Restoration and Governance of the Chesapeake Bay Program

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D. Secretary Maryland Department of the Environment The Chesapeake Bay is the economic engine of the region It has been valued at over one trillion dollars related to fishing, tourism, property values, and shipping activities.



INVESTMENT: \$1 of water and sewer infrastructure investment increases private output (Gross Domestic Product) in the long term by \$6.35.



FISHERIES: Commercial seafood industry in Maryland and Virginia contributed \$3.39 billion in sales, \$890 million in income, and almost 34,000 jobs to the local economy. (2009 Fisheries Economics of the U.S. report)



PROPERTY VALUES: An EPA study indicated that clean water can increase the value of single family homes up to 4,000 feet from the shoreline by up to 25 percent.

Source: Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 2012 "The Economic Argument for Cleaning Up the Chesapeake Bay and its Rivers

Chesapeake Bay Challenges:

- water quality impaired by pollution
 - Extensive low to no summer dissolved oxygen conditions
- historic overfishing
- population growth
- poor land use management
- loss of habitat
- invasive species



Baltimore – Washington Metropolitan Region

- Population 9,331,587
- Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.
- Baltimore and 10 MD Counties
- Alexandria and 3 VA Counties
- All located on Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries



Evolution of the Chesapeake Bay Program

1978 FEDERALLY FUNDED SCIENTIFIC STUDY WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISED (Section 117 of the CWA) 1983 **AGGRESSIVE GOALS SET TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2000** 1987 2010 **CLEAN WATER ACT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD SET** FIRST and SECOND BIANNUAL MILESTONE GOALS ACHIEVED 2011 2013

Long-term goals alone are not enough

- Two prior long-term commitments for Bay Water Quality Restoration were not met:
 - 1987: 40% nutrient reduction by 2000
 - 2000: List of commitments including water quality restoration to be achieved by 2010 or TMDL would ensue
- Beginning in 2009, set 2-year milestone goals, with ultimate goal of 2025.
- Reporting of progress to the public

Chesapeake Bay TMDL

- Establishes 'pollution loading caps' for N, P, and sediment to meet state and federal water quality standards
- Requires State and local watershed implementation plans for all six Bay states and the District of Columbia
- TMDL document published
 December 31, 2010
- Implementation must be completed by December 31, 2025



Detailed Watershed Implementation Plans

- Sets specific nutrient and sediment goals (allocations) for each source sector (sewage treatment plants, urban runoff, agricultural runoff, etc.) and each sub-watershed in the Bay.
- Describes how those allocations will be achieved in each sector (e.g., major sewage treatment plants will be upgraded to achieve Enhanced Nutrient Removal).
- Sets 2-year Milestone Goals for each sector to ensure TMDL is achieved on schedule.
- Requires detailed reporting of progress to the public.



National, State and Local Governance



Each State has many local governments: Counties, Municipalities, Townships

There are over 1,800 local governments in the watershed

Representing 17 million people

Federal Clean Water Act

 The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 is an amendment to the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 that sets the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States

Permitting, administration and enforcement **delegated to state governments**



Implementation of basic pollution control measures by local governments and private sector with State and Federal Funding

- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits:
 - 1970's: treatment of municipal and industrial wastewater discharges
 - 1980' s: pollution control measures for large and medium sized stormwater systems
 - 1990' s: pollution control measures for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)

Implementation of basic pollution control measures

- Federally-funded construction grants program for public wastewater treatment systems
- State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)
- Local wastewater utility fees paid by businesses and citizens





A Watershed Partnership

Chesapeake Bay Program Governance

- Executive Council Governors, Mayor, Chair of the Bay Commission and Administrator of U.S. EPA
- Principal's Staff Committee Cabinet Secretaries, Director of DC Health Dept., Directors of the Bay Commission and EPA Bay Program
- Management Board Agency staff, interest groups
- Goal Implementation Teams Monitoring, Modeling, Data Management, Nutrients, Toxics, etc.



Public Engagement

Advisory Committee representatives appointed by the members of the Bay Program Executive Council:

- Citizens' Advisory Committee
 - Citizens representing businesses, environmental groups and agricultural interests
- Local Government Advisory Committee

 Local political leaders
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

 Scientific and technical experts

Maryland Bay Governance

- Governor
- Bay Cabinet
 - Environment
 - Natural Resources
 - Agriculture
 - Planning
 - University of Maryland
- BayStat
- County and municipal governments

Governor Martin O'Malley Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown











Getting to the Goal

Differences – understand that all partners have different interests that need to be met, and meet them

Consensus – seek to find common ground for agreement and be willing to live with an outcome even if you would choose another way

Persistence – the closer you get to the goal, the harder it will become to get it done.



Getting to the Goal

Time

✓ **CAUTION:** dates on calendar are closer than they appear

 ✓ Be realistic in setting timelines. Build in additional time just in case

✓ Establish a sense of URGENCY



Transparent public reporting to ensure accountability



Citizens regularly updated on the State of the Bay



Environmental Educational Curriculum





chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/education_workgroup

Education of the next generation is the key to long-term success!



MID-ATLANTIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY STRATEGY Executive Summary

Elements of a Successful Bay Restoration

Good Governance

- 1) Top Level Political leaders' commitment
 - Federal, State and local governments involved and committed
- 2) Aggressive Science-Based Goal Setting
- 3) Measurable Commitments and Deadlines
- 4) Monitoring, reporting and adaptive management

Elements of a Successful Bay Restoration Social Inclusion

- 1) Good Science: The linkage between governments', businesses' and citizens' actions and the health of the Bay must be clearly understood by all
- 2) Environmental education: K-12, Community Colleges, Universities, Continuing Education, Public Meetings
- 3) Fair and equitable restoration plan
- 4) Everyone understands, contributes (pays their share) and is accountable for their actions