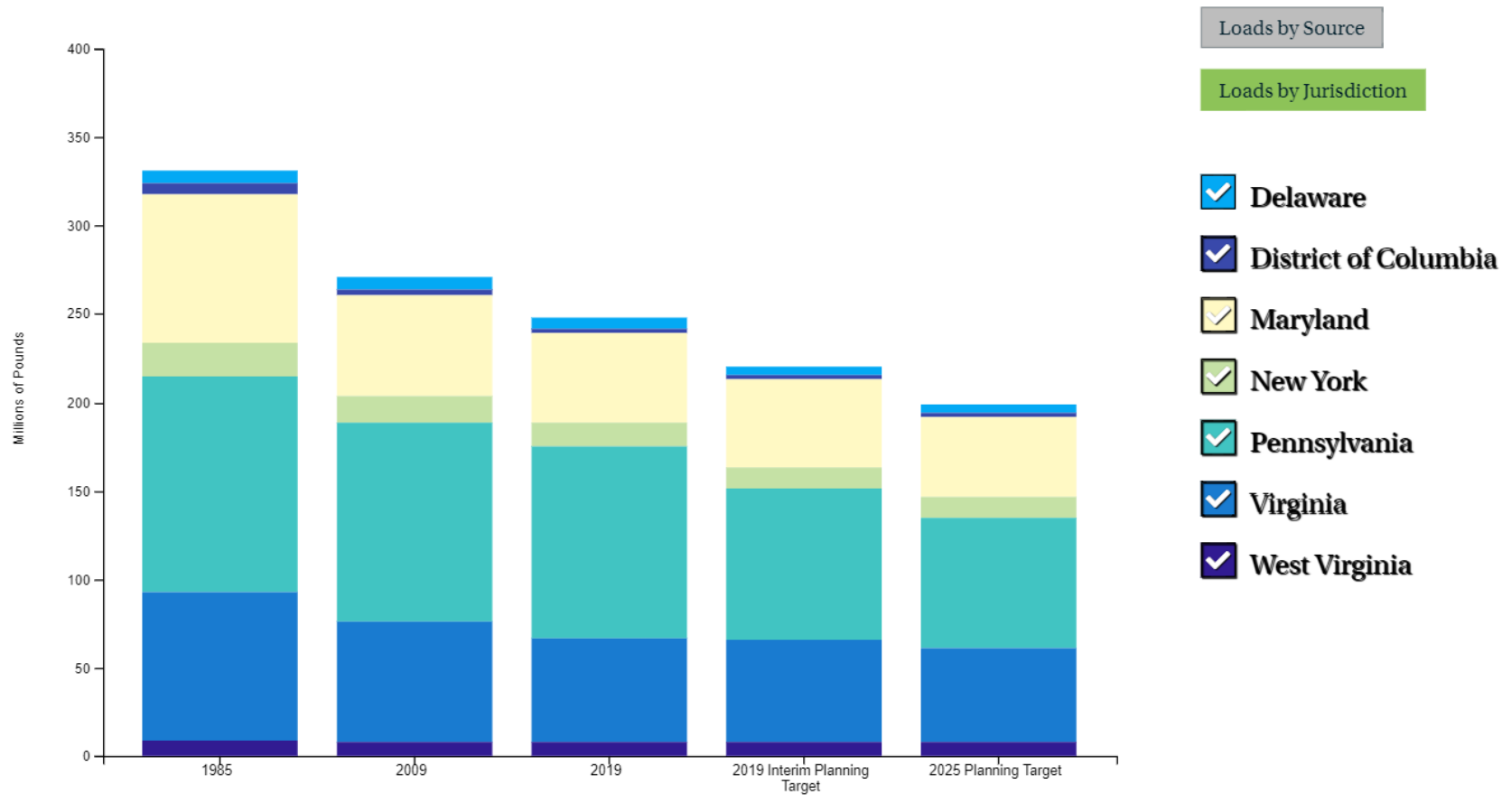
EPA CBPO Program Update

- The jurisdictions progress in meeting 2025 targets
- Conowingo WIP Update
- Most effective basins funding allocation methodology
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice commitments
- Other?



