

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Preparations for Water Quality Forum

Goals for today:

- Agree on the major themes/points for the Forum.
- Begin to identify CBPC members' interest in speaking to these points at the Forum, and providing context and examples.

Water Quality Forum Confirmed Participants

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--|
| EPA Chesapeake Bay Program | Dana Aunkst | Director |
| DOEE | Jeff Seltzer | Deputy Director, Natural Resources Admin |
| MD Dept. of Environment | Lee Currey | Director of MDE's Water and Science Administration |
| MD DNR | David Goshorn | Senior Bay Restoration Coordinator |
| VA Dept. Natural Resources | Ann Jennings | Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources |
| VA DEQ | James Martin | Chesapeake Bay Coordinator |

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Current Main Issues for Bay Program Partnership

- **Climate Change** — Chesapeake Bay Program needs to find additional reductions of nitrogen (5 – 7 million pounds) and phosphorus to offset negative impact of climate change on Bay water quality
- **Conowingo WIP** — Bay Program needs to find additional reductions of nitrogen (6 – 6.7 million pounds) and phosphorus to offset negative impact of dynamic equilibrium in the Conowingo dam system

Water Quality Forum Approach

Not necessary for COG to weigh into the details of allocation decisions

Talking points should reflect COG region's interests and COG's Bay Policy Principles

- Equity
- Sound Science
- Holistic requirements
- Local government voice
- Flexibility

COG Talking Points - I

There are **multiple drivers** for water quality investment at the local level. The Bay TMDL and the Phase III WIP are just one of these drivers.

- Local TMDLs
- Emerging contaminants such as salinization
- Flooding issues

All of these require increased investment by local governments

COG Talking Points – II

A **long-term approach** is needed if further local government and wastewater utility infrastructure investments are sought

- Stormwater capital budgets extend 4 – 5 years out
- Wastewater utilities have even longer planning horizons (10 to 40 years)
- The implications of the covid-19 pandemic response on local and state government budgets are significant, but still uncertain

Talking Points - III

Wastewater utilities need to **preserve their ability to accommodate population and job growth** in the region

- Phase III WIP plans in MD and VA rely on wastewater load reductions that have exceeded cap loads in the near term
- This surplus will dissipate with increased flows in future
- The region will need wastewater's full cap loads to accommodate future growth

Talking Points - IV

Climate Change and Conowingo WIP allocation decisions should be based on equity, not political considerations

- Phase III WIP funding in MD, DC and VA should not be diverted to support the Conowingo WIP.
- A cautious approach to setting climate change reduction targets is warranted, given local resources to achieve reduction are maxed out
- If these new allocations result in nutrient reduction targets greater than a particular state can currently handle, the solution is to give that state more time and more federal resources to accomplish the increased goal.

Talking Points – V

Need to better address equity, diversity, inclusion in messaging for our communities

- Representation
- Education and outreach
- COG Board passed Anti-racist Resolution
- The CBP's Executive Council will be signing its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Statement at its August 18th meeting.

Talking Points – VI

Federal funding for resiliency research

- Local governments and utilities are investing millions in BMPs. We need better science regarding their climate resilience.

Talking Points – VII

Sustainable Local Food

- COG has been involved in Covid-19 food supply chain adaptive efforts, which has brought renewed focus on the importance of sustaining local agriculture.