



**U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program
Tidal Monitoring and Analysis Workgroup**

2014 Workplan

December 3, 2013

[SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND REVISION]

- I) Priorities as they relate to Indicators:
 - a) Sustain the existing water quality indicators annually reported by the Chesapeake Bay Program
 - i) Dissolved oxygen indicator *(Spring/Summer 2014)*
 - ii) Water Quality Standards (WQS) indicator and related indicators: dissolved oxygen (surface-area assessment), water clarity/underwater bay grasses, and chlorophyll *a* *(Spring/Summer 2014)*
 - b) Continue with the development and communication of the Incremental Progress indicators *(Ongoing-2014)*
 - c) Coordinate with Goal Implementation Teams and Management Board to identify priorities for new indicator development *(Ongoing-2014)*
- II) Priorities as they relate to Criteria Assessment:
 - a) Continue to support the Criteria Assessment Protocols (CAP) Workgroup efforts to publish the recommended criteria assessment procedures for the remaining dissolved oxygen (DO) criteria currently without Partnership approved and state adopted assessment procedures
 - i) Support any necessary efforts to finalize analyses
 - ii) Review drafts of technical addendum chapters
- III) Support the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team's effort to ensure the long-term sustainability of its monitoring networks in lieu of current and future funding challenges:
 - a) Participate in the evaluation of alternative, sustainable business models to support Chesapeake Bay and watershed monitoring programs through 2025 to support the TMDL *(Winter 2014)*
 - b) Support the re-assessment of customer expectations and network products *(Winter-Spring 2014)*
 - c) Assist in the optimization of monitoring strategies to support CBP Partnership priorities *(Spring-Summer 2014)*
 - d) Develop options related to monitoring network design, monitoring network operations, and funding support *(Summer-Fall 2014)*
 - e) Implement Partnership decisions based on presented options and proposed recommendations *(Winter 2014-2015)*
- IV) Improve methods and strategies to better explain and understand water quality conditions across the watershed and tidal waters:
 - a) Continue to develop generalized additive models for explaining estuarine water quality trends
 - b) In conjunction with the NTWG, conduct an integrated assessment of factors affecting water quality trends in key areas (i.e., Potomac River)
 - c) Continue to communicate findings of lessons learned from the implementation of best management practices (BMP) as they relate to observed water quality changes to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed