

Developing Chesapeake Bay Program Indicators:

Questions for GITs and Workgroups to Consider

Connections to 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

- Is this proposed indicator necessary to track progress toward, track the outputs of, or factors influencing ability to achieve indicators?
- Does the proposed indicator address the Agreement **Outcome** specifically? Which part?
- Are there other existing indicators that address some part of the Outcome? How do these pieces fit together?
- Does the Outcome include some geospatial qualification (e.g., “throughout the watershed”) that would call for geospatial data and or maps as a way to show progress? If so, do potential data sets exist to provide this information?
- Where does the proposed indicator fit within the [Indicator Framework](#)?
- Does the proposed indicator inform or link to other Outcomes in the Agreement, possibly as an Output indicator (did we do what we said we would do) or a Factors Influencing indicator (tracking of a manageable or unmanageable factor that impacts our ability to achieve the Outcome)?
- Is the Outcome in question measurable quantitatively, and if so, does the indicator relate to the appropriate unit of measure?
- Have the terms used in the Outcome been appropriately defined? Are these definitions available to the interested public?

Data Availability

- Does the indicator have a baseline from which to measure change?
- Does the Bay Program Partnership have access, via its networks, to data that can inform this indicator? Will the Bay Program Partnership be responsible for collecting or analyzing this data? (Example: VIMS collects and analyzes SAV data, while the CBP GIS team collects and analyzes data sets for the Protected Lands indicator)
- Will this proposed indicator or metric be readily available or made available at a reasonable cost/benefit ratio? Can the Partnership update it at regular intervals with reliable procedures?

Use of Information

- What metric or information would be most meaningful to our workgroup? How will we use it?
- Is it important, for decision-making and/or accountability purposes, to display the information spatially? If so, do potential data sets provide this information?
- Will we need to see this and other information together, geospatially, in order to make decisions?
 - Are there existing online mapping tools and platforms maintained by partners that can help to inform this indicator or meet the geospatial visualization needs? (GIS need)
- Does the proposed indicator fill one or more identified [science needs](#) of the program?
- Is the proposed indicator both useful to experts and understandable by the public?
- Will the proposed indicator inform our management actions?

Appropriate Characteristics

- Is the proposed indicator long term, taking into account possible future changes?
- Can the Bay Program Partnership show trends over time using this proposed indicator?
- Is the proposed indicator responsive to changes in the environment and related human activities?
- Is there a threshold or reference value against which the proposed indicator can be compared, so that users can assess the significance of the values associated with it?
- Is the proposed indicator clear in value, meaning there is no uncertainty about which direction is good and which is bad?
- Is the proposed indicator appropriate in scale, meaning it is neither over- nor under-aggregated?