

September 9, 2013

GIT4 Management Strategy Preliminary Discussion

The purpose of this document is to provide an outline for a September 11, 2013 CBP GIT4 preliminary discussion of how GIT4 and its member organizations may respond to the call for management strategies to pursue the healthy watersheds goal and outcome that are now proposed for the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Purposes of the discussion:

1. Stimulate thinking about management strategies in advance of the 2014 charge to the GIT to develop management strategies for the goal and outcome in the new Bay agreement.
2. Identify a few highest priority collective activities that the GIT could undertake in 2014 to pursue the goal and outcome and support state programs.
3. Affirm and collectively practice the adaptive management approach to CBP goals and objectives.

Background points to consider:

- The session has 45 minutes on the 9/11 agenda, immediately following lunch
- The CBP's general plan for instituting the pending new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement calls on GITs to develop management strategies within one year of the signing of the new agreement
- GIT4 developed a strategy for 2013, which is attached
- The CBP partners have committed to an adaptive management approach, which includes periodic assessment of progress (in other words, the GITs would be expected to articulate strategies with or without a new agreement)
- No specific guidance from the Management Board with respect to management strategy format

Proposed method for the discussion on 9/11:

1. Review guiding principles and elements of the existing GIT4 2013 strategy – 5 minutes
2. Discuss progress on the collective actions identified in the 2013 strategy – 5 minutes
3. Total-group brainstorming of future collective actions – 10 minutes (a suggested starting list is provided below; record brainstorming in real time on the big screen)
4. Break-out groups for 15 minutes of discussion of possible future collective actions – 15 minutes
Task: each group develop prioritized short list (white boards and flip charts)
[Phone group as one break-out group, with assigned recorder/leader]
5. Reconvene to list breakout groups' recommendations – 10 minutes (recorded real time on the big screen)
6. Identify next steps for management strategy development, include state-specific strategies
[Staff recommendation: a December GIT4 meeting to discuss state and collective management strategies specifically to make major progress on the task the GITs are expected to complete for the new agreement]

Suggested Collective Activities:

1. Document management strategies
2. Develop recommendations for indicators with which to track watershed health and protection status
3. 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Forum
4. Develop a video on healthy watersheds for distribution through various social media
5. Influence NFWF grants RFP to solicit projects that include establishment of HW protection
6. Convene a regional antidegradation workshop to share lessons learned and develop recommendations
7. Collect and publish more case studies of effective HW protection
8. Advocacy outreach to constituent organizations
9. Promote use of LandScope Chesapeake map of HW