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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Office of Water Management

Update on Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Citizens Advisory Council

February 18, 2014

Andy Zemba – Interstate Waters Office

▶ New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Why Now?

- The Chesapeake 2000 Agreement is largely outdated.
- Federal Agencies - Executive Order (EO) of 2009.
- The Congressional General Accountability Office called for the “alignment” of the federal EO Chesapeake Bay Strategy goals & the Chesapeake Bay Program Agreement goals.
- Process started in 2011.
- Signatories eligible to receive funding.

New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

What's New?

- “Headwater” states (NY, DE, & WVA) are invited to sign for the first time.
- Agreement will be shorter & reflect the goals of the overall partnership.
- Focused measureable outcomes.
- Management Strategies will be developed for outcomes.
- Jurisdictions have flexibility to choose which outcomes they will participate in.

New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

What's Happened So Far?

- The Executive Council agreed to goals and outcomes for Sustainable Fisheries, Vital Habitats, Water Quality, Healthy Watersheds, Land Conservation and Public Access.
- Draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was released for public comment on January 29, 2014.

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement/page>

New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Outstanding Issues

- Toxic contaminants – Outcomes for toxic research & reduction proposed, but not included
- Climate change – Included as cross-cutting issue for management strategies; the term “changing environmental conditions” used in lieu of “climate change”
- Management Strategies/Partner Participation – Some have expressed concern about “Opt In / Opt Out”
- Conowingo Dam – FERC Re-licensing

New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Development Timeline

- December 12: Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) meeting held
- January 29: Release Draft Agreement for 45 day public comment, closes March 17, 2014
- Three ways to submit comments
- March/April – Address public comments
- April – PSC approve final edits
- Spring 2014: EC meeting – sign Final Agreement

▶ New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Three Ways to Comment on Draft Agreement

- Submitting in-person at the March 13 meeting of the Management Board, in Annapolis
- Submitting an online comment (up to 750 words) at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement/page>
- Submitting an email to agreement@chesapeakebay.net



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