



STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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March 7, 2016

Mr. Nicholas DiPasquale
Director
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue - Suite 109
Annapolis, Md. 21403

RE: Draft First Biennial Work Plans for the Chesapeake Bay Management Strategies

Dear Mr. DiPasquale:

The Maryland State Water Quality Advisory Committee (SWQAC) is the federally mandated public participation group that advises State agencies receiving EPA funding, on programs and activities that may have impacts on the improvement and protection of water quality. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft first Biennial Work Plans for the Chesapeake Bay Management Strategies. SWQAC commends the draft work plans, which set shorter-term tasks and milestones in implementing the various Chesapeake Bay Management Strategies.

The draft Work Plans are a good initial step towards achieving the overall goals and objectives outlined in the strategies. A good deal of thought and effort has evidently gone into these work plans, but successfully implementing them, and building on them to attain longer-term goals, will certainly take much more time and sustained effort.

SWQAC has reviewed the draft biennial work plans, and submits the following comments:

1. Considering the number and complexity of the identified elements and tasks associated with the management strategies that underlie these work plans, at some point there will be a need for each management strategy team to create broader, implementation frameworks looking beyond the next two years, that identify intermediate-term, and longer-term tasks. The biennial work plan tasks should focus on low-hanging fruit and key elements that will be critical to implementing intermediate and longer-term tasks. Such broader frameworks for management strategy implementation can be updated as needed, and will provide the context for formulating future biennial work plans.
2. Many of the management strategies associated with each work plan identify points of overlap with other management strategies, and state that cross-strategy support and coordination will be essential. As a result, cross-strategy support/coordination will continue to be an important component in the process, especially in the identification of intermediate and longer-term tasks, and the development of future biennial work plans. Specific tasks, actions, meeting strategies, and data sharing needed to achieve the needed cross-strategy coordination should be clearly identified.
3. In moving forward with the biennial work plans, the work plans of strategies that overlap with or inform other strategies should have their respective implementation tasks cross-referenced, as appropriate. This will help cooperative and collaborative efforts across strategy implementation teams.
4. As strategy implementation efforts proceed, a better understanding of the identified gaps will undoubtedly occur, along with the identification of new gaps. This information will need to be made known to all of the outcome

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key findings under each strategy, and the most current understanding of the gaps associated with the various outcomes.

6. A funding analysis in implementing the biennial work plans is recommended, and identified or potential funding gaps should be addressed as part of the overall implementation efforts associated with the management strategies. The results of such an analysis can help inform public agency budget assessments as well as the development of implementation options such as public-private partnerships.
7. Multi-page tables should repeat the column headings at the top of each page.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft first biennial work plans for the Chesapeake Bay Management Strategies. SWQAC understands that the Bay Management Strategies approach is an evolving process and we hope to have the opportunity to provide additional comments and input in the future as the strategies and their associated work plans continue to be developed and implemented.

Sincerely,



Julie Pippel, Chair

- c. Mark Belton, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment