



ALLIANCE
for the Chesapeake Bay



**CONSENSUS BUILDING WITHIN
AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Photo by Chesapeake Bay Program



ALLIANCE

for the Chesapeake Bay



VISION

We envision clean water and resilient landscapes, cared for by all the people who live, work, and play in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

MISSION

The Alliance restores the lands and waters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our collaborative and action-oriented approach delivers on-the-ground solutions, technical assistance, and builds capacity to achieve healthier lands and cleaner water.

VALUES

- Adaptive - We design tactics to achieve common goals.
- Collaborative - We partner across sectors and regions.
- Result-Oriented - We deliver efficient, measurable, and holistic programming.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



NY



DC



VA



MD



PA



DE



WV



Bay Commission



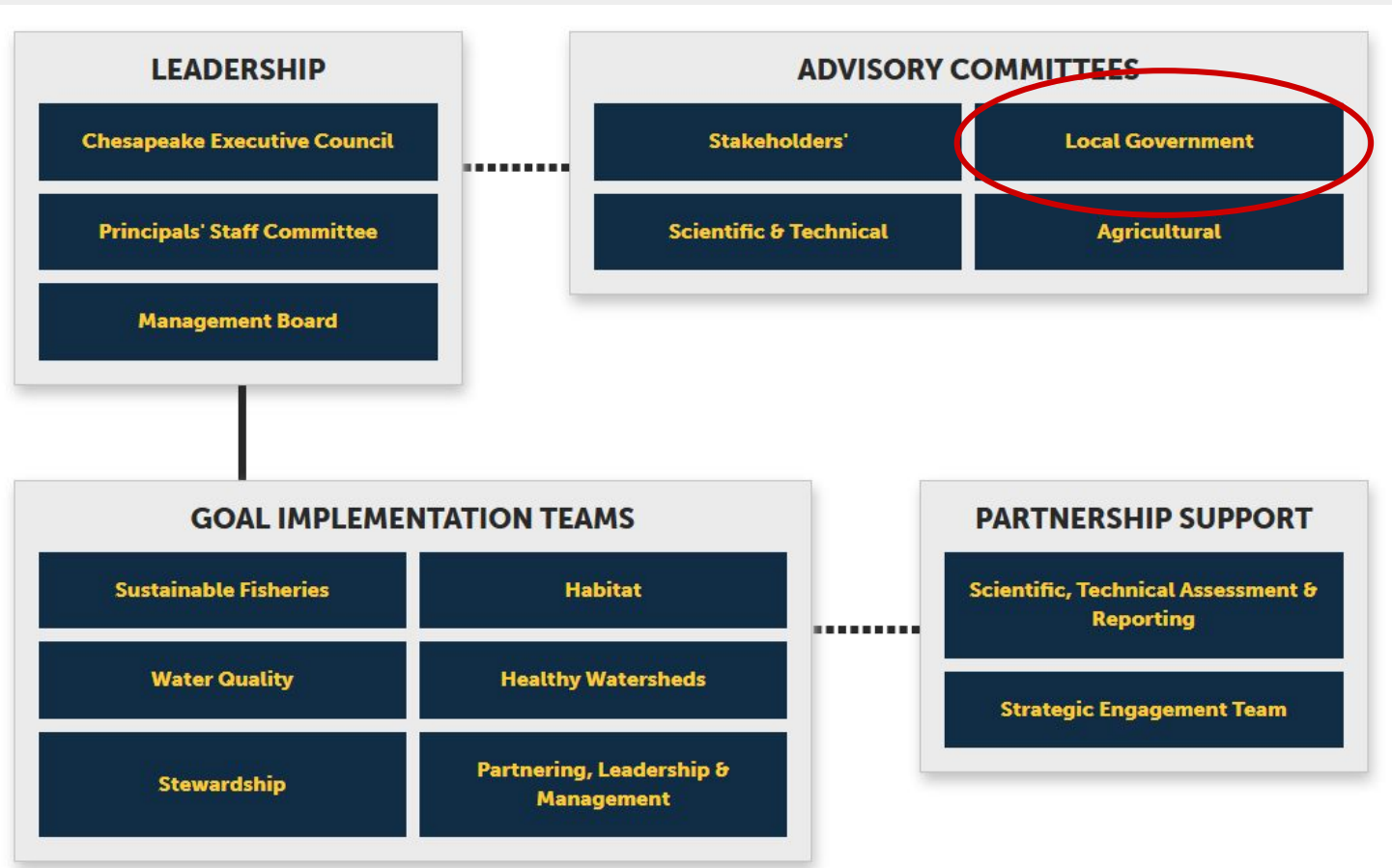
Chesapeake Bay Program



Federal
Partners



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Mission: Share the views and insights of local elected officials with state and federal decision-makers within the Chesapeake Bay Program
- 24 gubernatorial appointed members including Mayors, Councilmembers, Commissioners, Supervisors and other local officials

