# Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Nick DiPasquale, Director
EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

CAC/LGAC Joint Committee Meeting
May 21, 2015

# CBP Program Updates

- 2014 Interim Milestone Highlights
- 2017 Midpoint Assessment Highlights
- Revisions to BMP Expert Panel Protocol
- BMP Verification Update
- High Resolution Land Cover Initiative
- FY 2015 Goal Team Funding
- Citizens and Non-Traditional Monitoring
- Independent Evaluator
- Agreement Biennial Workplans
- Shad Abundance Indicator

# 2017 Midpoint Assessment Highlights

▸ The WQGIT has developed a detailed, month-by-month schedule of decisions and briefings associated with the midpoint assessment priorities. This schedule is available here: http://timstest.tetratech-ffx.com/BayMidpointAssessment

▸ The collection of local land use data continues to be a high priority under the midpoint assessment.
  ◦ State and local jurisdictions will have the opportunity to review their local land use data during the June–July timeframe.  A webinar will be scheduled with further details about what this review period will entail.

▸ Key upcoming deadlines include:
  ◦ June 30 2015: Deadline for jurisdictions' draft BMP verification programs/plans draft historical data cleanup
  ◦ October 2015: Data inputs (e.g. BMP panel recommendations and land uses) due to the Modeling Workgroup for Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration

# Revisions to the BMP Expert Panel Protocol

▸ Comments have been received from LGAC, STAC, CAC, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and VA DEQ

▸ Specific issues raised include:
  ◦ More explicit language on what constitutes a conflict of interest and disclosing conflicts of interest
  ◦ The consideration of local practitioners as potential panel members
  ◦ The importance of panels functioning in accordance with the NAS practice standards

▸ Leadership from the Management Board, the Advisory Committees, and WQGIT will meet on June 2 to discuss the comments and reach consensus on a path forward

▸ A revised Protocol is expected to be submitted to the WQGIT for final approval during their July 13 conference call

# BMP Verification

- BMP Verification Review Panel and BMP Verification Committee working on jurisdictional evaluation form

- Jurisdictions' proposed BMP verification programs documentation due June 30, 2015

- Partnership's independent BMP Verification Review Panel meeting in late July to review the jurisdictions' proposed programs and meeting in late August with each of the jurisdictions to discuss the Panel's reviews and what is still needed from each jurisdiction to meet the Partnership's five BMP verification principles

# High Resolution Land Cover

▸ The Partnership is funding the watershed-wide acquisition of high resolution (1 meter) land cover data for use
  ◦ Chesapeake Conservancy is conducting this work via a cooperative agreement from the National Park Service funded through an interagency agreement with EPA
  ◦ Data will be available for application in the Partnership's Phase 6 watershed model by May 2016, further increasing confidence in local land use data supporting work on the Midpoint Assessment

▸ Will have applications across many Bay Watershed agreement outcomes beyond its immediate application to water quality—BMP verification, habitat restoration and land acquisition prioritization, local governments applications…the list goes on and on!

# FY 2015 Goal Team Funding

- RFP Issued April 6, 2015 *"Chesapeake Bay Program Office Fiscal Year 2015 Request for Proposals for Goal Implementation Team Project Support"*

- $700k – $900k per year for up to 5 years*

- Recipient will administer a program to support projects identified by CBP's GITs through subawards

- GIT projects will support strategies to achieve *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* outcomes

- Proposals due May 21, 2015;  September 7, 2015 estimated award

  * *Contingent on availability of funds*

# CBP Climate Change Coordinator

- NOAA and EPA have recently completed the interview process for the Partnership's Climate Change Coordinator position

- NOAA has offered the position to a candidate

# Integration of Citizen and Non-traditional Monitoring

- EPA and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay finalized the new multiple year (2015-2021) cooperative agreement for *Integration of Citizen and Non-traditional Monitoring* on May 4, 2015.

- The cooperative agreement awarded to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance) in partnership with the Izaak Walton League of America (League), the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) at Dickinson College, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Integration and Application Network (UMCES IAN)

- The purpose is to provide technical, logistical, and outreach support for the integration of citizen-based and non-traditional monitoring networks into the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

- The Alliance and key partnership contacts are in the process of setting up the "kick-off" strategy session, expected to be held before the end of June, to begin work.

