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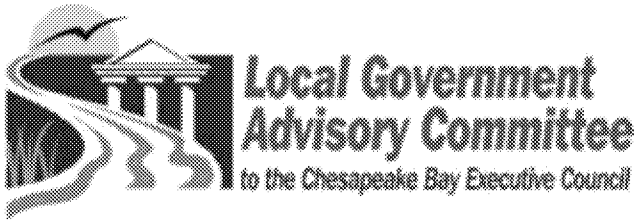

September 16, 2016

Governor Terry McAuliffe, Chair
Chesapeake Executive Council
Office of the Governor
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: LGAC 2016 Annual Report and Recommendations

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

On behalf of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), I am pleased to present our 2016 Annual Report and Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. Through this report we seek to not only raise issues we believe hinder local governments' ability to implement watershed protection and restoration efforts, but more importantly to offer suggestions for addressing these issues. Our recommendations were carefully crafted with full consideration given to the resource limitations we all face.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you and other members of the Executive Council who have demonstrated a commitment to "acknowledge, support and embrace local governments and other local entities in watershed restoration and protection activities" in accordance with the Principles of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Specifically, the members of LGAC want to acknowledge the following Chesapeake Bay Program partnership initiatives of the past year:

1. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium

This April 25-26, 2016 Symposium created a venue for over 130 leaders in finance, business, policy and protection to discuss options for advancing a more market-based approach to achieving Bay restoration goals. The Symposium was a good first step towards identifying new strategies for financing watershed restoration; however, we found that the Symposium could have benefited from more meaningful involvement of the public sector in the planning and proceedings. Therefore, we suggest that local government be better represented in any future discussions on financing restoration.

2. Enhance Communication

The focus on communicating with local governments reached a fever-pitch during the past year. Recognizing that this energy needed to be harnessed and strategically directed, the Principals' Staff Committee asked LGAC for assistance in ensuring that the partnerships efforts to communicate with local governments are effective. Following an initial meeting

In June 2016, and with financial support from Town Creek Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and supplemental assistance from the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, LGAC is pleased to be leading the Local Government Engagement Initiative, a partnership collaborative designed to enhance communication and better engage local governments around the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan development and implementation.

Each jurisdiction must take steps now to develop an infrastructure that facilitates effective communication and local government engagement in the coming years. States must keep local governments informed of decisions, actions and challenges associated with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. With more than 1,800 units of local government in the watershed, this is clearly no small task. Through the jurisdictions' active participation in the Local Government Engagement Initiative and the continued support of the Executive Council, we believe that local governments will become more engaged in watershed protection and restoration than ever before!

Finally, in our last report to the Executive Council we raised the issue of federal participation in local fee based stormwater programs. We want to reiterate the importance of federal facilities willing participation in the payment of local stormwater fees as called for in the President's Executive Order No. 13508.

Representatives of LGAC look forward to discussing our recommendations with you and the other members of the Executive Council when you meet on October 4, 2016.

Brianne K. Nadeau

Brianne K. Nadeau, LGAC Chair

Cc: Chesapeake Executive Council
Nicholas DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program

Enclosure

Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council

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Annual Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council
October 2016

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) frequently discusses ways in which federal, state and local partners can work more effectively to achieve our collective vision of a healthy and vibrant Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Our ability to realize this vision depends substantially upon how well local governments (a) understand what is required of them, (b) are equipped to improve water quality by doing such things as incorporating effective stormwater infrastructure programs into municipal infrastructure along with roads, water lines, sewer and utilities, and (c) engage citizens in supporting strategic priorities.

LGAC recommends the Executive Council take the following actions to address these issues and advance Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and protection efforts.

1. **Increase Resources Dedicated to Implementation**

The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership has been in existence since 1983. Significant resources have been dedicated to developing and administering Bay-related programs at the state and federal level. However, if we are to meet the pollutant reduction targets established in the CB TMDL, more resources, including funding and technical assistance, must be targeted to local implementation.

We recommend that the Principals' Staff Committee be charged with conducting an evaluation of federal and state funding and technical assistance programs in order to identify opportunities to use existing resources more efficiently or to direct more resources to implementation. The evaluation should result in recommendations to establish new, re-tool existing, or expand state and/or federal programs in support of local implementation.

2. **Speak Out on Behalf of Clean Water**

The drinking water crisis in Flint Michigan, recent flooding in Ellicott City Maryland, and lesions on small mouth Bass in the Susquehanna River, all serve as reminders that our failure to protect water resources has direct consequences to our residents and communities. But we shouldn't rely on events like these to bring attention to the need to invest in protecting our water resources. Elected officials at the local, state and federal level can help raise public awareness and support for clean water initiatives, by speaking out for clean water now.

LGAC recommends that members of the Executive Council help garner public support for actions that protect and restore water resources, while creating vibrant healthy communities, by appearing in public service announcements to be aired within their respective jurisdictions, and using social media and other public venues to speak out for clean water.

3. Ensure Vertical Alignment of Priorities

It is imperative that federal, state and local priorities be aligned if the 2025 pollution reduction targets set forth in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL are to be met. Our success in meeting the pollution reduction targets in the wastewater sector demonstrated that, when our priorities are aligned and adequate resources are programmed, we can do what needs to be done to protect and restore the watershed.

Stormwater runoff is the only growing source of pollution in the Watershed, and it is the most costly to treat on a per pound basis. Communities throughout the watershed must develop financially viable solutions for addressing this growing source of pollution. Smaller urban communities, many of which have antiquated stormwater infrastructure, and rural communities will find this most difficult. Therefore, we believe that stormwater is a logical place to focus our combined efforts.

LGAC recommends that members of the Executive Council engage their Congressional delegations in support of increased allocations of federal funding for local infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of stormwater drainage systems.

As your advisors on issues related to local government engagement, we stand ready to assist the Bay Program Partners in achieving our collective vision for a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay Watershed.