

Brief Synthesis of Discussion re:  
Chesapeake Bay & Knowledge Systems for Sustainability

May 2, 2013- CBPO Fish Shack

Basic Assumptions/Principles

- Highest level mandate to get something done, yet the activities we are undertaking are not getting us there
  - Critical areas include manure, stormwater
  - Population growth huge impact
- Resources are limited
  - Impacts on time, money, people, attention
  - Need to justify financial resources every year
- Time is short, but there is an opportunity/window of openness (next year or two?):
  - Key timeframes: 2017, 2025
- Scale matters
  - Big picture/system is critical
  - Within big system, important to focus on specific, do-able steps at concrete level
    - Finer spatial scale can be seen as more accurate/credible
    - Specific issues → general questions → specifics
- Uncertainty is significant
  - Related to assumptions, otherwise
  - Seen as doubt, lack of knowledge
  - Need to reduce uncertainty, or better explain
  - Actuarial sciences may be useful to incorporate
- Monitoring is critical
  - Recognized as a “core” funding focus
  - Not always analyzed but if it is, useful to backstop/verify success

Key Questions:

- How can we be big, bold in creating a vision?
- How do we systematically approach this in a credible way?
  - Addressing institutional or other types of barriers?
  - Within an appropriate scale or set of scales?
  - Within the relevant time frames?
  - In a way that can provide lessons learned for export elsewhere?
  - How do we leverage potential resources? (AgMIP, FarmStart, CAP, Jerry Hatfield, various grants, etc.)?

## Potential steps?

- Chesapeake Bay driving/focused
  - Important to identify the overall vision, and resources needed
  - Opportunity to develop something new, a prototype, a way to crosswalk issues
  
- Future drivers depend on resources, integration of social science/behavior change
  - Opportunities may depend on connections, leverage, expertise, collaboration
  - Exportability of lessons learned may help leverage resources
  
- Opportunities to explore:
  - Modeling activities (part of a larger whole)
    - Scale of various models
    - Model comparisons/intercomparisons
    - R&D?
    - Tools to scale up, scale down
    - Tools to link information to management decisions
  - Land use classification differences
  - Accessibility of information re: BMPs (data privacy concerns)
  - Focus on target areas/people
    - i.e. why should a PA farmer care? What are the benefits to that person?
    - How do we expand on test beds of innovation? (ARS locations)