

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Issue: **Stewardship**

Updated April 10, 2014 (for PSC meeting discussion)

IRC recommendations for PSC are highlighted in yellow below.

Current Language

There are currently no stewardship goals or outcomes in the agreement. The only mention of “stewards” or “stewardship” include:

Goals and Outcomes Introduction: “Environmentally literate citizens are stewards of the Bay’s healthy watersheds.”

Public Access Introduction: “Increasing public access to local waterways for fishing, swimming, boating, and other activities fosters a shared sense of responsibility and increased stewardship that supports Bay watershed restoration goals.”

Environmental Literacy Introduction: “Establishing strong, targeted environmental education programs now, provides a vital foundation for these future watershed stewards.”

Options

1: Stand alone Stewardship Goal that focuses on increasing the number of citizen stewards. May include local leadership and diversity outcomes.

2: Add a new stewardship goal and nest the existing public access & environmental literacy outcomes under stewardship goal.

3: More distinctly and prominently reflect how stewardship and engagement is defined and addressed by requiring that all management strategies address how local governments, nonprofit and private partners will be engaged in implementing **every** management strategy of the Agreement. This is already addressed in the current Agreement on pages 5 & 11. ***See attachment below for specific language.**

Partner Comments

Citizens Advisory Committee (9/12/13)

We believe public access should be considered an outcome of a Stewardship Goal. ... improvements are necessary not only in the quantity of access “points”, but in the quality and variety of shoreline, water-based recreational opportunities publicly accessible for multiple uses such as swimming, boating, camping, and fishing. **DOI**

Citizen Stewardship should have more emphasis...so we can better engage people in the watershed to help with protection and restoration efforts. The DOI recommends language from the Stewardship Goal Team be considered for the agreement: *“Promote and support initiatives that increase the number and diversity of citizens who support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities necessary to achieve the goals and commitments of the agreement”*.

Stakeholder Comments

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

- We suggest consideration of the following language: Stewardship Outcome: *By 2015, work with Chesapeake Bay Program partners and other academic, local government and citizen organizations to develop a metric for evaluating progress in citizen stewardship.*
- In the preamble & introductory language... It should be clear that our intent is to not simply inform but to seek common ground between the needs of the Bay restoration effort and the needs of the watershed's diverse residents. The new Bay agreement currently speaks more to those already involved in and informed about Bay restoration. As the Bay restoration effort seeks to involve more diverse watershed residents it should be understood that our current methods may change due to the new ideas and perspectives of those joining the environmental conversation.
- Place the environmental literacy outcomes under a stewardship goal – specifically the school &

school system development outcome. Local government - stewardship focused:

- Goal: *Promote implementation strategies and support initiatives that increase the number and diversity of local citizen stewards, including local governments, and help find common ground that will mobilize citizens to support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.*
 - Local Leadership Outcome: *Engage, empower, and facilitate leadership by local governments through training, technical assistance, improved communications with states and removing barriers to implementation.*
 - Local Leadership Outcome: *Identify and promote innovative financing solutions and increase the number of local governments that have developed and implemented local financing strategies to meet agreement goals. (2010 Baseline year)*

Chesapeake Bay Trust

- We recommend the Bay Program adopt the following goal: *Promote and support initiatives that increase the number and diversity of local stewards who support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities necessary to achieve the goals and commitments of the agreement.*
- The outcome for this goal would be the following: *Within the first year, develop a behavior change index to be used to measure changes in the number of individuals engaged in stewardship behaviors at a regional scale. The index would allow for comparison among counties or regions and provide public research data to policy makers to set priorities and inform the design of regional and local programs.*

Background

STEWARDSHIP

Option 1: Stand alone Stewardship Goal that focuses on increasing the number of citizen stewards. May include local leadership and diversity outcomes (recommended)

Option 2: Add a new stewardship goal and nest the existing public access & environmental literacy outcomes under stewardship goal.

Option 3: More distinctly and prominently reflect how stewardship and engagement is defined and addressed by requiring that all management strategies address how local governments, nonprofit and private partners will be engaged in implementing **every** management strategy of the Agreement. This is already addressed in the current Agreement on pages 5 & 11.

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The long-term future success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort will depend on local leadership; local *action* that depends primarily on a strong citizen stewardship. Building a larger, broader, and more diverse constituency of stewards for watershed restoration is needed to achieve the many other goals and outcomes outlined in this Agreement. Stewards bring the ACTION element for implementing the rest of the Agreement. There are over 600 local conservation and watershed organizations in our region that are educating and empowering citizens to restore and protect their local streams and rivers. There are tens of thousands of local citizen volunteers who donate their time and talent to our shared goals.

### Option 1 (recommended)

**Stewardship Goal:** *Increase the number and diversity of local citizen stewards and local governments that actively support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.*

**Citizen Stewardship Outcome:** Increase the number of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.

**Stewardship Metrics Outcome:** By 2015, work with Chesapeake Bay Program partners and other wide ranging academic, local government and citizen organizations to develop a metric for evaluating progress in citizen stewardship.

Additional Outcomes to be considered:

**Local Leadership Outcome:** Engage, empower, and facilitate leadership by local governments and increase the number of local governments that have implemented innovative financing strategies to meet agreement goals. (2010 Baseline year)

**Diversity Outcome:** Identify minority stakeholder groups who are not currently represented in the leadership, decision making and implementation of the current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage them in the partnership.

## ***Option 2:***

**Stewardship Goal:** *Increase the number and diversity of local citizen stewards and local governments that actively support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.*

***Citizen Stewardship Outcome:*** Increase the number of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.

***Local Leadership Outcome:*** Engage, empower, and facilitate leadership by local governments and increase the number of local governments that have implemented innovative financing strategies to meet agreement goals. (2010 Baseline year)

***Stewardship Metrics Outcome:*** By 2015, work with Chesapeake Bay Program partners and other wide ranging academic, local government and citizen organizations to develop a metric for evaluating progress in citizen stewardship.

***Public Access Site Development Outcome:*** By 2025, add 300 new public-access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible. (2010 baseline year)

***Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience Outcome:*** Increase the number of students participating in teacher-supported meaningful watershed educational experiences in elementary, middle and high school.

***School and School System Model Development Outcome:*** Support and highlight models of sustainable schools and local education agencies that use system-wide approaches for environmental education.

***Environmental Literacy Metrics Outcome:*** By 2014, develop baseline metrics to establish and measure outcomes related to student participation in teacher-supported meaningful watershed educational experiences and related activities.

## **Option 3:**

Revise current language in the Goals and Outcomes section (pg 5) and Management Strategies section (pg 11) to more distinctly and prominently reflect how stewardship and engagement is defined and addressed by requiring that all management strategies address how local governments, nonprofit and private partners will be engaged in implementing **every** management strategy of the Agreement.