Modeled Nitrogen Loads to the Chesapeake Bay (1985-2019)

Loads simulated using CAST17 and jurisdiction-reported data on wastewater discharges.



<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/>

Jurisdictions 2019 Progress Summary

Jurisdiction	Meeting 2025 Targets For:	NOT Meeting 2025 Targets For:
DE	P and S	N
DC	ALL	
MD	S	N and P
NY	P	N and S
PA	NONE	
VA	S	N and P
WV	ALL	

Draft Conowingo WIP Implementation Strategy

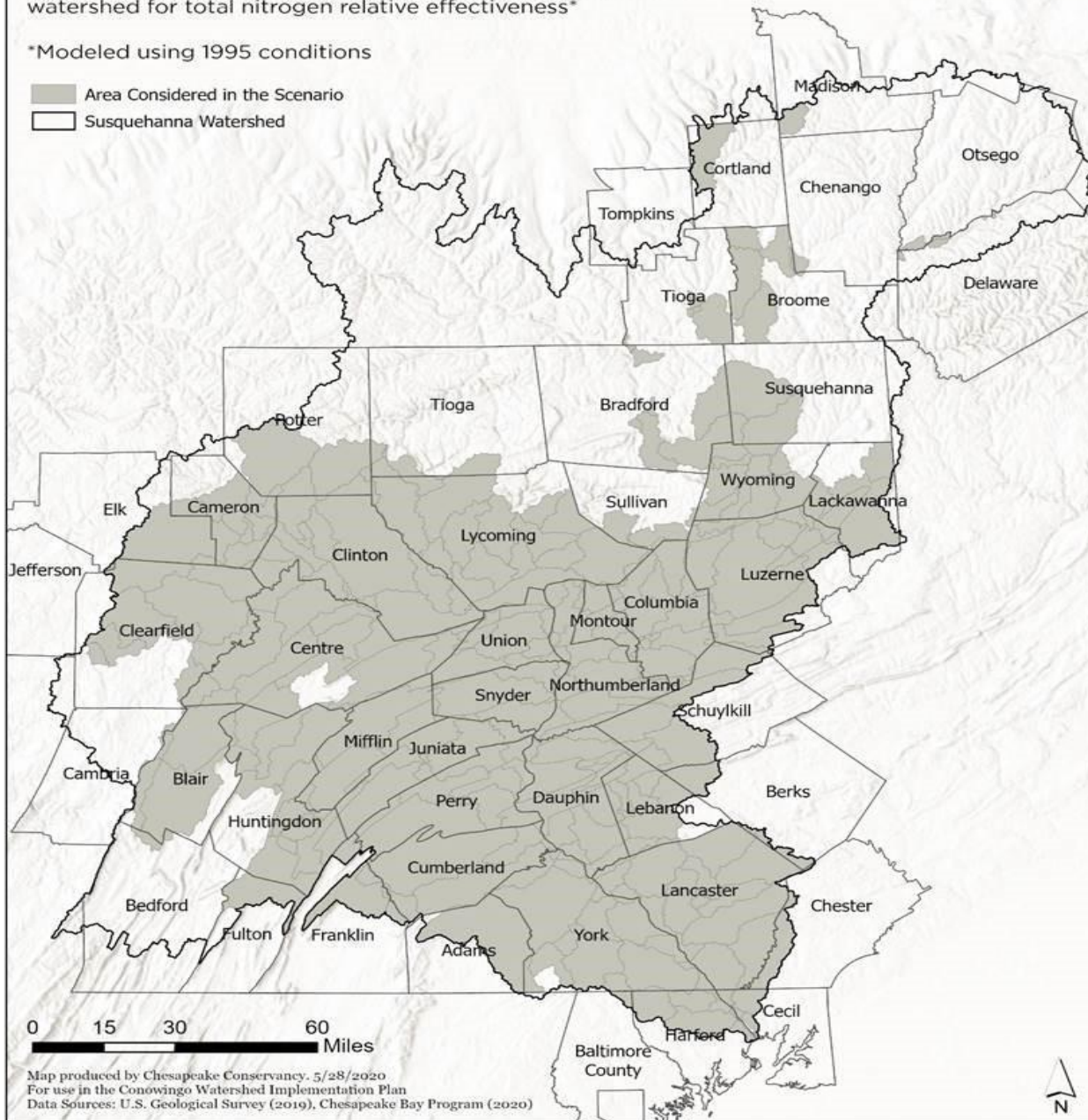
- The Steering Committee and the PSC approved one “preferred” implementation scenario to target most nitrogen-effective practices in the Susquehanna River basin (PA, MD, & NY), which has the greatest relative influence on Dissolved Oxygen in the Bay.
 - The majority of implementation will occur in PA.
 - The cost per year is \$53.3M (the range for the other 10 scenarios that were considered is \$50M – \$368M)
- The primary WIP strategy supports restoration efforts in three core areas:
 1. Natural filters (e.g., wetland restoration & riparian forest buffers)
 2. Sustainable farm practices (e.g., prescribed grazing & conservation tillage)
 3. Nutrient reduction practices (e.g., nutrient management & manure incorporation)

Geographic Extent of the Primary Conowingo WIP Strategy

Upper median of land river segments within the Susquehanna watershed for total nitrogen relative effectiveness*

*Modeled using 1995 conditions

- Area Considered in the Scenario
- Susquehanna Watershed



Map produced by Chesapeake Conservancy, 5/28/2020
For use in the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan
Data Sources: U.S. Geological Survey (2019), Chesapeake Bay Program (2020)

Nitrogen Load Reduction (Millions of Pounds) for the Primary CWIP Scenario				
STATE	Sector	Baseline	Primary CWIP	N Reduction
MD	Agriculture	0.85	0.68	0.17
	Developed	0.35	0.35	0.00
	Natural	0.26	0.26	0.01
	Septic	0.19	0.19	0.00
	MD Total	1.67	1.49	0.18
NY	Agriculture	5.62	5.50	0.12
	Developed	1.52	1.52	0.01
	Natural	2.97	2.96	0.01
	Septic	0.19	0.19	0.00
	NY Total	12.39	12.26	0.13
PA	Agriculture	39.20	33.51	5.69
	Developed	13.98	13.34	0.64
	Natural	16.51	16.42	0.09
	Septic	1.66	1.66	0.00
	PA Total	79.29	72.87	6.41
TOTAL		93.35	86.62	6.72

Conowingo WIP & Financing Strategy Timeline

--Subject to Change--

- **Sept 15 – Oct 1:** PSC Review of Draft Conowingo WIP
- **Oct 1 – Oct 9:** Revisions to draft based on PSC comments
- **Oct 15:** PSC approves public release of draft Conowingo WIP
- **Oct 16 – Dec 21:** 60-day public review of draft Conowingo WIP
 - Includes EPA's formal review and evaluation of draft WIP

***Steering Committee needs to determine schedule for finalizing the Conowingo WIP based on feedback received from the public comment period and EPA*

- **Dec 2020:** Draft financing strategy submitted to Steering Committee for review and comment
- **March 2021:** Final financing strategy posted to CBP website
- **Winter 2022-2023:** Implementation of financing activities

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Most Effective Basins Funding

- Load effectiveness is a measure of the ability of management practices implemented in a given area (basin) to have a positive effect on dissolved oxygen in the Bay.
- Load effectiveness is the combination of three factors: land to water, delivery, and dissolved oxygen response. There are 383 basins in the watershed being used for this methodology.

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Most Effective Basins Funding

- Will provide this funding for nitrogen reduction from the most cost-effective BMPs in the agricultural sector to the Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions that have committed to reducing the agricultural contribution of nitrogen in their Phase III WIPs, i.e. DE, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV.
- Using the state Phase III WIPs, each identified nitrogen reduction commitment between now and 2025. The total load of these obligations to reduce nitrogen from agriculture was added and then a percentage for each jurisdictions was determined to allocate this \$6 million of MEB funding.

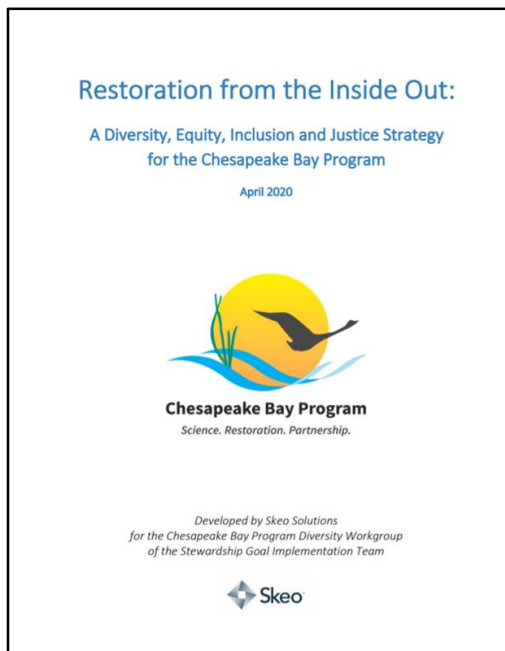
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Most Effective Basins Funding

- Table 1 shows, by jurisdiction, the percentage of agricultural sector implementation proposed in each WIP and the resulting MEB funding allocation.

Jurisdiction	Phase III WIP Ag Nitrogen Commitment (million pounds)	Percent of Total Nitrogen Commitment Proposed	MEB Funding Allocations (\$)
DC	0.0	0.00%	-
DE	2.2	6.08%	\$ 364,540
MD	4.2	11.60%	\$ 695,940
NY	0.5	1.33%	\$ 79,536
PA	22.3	61.59%	\$ 3,695,112
VA	6.7	18.50%	\$ 1,110,191
WV	0.3	0.91%	\$ 54,681
Totals	36.2	100.00%	\$ 6,000,000

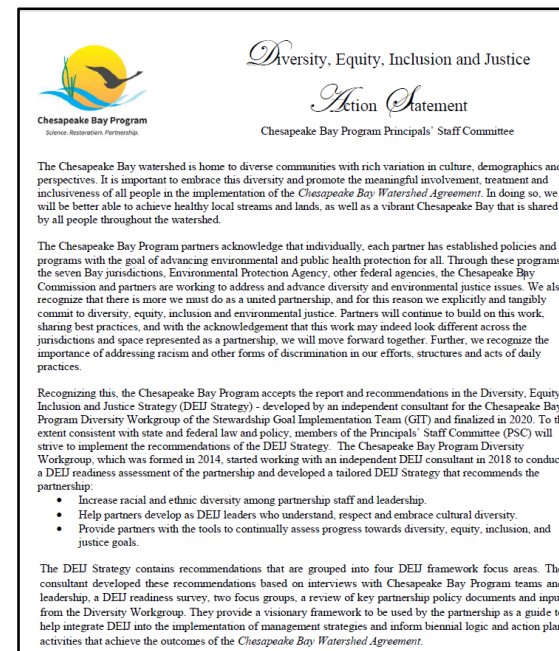
Quick reminder...



The DEIJ Strategy was developed by Skeo Solutions with the Diversity Workgroup's input. It is 59 pages long and has 20 broad recommendations with a total of 48 total actions for the CBP.



The Executive Council's DEIJ Statement articulates our commitment to embrace DEIJ in all areas of the Chesapeake Bay Program. It is 2 pages long.



The PSC's action statement articulates your commitment to implement the recommendations in the CBP DEIJ Strategy. It is 3 pages long and has 5 actionable commitments.

The five commitments in the PSC Action Statement



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice

Action Statement

Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee

The Chesapeake Bay watershed is home to diverse communities with rich variation in culture, demographics and perspectives. It is important to embrace this diversity and promote the meaningful involvement, treatment and inclusiveness of all people in the implementation of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. In doing so, we will be better able to achieve healthy local streams and lands, as well as a vibrant Chesapeake Bay that is shared by all people throughout the watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners acknowledge that individually, each partner has established policies and programs with the goal of advancing environmental and public health protection for all. Through these programs, the seven Bay jurisdictions, Environmental Protection Agency, other federal agencies, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and partners are working to address and advance diversity and environmental justice issues. We also recognize that there is more we must do as a united partnership, and for this reason we explicitly and tangibly commit to diversity, equity, inclusion and environmental justice. Partners will continue to build on this work, sharing best practices, and with the acknowledgement that this work may indeed look different across the jurisdictions and space represented as a partnership, we will move forward together. Further, we recognize the importance of addressing racism and other forms of discrimination in our efforts, structures and acts of daily practices.

Recognizing this, the Chesapeake Bay Program accepts the report and recommendations in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Strategy (DEIJ Strategy) - developed by an independent consultant for the Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Workgroup of the Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT) and finalized in 2020. To the extent consistent with state and federal law and policy, members of the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) will strive to implement the recommendations of the DEIJ Strategy. The Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Workgroup, which was formed in 2014, started working with an independent DEIJ consultant in 2018 to conduct a DEIJ readiness assessment of the partnership and developed a tailored DEIJ Strategy that recommends the partnership:

- Increase racial and ethnic diversity among partnership staff and leadership.
- Help partners develop as DEIJ leaders who understand, respect and embrace cultural diversity.
- Provide partners with the tools to continually assess progress towards diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice goals.

The DEIJ Strategy contains recommendations that are grouped into four DEIJ framework focus areas. The consultant developed these recommendations based on interviews with Chesapeake Bay Program teams and leadership, a DEIJ readiness survey, two focus groups, a review of key partnership policy documents and input from the Diversity Workgroup. They provide a visionary framework to be used by the partnership as a guide to help integrate DEIJ into the implementation of management strategies and inform biennial logic and action plan activities that achieve the outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

5 PSC ACTION STATEMENT COMMITMENTS

To implement the recommendations in the DEIJ Strategy, the PSC commits to:

1. Within **six months** of the signing of the Chesapeake Executive Council statement, **a draft implementation plan for the DEIJ Strategy will be presented to the PSC**. The development of this plan will include direct outreach to underrepresented communities for input and feedback.
2. Within **three months** of the signing of the Chesapeake Executive Council statement, **explore a process for a community advisory board composed of environmental justice leaders and representatives from organizations led by people of color or other underrepresented groups**. This board could be part of one of the partnership's existing advisory boards (Citizens Advisory Committee or Local Government Advisory Committee).

5 PSC ACTION STATEMENT COMMITMENTS

3. Advancement of the DEIJ Strategy through work plan development and implementation for all GITs and Workgroups on their respective strategy review system schedules.
4. Meaningful inclusion of DEIJ milestones on the agendas for the Management Board and PSC meetings at a minimum every six months with a commitment to update the Chesapeake Executive Council annually.
5. Meaningful consideration of DEIJ in development of any future Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement(s).

PSC Commitment #2

*Within **three months** of the signing of the Chesapeake Executive Council statement, **explore a process for a community advisory board composed of environmental justice leaders and representatives from organizations led by people of color or other underrepresented groups.** This board could be part of one of the partnership's existing advisory boards: the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) or Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC).*

Recent coordination:

- ▶ We've had recent conversations with the Diversity Workgroup, CAC, GIT 6 (Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT), and MB about this.
- ▶ We developed a Community Advisory Board (CAB) Options and Issues Paper that we will share on the screen at this time.

Questions?



Learn more:

- www.chesapeakebay.net
- www.chesapeakeprogress.com
- www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl
- **Facebook: Chesapeake Bay Program**
- **Twitter: @chesbayprogram**
- **Instagram: @chesbayprogram**

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