Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
Issue: **Conowingo Dam**

Current Language

There is no language referring to the Conowingo Dam nor a goal and/or outcome related to the Conowingo Dam in the current draft

Options

1. Status quo
2. Add a new Conowingo Dam outcome under Water Quality Goal
   *See suggested language attached below.
3. Add a new Principle statement referring to the Conowingo Dam
4. Add a new Conowingo Dam outcome under Water Quality Goal and a new Conowingo Dam Principle statement

Partner Comments

1. Maryland
   - 2017 Conowingo Dam Outcome: By 2017, assess the impact of Conowingo Dam reaching dynamic equilibrium on Bay water quality standards. [The draft three-year Lower Susquehanna Watershed Assessment study has determined that the Conowingo Dam has reached "dynamic equilibrium," which means that it is expected to now regularly scour during lower-level storm events and then trap sediment at normal flows, only to scour again.]

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2. Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
   - 2017 WIP Outcome - Provide continual updates to those implementing practices and controls on the determined effectiveness and variability in performance (Conowingo Dam management would be a potential strategy)
3. Citizens Advisory Committee
   - In our first set of comments on the draft Agreement we recommended the sediment capacity behind the Conowingo Dam be included. The decision was to not include it. It is difficult for us to know how this issue will be collectively addressed if there is no goal or outcome associated with it. Therefore, we are compelled to continue to bring the issue of the Dam before you and remind you to consider the cost of inaction in addressing the sediment storage behind the Conowingo Dam.

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4. Chesapeake Bay Commission
   - Work to better quantify the changing rate and frequency of sediment released and transported in channel sources [both above and below Conowingo] caused by storm events. [This would allow us to address Conowingo through the lens of changing environmental conditions.]

Stakeholder Comments

1. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
   - A [Conowingo] outcome in the agreement provides an opportunity to show the public that the Bay Program is serious about fully engaging Maryland, Pennsylvania, the federal government, and private partners in solutions for increasing sediment storage capacity and reducing sediment deposition behind the dam while reducing storm scour events. An appropriate outcome would identify a process and timeline for development of a plan and its implementation.
2. Clean Chesapeake Coalition
   - Accordingly, the following Partnership principle is recommended: "Advocate for the dredging and maintenance of the Conowingo Pond through the FERC relicensing process or otherwise."

*** Option 2: Add a new Conowingo Dam outcome under Water Quality Goal**

"2017 Conowingo Dam Outcome: By 2017, collect additional information at various high flow conditions to further enhance our understanding and assess the impact of Conowingo Dam reaching dynamic equilibrium on Bay water quality standards."