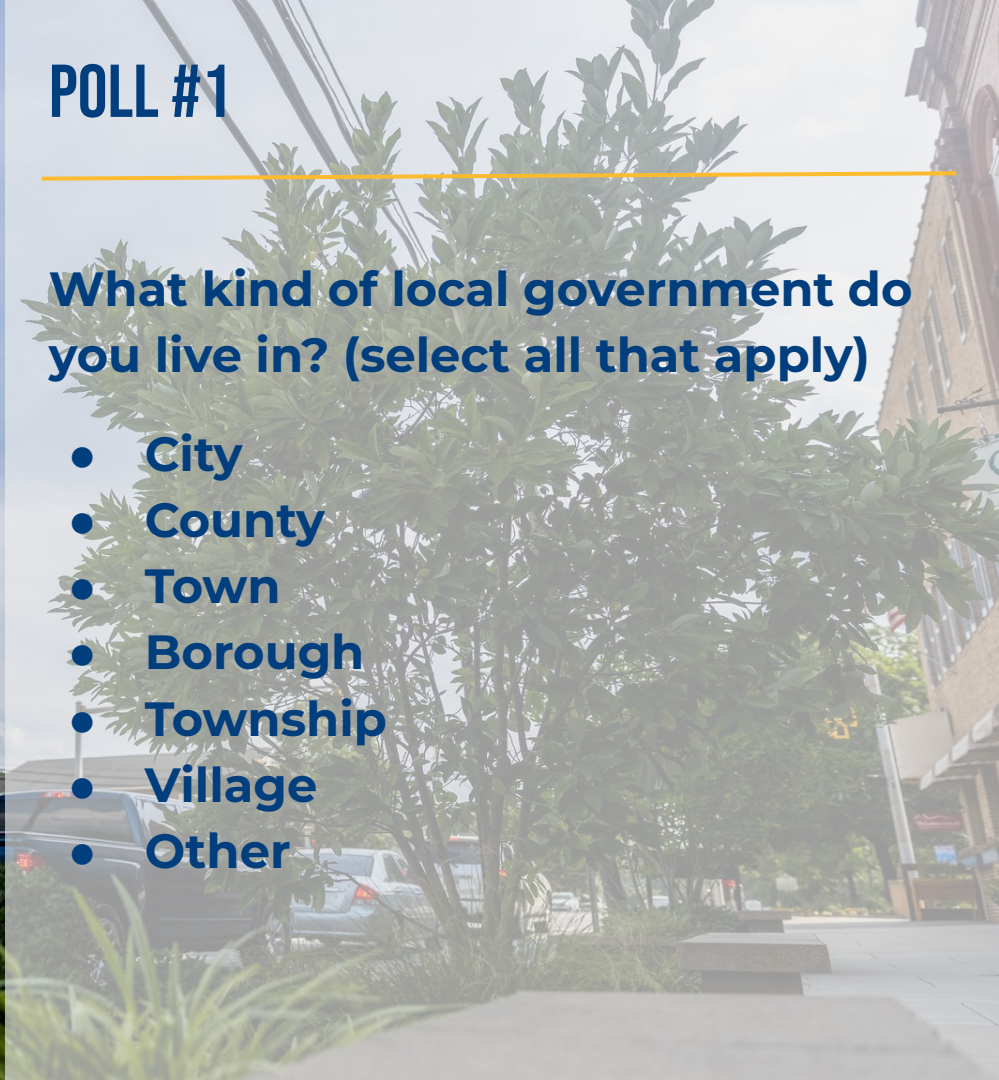




POLL #1

What kind of local government do you live in? (select all that apply)

- City
- County
- Town
- Borough
- Township
- Village
- Other



PROBLEM: BUILDING CONSENSUS AMONG A DIVERSE COMMITTEE

- Need consensus annually on recommendations to the governors in the watershed and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator
- Committee of political appointees with diverse perspectives & opinions



