

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
Survey of Members' Areas of Interest**

List of Current Topic Areas for Policy Development

COG staff document (March 9, 2011)

- Goal:** *Consistent with the committee's agreed upon priorities for 2011 (noted in text below as Items A – G), identify topic areas (listed in **boldface type**) that committee members are willing to take a lead role in working with COG staff to develop draft policy positions on behalf of the committee.*
- Process:** *Committee members will be sent a survey and asked to pick top 2-3 topics of interest. COG staff will work actively with a subset of the committee on these high priority topics to develop policy recommendations for the committee as a whole. COG staff will continue to work on the other priority areas as usual.*
- A. Advocate for Federal/State policies regarding Bay restoration that create true partnership
- 1. Explore use of Residual Designation Authority (i.e., issuing permits to owners of private property with impervious surface) to provide more private sector funding for attainment of TMDL nutrient and sediment allocations**
 - 2. Identify opportunities to more fully engage federal agencies in the development of WIPs, particularly in regards to stormwater management**
- B. Develop policy options regarding member involvement in Bay TMDLs/WIP processes
- 3. Pursue feasibility and equitability in development of Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans – especially links between MS4 stormwater permitting and WIP development.**
 - 4. Explore use and potential benefits of using Trading/ Offsets to achieve more cost effective attainment of TMDL nutrient and sediment allocations.**
- C. Advocate for Federal/State cost-share funding to local efforts to meet Bay TMDL; and
- D. Advocate for adequate funding for water/wastewater/stormwater infrastructure:
- 5. Advocate for existing cost-share and revolving loan funds to support enhanced nutrient removal by wastewater plants as well as sewer system infrastructure needs**
 - 6. Advocate for additional/designated funding for stormwater retrofit efforts**
 - 7. Advocate for continued support for existing cost-share and revolving loan funds to support source water/drinking water infrastructure needs**
- E. Track/Comment on Federal/State legislative & regulatory initiatives re: Bay restoration
- 8. Evaluate progress and effectiveness of various legislative and regulatory initiatives, including: Potomac trash treaty, trash TMDLs and potential extension of plastic bag legislation**
- F. Educate local officials/public about the Bay TMDL & challenges faced by local governments; and
- G. Coordinate with other COG committees on environmental initiatives
- 9. Provide input on regional water quality metrics developed for *Region Forward* process**
 - 10. Provide input on draft fact sheets that illustrate wastewater/stormwater management achievements by COG members, and resulting improvements to local/regional water quality as appropriate**