



Principals Staff Committee Meeting November 23, 2021

Actions/Decisions

Final Draft DEIJ Implementation Plan

- Decision: The Principal Staff Committee (PSC) embraced and launched the final DEIJ Implementation Plan as submitted and recommended that it be presented to the Executive Council (EC) during its December 15 meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

Conowingo WIP Milestones Update

- Action: The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee presented an update of the draft numeric and programmatic CWIP milestones and the schedule for finalizing them. The steering committee will present the final draft milestones to the PSC by email to gather additional feedback and comments in advance of the January 14, 2022 deadline for submitting the finals to the EPA.
- Secretary Jennings indicated that Virginia would likely not be able to sign off on the CWIP draft milestones without the inclusion of numeric milestones.
- Note: The Army Corps completed a study (several years ago) on options for dealing with the sediment behind the Conowingo, including dredging. The Corps offered to present a summary of those findings to the MB or PSC at some time in the future. In addition, the Corps completed a Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment several years ago, which evaluated modeling and sediment transport among the four reservoirs in the lower Susquehanna River. If an update to that report or an update to a portion of that report was desired, there is significant new funding available through the Corps' Planning Assistance to States program (50/50 cost share).

Executive Council Meeting Planning Updates

- Note: CBP Communications Director Rachel Felver provided the list of confirmed attendees for the EC meeting (including Gov. Ralph Northam, CBC Chair David Bulova and the advisory committee chairs). EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz announced that EPA Administrator Michael Reagan acknowledged he would be pleased to serve as the next EC chair (if nominated), but that he would be unable to attend the EC meeting. Instead, EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe will attend in his place.
- Note: A media advisory about the meeting will be issued on December 8, 2018. Governor Northam has agreed to sit down with the advisory committee members on December 2 in advance of the EC meeting to hear their recommendations.

Outcome Attainability and Watershed Agreement Progress

- The Outcome Attainability Action Team (OAAT) provided an update on their efforts to frame the partnerships' progress toward meeting each of the 31 outcomes in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- Decision: The PSC approved the format and content of the Outcome Attainment Dashboard and the supporting documents for use during the December 15, 2021 Executive Council meeting.

Monitoring Funding Needs

- Lee McDonnell (EPA) provided an update on the Modeling Team's plan for analyzing and assessing the partnership's Monitoring Funding needs. Lee provided a detailed description of the work being conducted and structure of the report.
- Action: PSC members were asked to provide any thoughts to Lee before the team returns with their final recommendations (expected in early winter 2022).

Executive Council Climate Change Directive Next Steps

- Action: The Management Board will discuss a plan to address implementing the Directive and it will be presented and discussed at the February PSC meeting.

Review of the Chesapeake Bay Program Budget

- Chesapeake Bay Program Deputy Directory Martha Shimkin provided a review of the budget and spending for FY2021 and briefly noted the various funding streams expected for FY2022. Additional information should be available for an update at the February PSC meeting.
- Note: Amy Guise, Army Corps noted that they have some funds to provide technical assistance on future projects.

Business Meeting

Partner Announcements

- Virginia – Governor Northam signed Executive Order 82 on November 18, 2021, which ensures opportunities for government consultation with federally recognized tribes when evaluating state permit applications.
- Chesapeake Bay Commission – The CBC has completed its climate change analysis which includes primary components for resiliency for each state. The CBC is also working to expand the funding available for the Department of Defense to support stormwater management efforts so that those projects do not have to compete with projects intended to address mission readiness. While it is not PFAS-specific, it will help to address other important related pollution issues.
- Maryland – MDE noted that PFAS are addressed in the new infrastructure law and urged the partnership to step up efforts in that area.
- **Future Agenda Items:**
 - PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) and opportunities for federal and state partners to address.
 - Understanding BMP crediting in the model.
 - BMP Verification – A refresher on how BMP implementation is approved by EPA and a discussion about how we can do it more efficiently to ensure we have as many tools as possible as we approach 2025.
 - Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Climate Change
 - Making the most of the new Infrastructure Law and funding including coordination between EPA/NRCS/USGS and how EPA funds can be used as a match.

Next meeting –

- Decision – PSC members agreed to hold a PSC meeting in late winter 2022. CBP Staff will send out a poll to members.