POLL #2

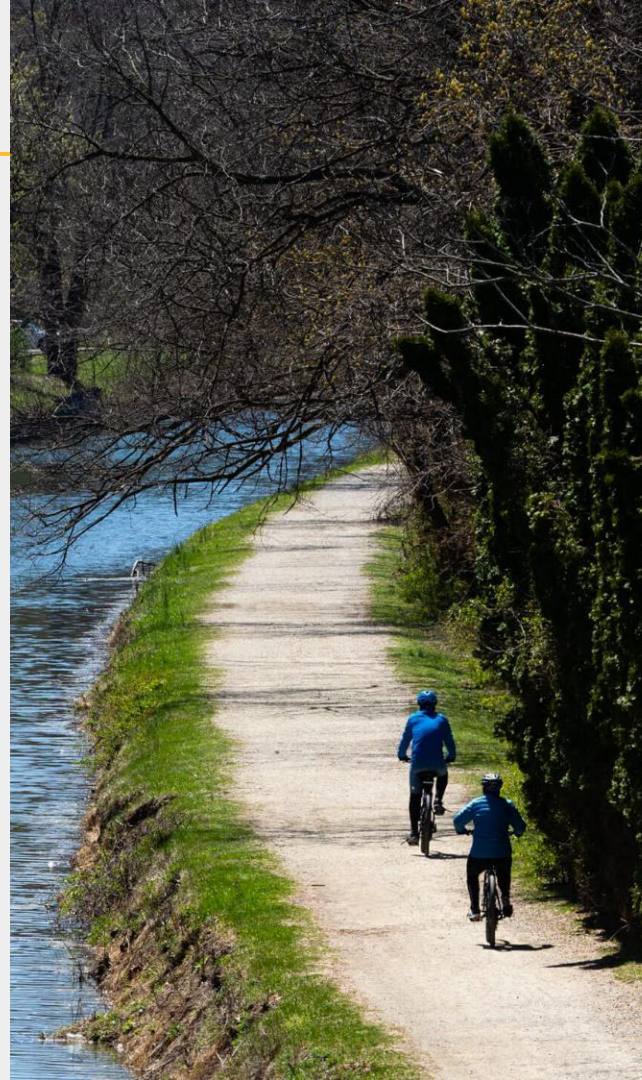
What tools or strategies would you use to solve this problem?

- **Partner Culture Awareness**
- **Persuasion**
- **Trust-Building**
- **Political Savvy & External Awareness**
- **Active Listening & Effective Communication**
- **Conflict Management**
- **Other**



BUILDING CONSENSUS - BEFORE MEETING

- Collectively identify meeting topics to develop recommendations around
- Small group of committee members work to develop agenda
- Individual phone calls with committee members to prepare
- Share relevant background information with the full committee in advance



BUILDING CONSENSUS - DURING MEETING

- Background presentations to ensure common understanding
- Panel discussions to share diverse perspectives on the same issues
- Tap committee members to facilitate plenary/small group discussions
- Identify possible consensus points toward the end of the meeting



BUILDING CONSENSUS - AFTER MEETING

- Convene a small group to wordsmith recommendation language
- Offer multiple opportunities for feedback on draft recommendations
- Phone calls with individual members who have outstanding concerns
- Meetings to share recommendations with state-specific verbal context



BUILDING CONSENSUS ON AN ANNUAL CYCLE





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS











What strategies have you all used to build consensus?

How do you handle politically sensitive topics?

How have you worked to build relationships within diverse groups?

MY BINGO CARD!

What additional tools or strategies could I utilize?

Partnership Culture Awareness 	Entrepreneurship & Risk Assessment	Conflict Management 	Sustaining Partnerships	Teamwork & Team-building
Strategic Thinking 	Change Management & Succession Planning	Partnership Network Life Cycle	Facilitation 	Trust-building 
Performance 	Partnership Management	FREEDOM: add it own 	Managing Agreements	Community Collaboration
Leveraging Partnerships	Political Savvy & External Awareness 	Continuous Learning 	Collaborative Leadership	Visioning
Planning & Evaluation	Active Listening & Effective Communication 	Interest-based Negotiation	Accountability	Financial Management

THANK YOU!

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FOR OUR FORESTS. FOR OUR STREAMS. FOR OUR FUTURE.