# Other Updates

- Independent Evaluator
- Agreement Biennial Workplans
- Shad Abundance Indicator

- Public Comments on Draft Management Strategies
- Chesapeake Bay Program Funding
- Federal Targets Protocol

# Public Comments on Draft Management Strategies

**Total all Management Strategies  333**

Sustainable Fisheries  31
Vital Habitats  67
Water Quality  16
Toxic Contaminants  17
Healthy Watersheds  7
Stewardship  37
Land Conservation  18
Public Access  8
Environmental Literacy  6
Climate Resiliency  108
Miscellaneous  18

# Public Comments on Draft Management Strategies

## 30 distinct letters/sets of comments from organizations

### Private Citizens and Citizen Organizations
99 letters Citizen Advocates (Sierra Club)
CBP Citizens Advisory Committee
Letter from 4 named citizen advocates
Letter from 2 students, U of MD, School Of Public Health

### Utilities/Municipal Services
Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD),
Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies
Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

### Industry
Maryland Blue Crab Design Team (Fishing Industry)
Maryland Oysterman's Association
Maryland Waterman's Association

### State/Local Government
CBP Local Government Advisory Committee
Carroll County Board of Commissioners
Carrol County Dept. of Land Use, Planning & Develop.
Clean Chesapeake Coalition
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Maryland State Water Quality Advisory Committee
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Montgomery County Department of Environment

# Public Comments on Draft Management Strategies

Environmental/Advocacy/Conservation/NGOs
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Choose Clean Water Coalition
Maryland Sierra Club
National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA
Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water Stormwater
Workgroup (Workgroup)
Severn Riverkeeper Program
Izaak Walton League, a national conservation organization
Anne Arundel Water Access Committee

Federal Government
US Geological Survey
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Environmental Protection Agency

# Public Comments on Draft Management Strategies

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

- Need local level targets
- Need to prioritize implementation at local levels
- Need timelines for taking action
- Federal Government should lead by example
- Great job on citizen stewardship; track progress
- Prioritize research needs for SAV

**Choose Clean Water Coalition**

- WQ MS needs better public and local gov. involvement
- Support programs that build capacity of NGOs
- Support climate change considerations in other MSs
- Need baseline and better data for diversity strategy
- Strongly support the Environmental Literacy MSs
- Need permanent protection of forest buffers
- Need robust local technical assistance
- Toxics and Tree canopy MSs will not meet outcomes

**Maryland Sierra Club**

- Need to ensure sufficient funding and adequate staffing at the state and local level, and the political will

**Sierra Club Form letter**

- Climate MS needs clearer baselines and commitments

**Virginia Assoc. of Municipal Wastewater Agencies**

- Objects to ref. of biosolids as potential source of PCBs
- Objects to making one sector bear "consequences" if another source sector fails to meet their goals
- Concerned that "local targets" could imply a legal obligation
- Objects to higher standards for discharges to healthy waters

# Public Comments on Draft Management Strategies

**Local Government Advisory Committee**

- Need to clearly describe role of local government in achieving outcomes
- Need to identify costs and benefits to local governments and how to access tools and resources
- Need to educate local governments about the Agreement and expectations—especially clarify voluntary and mandatory components.
- Need to improve communication with local officials

**CBP Citizens Advisory Committee**

- US Dept. of Education needs to be an official partner
- Need baseline data on current diversity and strategies
- Local Leadership MS should focus more on rivers and local waters
- Need more concrete steps on delivering the message using existing local government associations
- Climate MS need to focus on more than just coastal communities
- Need to incentivize private landowner actions
- Wetlands MS seems to be very early draft; Need jurisdiction-specific goals for restoration and enhancement
- Need better prioritization for forest buffers
- Need to focus on quality, not just quantity, of access sites

# Public Comments on Draft Management Strategies

## Themes

**Blue Crab**
- Harvest of female blue crabs should be further restricted.
- Explicitly state the role and jurisdictional rights of the strategy partners.

**Oysters**
- Limit harvest of wild oysters / promoting aquaculture
- Oyster Industry/Seafood industry should be involved in the restoration planning process.
- Comments from individual citizens.

**Stream Health**
- Support local efforts
- Need better monitoring and tools

**Forest Buffers**
- Overall support for strategy

**Healthy Watersheds**
- Need clear definition of healthy waters

**Water Quality**
- include more specifics in MS, e.g. targeting local participation and cross outcome collaboration
- Need more detail on Phase III WIP development and 2-year milestones

**Toxics**
- Need to reflect fracking, microbeads, other specific toxics
- Need PCB requirements/monitoring

**Local Leadership**
- Need clearer expectations, tools, resources for local leaders

**Diversity**
- Improve baseline and current conditions; establish numeric funding goals
- Provide organizational demographics file for all signatories, partners and NGOs

**Climate Resiliency**
- Need to establish clear baselines and identify how climate change will impact water quality.

Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.