

April 30, 2015

*Via e-mail to [agreement@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:agreement@chesapeakebay.net)*

Mr. Nicholas DiPasquale  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109  
Annapolis, MD 21403



**RE: Climate Resiliency Management Strategy Comments**

Dear Mr. DiPasquale and Management Board Members:

The undersigned members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition—a coalition of organizations from Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia with the common goal of restoring the thousands of streams and rivers flowing to the Chesapeake Bay—respectfully submit the following comments on the draft Climate Resiliency Outcomes Management Strategy.

**A. We Support Using the “Climate Smart Conservation Cycle” as a Framework for Adaptation Work.**

The “Climate-Smart Conservation Cycle,” developed by an expert group empanelled by the National Wildlife Federation, features seven steps in an iterative process informed by monitoring and assessment at each step of the cycle. We strongly support use of the Climate-Smart Conservation Cycle as the centerpiece and framework for climate adaptation work in the Chesapeake Bay.

**B. We Support Including Climate Change Considerations into other Management Strategies.**

Integration of climate change adaptation into all the management strategies is a pressing issue that needs to be realized as soon as possible. We strongly support the role of the climate resiliency work group in working closely with other Goal Implementation Teams and work groups on the inclusion of climate change considerations into their management strategies. The management strategy should provide more detail on how exactly this collaboration will take place.

**C. The Management Strategy Should Encourage Collaboration Along the Entire Atlantic Coast.**

The management strategy should include a component to not only increase regional collaboration, but also collaboration with organizations up and down the Atlantic coast. This type of collaboration is important because issues such as those affecting migratory birds are best managed within a flyway approach. One example of this type of collaboration is National Wildlife Federation’s work with New Jersey Audubon on assessing coastal impoundments from Massachusetts to Virginia for their ecological value, vulnerability to sea level rise and storm surge, as well as the protection they offer as a natural barrier to human communities and infrastructure. Partnerships like this should be encouraged beyond the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

We are happy to discuss our comments on the draft Climate Resiliency Management Strategy further. Please contact Jill Witkowski by phone at 443-842-7525 or by email at [witkowskij@nwf.org](mailto:witkowskij@nwf.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Anacostia Watershed Society

Audubon Naturalist Society

Bluewater Baltimore

Conservation Pennsylvania

Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania

Delaware Nature Society

Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River

Friends of the Rappahannock

Lackawanna River Corridor Association

Maryland Conservation Council

Maryland Environmental Health Network

Maryland Sierra Club

Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited

National Aquarium

National Parks Conservation Association

Nature Abounds

Neighbors of the Northwest Branch, Anacostia River

New York League of Conservation Voters

NWF Mid-Atlantic Regional Center

Penn Future

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Rock Creek Conservancy

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

South River Federation

St. Mary's River Watershed Association

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Virginia Conservation Network

Waterkeepers Chesapeake

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

