

The Local Area Planning Targets Task Force was established to develop recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership on whether the Phase III WIPs should include local area targets and, if so, options for how these targets could be expressed in each of the seven Bay watershed jurisdictions. In developing its recommendations, the Task Force will take into consideration:

- ~~will address~~ findings from the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Stakeholder Assessment, including the ~~goal of need to raising-raise awareness of~~ local partners' awareness of their contribution toward achieving the Bay TMDL;
- the technical capacity of the Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Program's suite of modeling tools in calculating local planning targets;
- the scale and definition of "local;"
- how local implementation addresses local conditions, needs and opportunities, such as local water quality;
- ~~and~~ the availability of tools to assist in the development and optimization of local implementation strategies; and,
- the diversity of existing local government authorities within the watershed.

#### Guiding Principles:

The following guiding principles frame the findings, recommendations and next steps proposed by the Local Area Planning Targets Task Force:

Efforts to develop local area planning targets and raise awareness of local partners' contribution toward achieving the Bay TMDL should:

1. ~~Focus and a~~ Accelerate ~~and effectively target the~~ implementation of targeted load reductions.
2. ~~Provide the~~ flexibility, to allowing for for multiple jurisdiction-specific strategies that ~~uniquely~~ address the unique priorities of local partners ~~in each state jurisdiction~~, including priorities beyond water quality improvement.
3. ~~Adopt an~~ Incorporate adaptive management approaches ~~in setting clear goals and expectations; evaluating progress as implementation occurs; and having procedures in place for adjusting targets and strategies if necessary.~~
4. Facilitate early, clear and consistent engagement and communication with local partners to ensure that the development of as early as possible, including local planning targets ~~that make~~ sense at the local level.
5. Be supported by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's decision support tools (e.g. CAST/VAST/MAST/BayFAST).
6. ~~Promote~~ Consider schedules, goals and incremental commitments that are realistic and ~~achievable~~ achieve between now and the Bay TMDL by 2025.
7. Recognize the limits inherent in the tools, models, and authorities that will shape the development and use of the planning targets.

Other Comments Received:

A critical goal of the LATs should be to provide clear communication to the public on the status of a local jurisdiction's progress towards the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Providing local milestone updates instead of updates for the entire states would significantly improve potential for local engagement and planning. As such, the group should consider establishing this communication as a guiding principal for the taskforce. Also, with regard to #6 (*Promote schedules, goals and incremental commitments that are realistic and achievable between now and 2025*); I would suggest rephrasing this so that it makes clear 2025 deadlines are not flexible. While it is important to maintain flexibility in order to achieve goals in the most affordable way possible, there needs to be clear continued commitment to meeting the 2025 TMDL load reductions

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