



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
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October 12, 2018

RE: STAC Support for Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding

Benjamin H. Grumbles, Chair, Principal's Staff Committee (PSC)  
Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Cc: Chesapeake Bay Program's Principal's Staff Committee; Peter Tango, USGS-CBPO, Scientific Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Coordinator

Dear Secretary Grumbles,

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) supports the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership (CBP) adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entitled *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*.

Developed by the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, this MOU advocates for the use of citizen and non-traditional partner monitoring data of known integrity. The commitment of the inclusion of these additional data sources will expand the Partnership's ability to assess the status of water quality, habitat, and ecological resources beyond traditional monitoring networks in pursuit of a restored Bay and healthy watershed.

As STAC looks to the future of Chesapeake Bay restoration and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, it is clear that it will be essential to integrate and leverage monitoring networks and utilize available data of known integrity from all sources in light of limited resources. Data resulting from non-traditional partners and citizen science efforts can inform impact assessments of local actions as well as the implementation of pollution control management practices.

Additionally, the framework created by the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative to house and classify collected data, Chesapeake Data Explorer, represents a unique opportunity for collaboration across monitoring groups, and a valuable decision-support tool.

In STAC's role of providing the Bay Program Partnership with scientific and technical guidance, we continue to advocate for the importance of science-informed management. A steady commitment to engaging dedicated volunteer and non-traditional partners will be of vital importance to the continued success of our collective efforts, and in fostering stewardship throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Sincerely,

Brian Benham  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)