Executive Council 2021 Climate Change Directive

Principals' Staff Committee Climate Change Action Team Recommendation

Chair: Ann Jennings, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources

PSC Meeting, June 2, 2021

Overview:

- Climate Change Action Team Members
- Charge from the Principals' Staff Committee
- Review Final Draft Executive Council 2021 Climate Change Directive
- Discussion and Approval by PSC Members
- Next Steps -- Executive Council Signatures

Climate Change Action Team Members

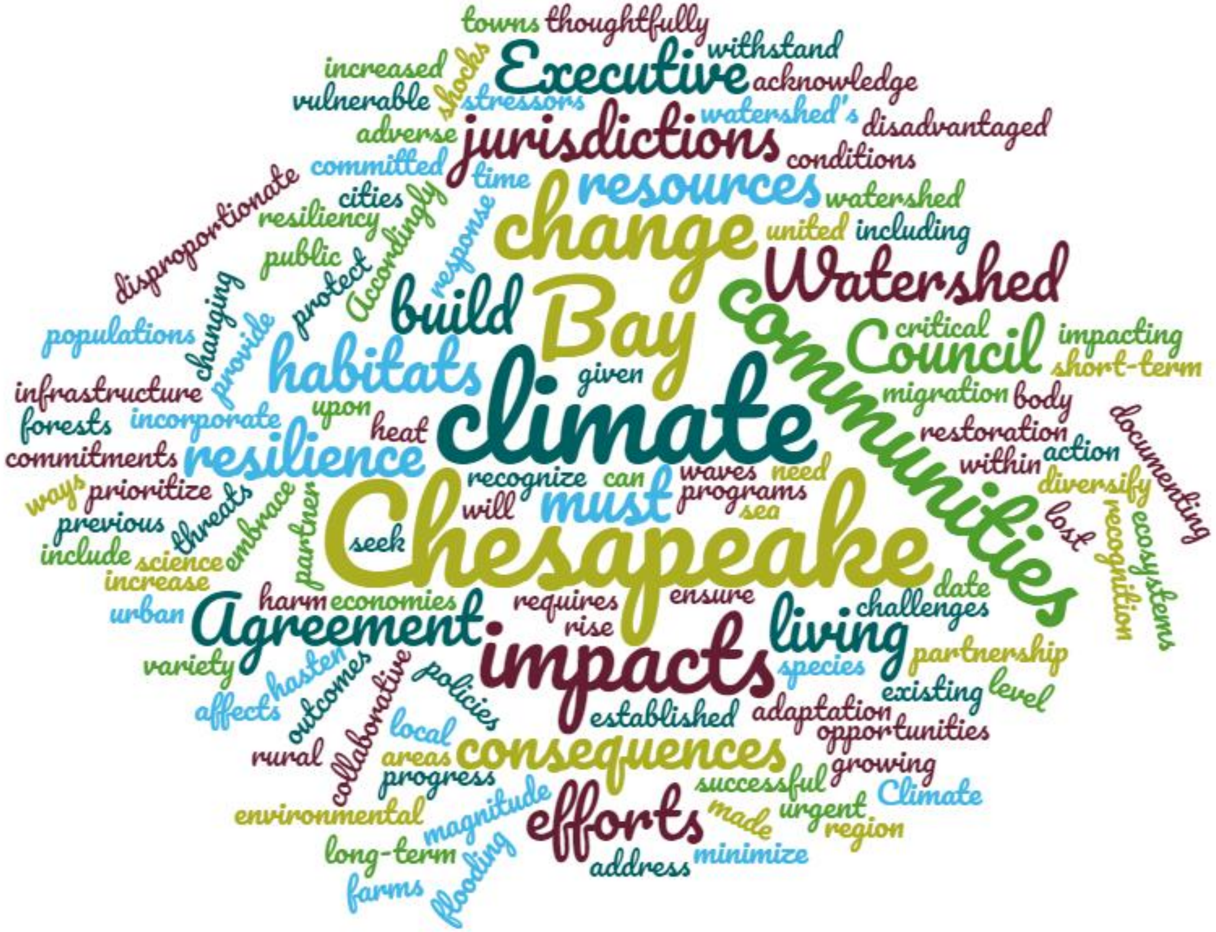
Chris Brosch	Delaware	Program Administrator, Delaware Dept. of Agriculture
Lauren Townley	New York	Chief, Watershed Section A, NYS DEC, Division of Water
John Maleri	DC	Environmental Protection Specialist, DOEE, Watershed Protection Division
Adrienne Kotula	CBC	Virginia Director
Teresa Koon	West Virginia	Assistant Director, WV DEP Division of Water and Waste Management
Mark Bennett	USGS/Fed. Govt.	Center Director, Virginia and West Virginia Water Science Center
Suzanne Dorsey	Maryland	MDE Assistant Secretary
Josh Lookenbill	Pennsylvania	Acting Co-Director of the DEP Bureau of Clean Water
Michael Dunn	EPA/Fed. Govt.	Acting Chief of Staff, Region 3 Administrator
Ann Jennings	Virginia	Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources

PSC Charge to the Climate Change Action Team

- Communicate an EC position that confirms and reinforces the current science-based understanding that climate change is causing severe detrimental impacts on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed – communities and natural resources - and urgent attention is warranted.
- Update the EC position on climate change by preparing a new Executive Council Directive.

Preparing the Draft Executive Directive - Guiding Principles

- Respect jurisdictional differences in responses to climate change and impacts of climate change on local communities.
- Prioritize the response to climate change for vulnerable populations, underserved communities and working lands (farms and forests).
- Recognize that water quality best management practices sequester carbon and climate mitigation measures reduce nitrogen pollution.
- Focus on adaptation, resilience and mitigation and the co-benefits provided by water quality measures and habitat restoration.
- Maintain focus on the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Embed the partnership's response to climate change throughout the program.
- Don't duplicate climate work by the jurisdictions or other federal programs.
- Ensure the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's flagship scientific endeavors are informed by the most advanced climate monitoring, tools, science, and practice standards.
- Recognize that delayed action on climate change will increase the cost of restoring the Chesapeake Bay.
- Continue to educate, learn, adapt and innovate.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Preamble

The Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Commits To:

- Address the threats of climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work to restore the Bay and its watershed;
- Prioritize communities, working lands, and habitats most vulnerable to ever-increasing risks;
- Apply the best scientific, modeling, monitoring and planning capabilities of the Chesapeake Bay Program; and,
- Connect Chesapeake Bay restoration outcomes with emerging opportunities in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

Address the threats of climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed

- **Integrate** climate science and adaptation to climate change **throughout** the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, and direct the Management Board to ensure the partnership's organizational structure effectively advances this integration.
- Direct the Management Board to **incorporate** climate risks into the **management strategies** of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement outcomes.
- **Ensure the science, restoration and partnership programs equitably address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, including indigenous people, historically underrepresented communities, those of lower economic status, and people of color, taking into account existing social, economic, and health disparities.**
- **Continuously improve** our **knowledge** of and response to the threats of climate change and report on implementation of this Executive Directive and **new challenges** at Chesapeake Executive Council annual meetings.

Prioritize communities and habitats most vulnerable to ever-increasing risks

- Emphasize the continued need to **update best management practice** design standards to account for the impacts of climate change, using leading predictive models and tools, **to insure investments made today continue** to yield benefits even as the climate changes.
- Ensure that we **focus on achieving our outcomes** to conserve and restore wetlands, forest buffers and urban tree canopies for both increased **resilience** to climate impacts and to assist in meeting **national goals** for achieving 30 percent of lands and waters conserved by 2030.
- Build **climate science into environmental literacy** programs for students, the public, and decision-makers ensuring inclusion of the most vulnerable habitats, people, communities and industries.

Apply the best scientific, modeling, monitoring and planning capabilities of the Chesapeake Bay Program

- Determine capacity needed to **monitor the impacts** of climate change on our natural resources within the existing Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's science programs and evaluate the opportunity to **fill those needs with ongoing** climate change monitoring programs.
- Improve the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool **cost calculator** to account for climate change so that the partnership can ensure investments in water quality take into account the **impacts of delayed action**.

Connect Chesapeake Bay restoration goals with emerging opportunities in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience

- Recognize and, where feasible, assess and adopt the **water quality practices that sequester greenhouse gases**, and the **climate mitigation practices that reduce nitrogen pollution** to watersheds.
- Prioritize the adoption of **farming and forestry best management practices** to maximize the co-benefits of improved water quality, **resilience**, carbon **sequestration**, and **soil health**.
- **Promote** greenhouse gas mitigation through **restoring coastal ecosystems** and **enhancing green infrastructure** throughout the watershed.
- Utilize **conservation finance** where appropriate to leverage public and increase private investments, including emerging carbon markets, in Chesapeake Bay restoration.

Approval of Climate Change Directive

Communicate an EC position that confirms and reinforces the current science-based understanding that climate change is causing severe detrimental impacts on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed – communities and natural resources - and urgent attention is warranted.

Next Steps.