



To: Jon Laria, Chair, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission
Maryland Sustainable Growth Commissioners

From: Alan Girard, MSGC WIP Workgroup Chair
Pat Langenfelder, MSGC WIP Workgroup Vice-Chair

Since the September 26 meeting of the full Commission, the WIP Workgroup has:

1. Prepared the attached letter to the Governor advising him of the recommendations submitted by the WIP Workgroup and adopted by the Commission September 26. The letter will be delivered in November.
2. By request of the Commission, sought guidance from the Maryland Department of Planning on implementation of the recommendation submitted by the WIP Workgroup and adopted by the Commission July 25, relating specifically to the nature of the advisory capacity in which the WIP Workgroup is to serve the interagency Growth Offset Workgroup, per the adopted recommendation. Maryland Department of Planning guidance on the most valuable ways in which the WIP Workgroup can serve in an advisory capacity is pending.
3. Continued feasibility research for supporting publication of a guidance document for local governments interpreting the State's draft growth offset policy, once developed. While the Workgroup understands the value of the draft policy in achieving the objective of accounting for new pollution loads from growth in the Phase I WIP, it anticipates the policy to be complex and easily misunderstood by local jurisdictions and others. As a follow-up to its September 2 memo to Commissioner Mary Ann Lisanti, the Workgroup has consulted briefly with the Hatcher Group, contractor for the Chesapeake Bay Program Local Government Advisory Committee chaired by Ms. Lisanti and currently producing written outreach materials on the WIP, to evaluate production alternatives for a growth offset policy guidance document. The Workgroup believes, however, that perspective and input on the role and value of such a publication and guidance on its content and distribution must first be obtained by the interagency Growth Offset Workgroup charged with developing the policy and likely to have an outreach agenda of its own. Therefore, the WIP Workgroup, in its advisory capacity to the interagency Growth Offset Workgroup, will take up this issue when outreach is discussed during the policy development process.