

Appendix E.1 Region 9 Local Partner Involvement Process

In its “Guide for Chesapeake Bay Jurisdictions for the Development of Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans,” EPA stressed the importance of collaborating with local partners to implement the WIP strategies. To accomplish this, local partners must first be made aware of the importance of their involvement in meeting Bay TMDL allocations. Secondly, they must identify and refine WIP strategies that they can implement. Thirdly, they must identify the resources, authorities, and assistance they will need to implement the strategies.

For the closest to the Bay and most rapidly developing region of West Virginia, the Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council (Region 9) was best suited to manage the local partner involvement process. Region 9 engaged the assistance of Delta Development Group, Inc. (Delta) and Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) to facilitate the process. Since the WIP is organized by the load allocation sectors of Wastewater, Developed Lands and Industrial, and Agriculture and Forestry, the local partners were divided into work groups by sector. An additional work group was added to the process that was comprised of a key set of stakeholders, elected officials. Delta facilitated the local partner involvement sessions of the Wastewater, the Developed Lands and Industrial, and the Elected Officials work groups. Tetra Tech facilitated the local partner involvement sessions of the Agriculture and Forestry work group.

Between May and August of 2011, Delta facilitated four, approximately two-hour sessions for the three work groups, Wastewater, the Developed Lands and Industrial, and the Elected Officials. The agenda and meeting summaries of these sessions are attached. See Appendices E.3, E.4, and E.5. During the same time period, Tetra Tech facilitated three sessions for the Agriculture and Forestry work group. All of the work groups came together for a day-long summit on August 31, 2011. The agenda for the summit is also attached as Appendix E.6.

The process of making the local partners aware of their role in meeting Bay TMDL allocations is evident in the meeting summaries. The local partners’ identification and refinement of WIP strategies targeted for implementation are addressed in applicable sections of the WIP. Also, identified are the resources, authorities, and assistance that the local partners will need to implement these strategies.