

July 23, 2018

Dear Management Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to return to you in August regarding your final review and acceptance for moving the *Memorandum of Understanding on Using Citizen and Non-traditional Partner Monitoring Data to Assess Water Quality and Living Resource Status and Our Progress Toward Restoration of a Healthy Chesapeake Bay and Watershed* forward to the Principal Staff Committee for signing later this year. We thank you for the feedback you provided during the June 2018 Management Board meeting and subsequent comments during the June/July review period.

The MOU document that you received here has been updated according to your comments as described below in two groups.

Group 1. Text and Context comments:

Jim Edward – expressed a sensitivity using the word “support” in bullets 2 and 6 of the MOU.

- Response:
 - In bullet 2 we have changed the text from “Work to support...” to “Endorse” as less suggestive of committing to, but not limiting entities from, considering providing financial support when acquiring and using these data.
 - In bullet 6 we retained the words “Support and actively contribute...” due to context that represents supporting the partnership and workgroup activities that provide insights and guidance to citizen and nontraditional partner monitoring. Using “Support” in the context of how it is used in bullet 6 seems most appropriate to other synonyms and is not carrying the weight of anything more suggestive than ongoing work partners already provide to CBP teams and workgroups.

VADEQ – suggested updating bullet 2 language when speaking about regulatory assessment applications.

- Response: The MOU bullet 2 will now include the additional clarifying language “...and regulatory assessment applications as authorized by statutes and regulatory guidance.”

The signatories list for the MOU is still being finalized per comments received and identified below.

Group 2. The Signatories comments:

NOAA – Sean Corson – How is NOAA/are other federal agencies represented on the MOU

- Response: We are finalizing this signatory issue. On other MOUs, EPA signed representing the agencies under the CB partnership umbrella. A list of agencies represented (e.g., NOAA, USGS, USFS, USFWS, USDA) has been listed under that umbrella in the past. We need to list those agencies on this signature page with EPA.

Chesapeake Bay Commission – Should the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative also be listed as a signatory?

- Response: CMC is providing a service. And reviewing the Nontidal MOU, the structure of the signatories there is among the entities conducting the monitoring to work together. That is not how this MOU is designed. Therefore, it has been suggested CMC is not to be a signatory. However, this issue remains under discussion. A final decision is still needed.

Signatories – Interstate Commissions and WashCOG?

- Response: Following up on this question, we have recently networked specifically with appropriate directors and are continuing this outreach now. We can use some guidance on who at WashCOG is most appropriate individual to interact with.

CAC/LGAC/STAC as signatories?

- CAC/LGAC/STAC will not be signatories but are interested to provide letters of support endorsing the body of work represented by the MOU.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Chudoba, Water Quality Program Manager, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and
Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO, Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Coordinator*