



**Principals' Staff Committee**  
**June 2, 2020**  
**Actions/Decisions**

**Executive Council Directive on Climate Change**

- **Action:** During the March 2, 2021 meeting, the PSC requested that the Climate Change Action Team provide draft language for an Executive Council directive on climate change at the following meeting. During the June 2, 2021 meeting, the PSC approved the proposed directive and agreed to collect Executive Council member signatures by September 1 (one month in advance of the October 1, 2021 EC meeting, per the governance document). CBP Communications Director Rachel Felver will format the final directive and the Climate Change Action Team will seek Executive Council members' approval and signatures.

**Budget**

- **Note:** Acting EPA Regional Administrator Diana Esher gave an overview of the competitive non-earmarked funding of the CBP Budget. There were no follow-up actions requested.

**Monitoring Funding Needs**

- **Action:** During the March PSC meeting, the PSC Chair requested that the Chesapeake Bay Program Office make an assessment of the level of funding needed to provide "good" monitoring program capacity and to report back to the PSC. Following up on this action, Lee McDonnell (EPA) provided an overview of the Monitoring Team's plan for analyzing and assessing the partnership's monitoring funding needs. Lee will return to the PSC in early 2022 to present the team's analysis and recommendations. The PSC indicated their support of the Monitoring Team's plan.
- Chesapeake Bay Commission Executive Director Ann Swanson recommended continued discussions with Acting Regional Administrator Esher to learn more about funding previously transferred from the CBP to the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters office and whether that funding could be used for monitoring needs.

**Conowingo WIP Development**

- **Note:** The co-chairs of the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee, Matt Rowe (MD) and Jill Whitcomb (PA), provided an update on progress toward finalizing the Conowingo WIP and sought PSC input. The co-chairs reported that additional work is needed to finalize the CWIP. The Steering Committee co-chairs committed to producing a final draft in June and will send the final document to the PSC for approval via email. *Post meeting note: New York provided additional edits to the CWIP steering committee, so the final document is not expected to be distributed until early July.*

**Conowingo WIP Finance Strategy**

- Action: Dan Nees (Center for Global Sustainability, grantee for development of the finance strategy) provided a status update and overview of the Conowingo WIP Finance Strategy. Dan indicated that their research has found that no state-based institution can provide the institutional capacity to serve as the financing authority. He reported that additional work is needed to complete the strategy and that a final document is expected by early July. PSC Chair Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew Strickler presented a proposed partnership with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to serve as the financing authority and reviewed a draft Memorandum of Understanding. The PSC agreed to a follow-up meeting in July shortly after the finance strategy is released to discuss the strategy, the Memorandum of Understanding with SRBC, and next steps.

### **DEIJ Implementation Plan**

- The DEIJ Action Team Co-Chairs Jeff Seltzer (DC) and Meryem Karad (VA) provided an update on the DEIJ Implementation Plan. The plan is expected to be finalized by October per the following timeline:
  - April-June: Compile/incorporate internal CBP feedback from Action Team, Diversity Workgroup, and Partnership entities into plan re-draft.
  - June-August:
    - Outreach: Direct engagement with underrepresented communities, public comment period, community meetings and conferences.
    - Tracking/Reporting Framework: Develop a proposal for implementation tracking and reporting framework. Will seek input from partners on overall feasibility and continuity with their DEIJ plans.
  - August-September: Compile and incorporate feedback into a plan re-draft. Final recommendations on community integration into existing CBP structure.

### Update on Executive Council Meeting Planning Efforts

- Note: Rachel Felver provided an update on the planning for the October 1, 2021 EC meeting at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. PSC members provided input on meeting plans.
- *Post meeting note: On June 14, Executive Council Chair Governor Ralph Northam issued invitations to his EC counterparts for the October 1 EC Meeting. Chesapeake Bay Commission Chair Delegate Bulova and Maryland Governor Hogan are confirmed. The EC Meeting Planning Team is awaiting responses from the other EC members.*

### **Business Meeting**

- Pennsylvania Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources Cindy Dunn provided an update on the 2021 Environmental Education Summit.
- The PSC welcomed EPA Administrator Michael Regan. Administrator Regan provided remarks on the President's priorities for the Chesapeake Bay, state, local and tribal partners, the budget and water infrastructure needs.