



**Management Board Meeting
December 12, 2019**

Actions/Decisions

Cropland Irrigation BMP Panel Report

- **Decision:** The Management Board (MB) approved the Cropland Irrigation BMP Expert Panel report through a supermajority vote. The signatories registered the following votes:
 - District of Columbia: Endorse
 - New York: Endorse
 - West Virginia: Endorse
 - Federal agencies: Endorse
 - Delaware: Stop
 - Maryland: Endorse
 - Virginia: Endorse
 - Chesapeake Bay Commission: Endorse
 - Pennsylvania: Stand aside
- **Decision:** The MB charged the Water Quality GIT to use the process set up by STAR to determine the relative priority of research needs for the cropland irrigation BMP with other science priorities currently on their list of prioritized science needs. The WQGIT will then work with STAR and STAC to identify a path forward for further scientific research on the cropland irrigation BMP. This may include encouraging additional research be pursued by research institutions within the Chesapeake watershed, pursuant to the scientific needs recognized by the Expert Panel. The MB will reconsider credit on this practice via the Expert Panel process, when additional scientific information becomes available.
- **Decision:** The MB also charged the WQGIT with appending a record of decisions to the cropland irrigation panel's final report when it is published on the CBP website so that the decision is fully documented there and not just in these MB Meeting minutes.

Two-year Water Quality Milestones

- **Decision:** The MB approved the schedule changes for how the partnership will measure and report progress on state and federal numeric and programmatic milestones. Specifically, the 2018-2019 Programmatic Milestones will close out on January 15, 2020, and the 2020-2021 Programmatic Milestones commitments are due by March 1, 2020. The Principals' Staff Committee will make a final decision on these schedule changes during their January 24, 2020 meeting.
- **Action:** Jim Edward and Dianne McNally (EPA) will work with WQGIT leadership and staff so that the revised milestones language will be ready for approval by the WQGIT at their January 13, 2020 meeting. Since this meeting is three days before the Management Board meeting, CBPO staff will ensure the draft language is shared with MB members as soon as it is shared with WQGIT members.

BMP Verification Protocols and Procedures

- **Action:** In early 2020, MB Chair Dana Aunkst will convene a small workgroup of MB signatory partners to discuss both the WQGIT verification memo and the draft MB response letter, and to identify a path forward to addressing these verification concerns.

SRS Wrap-up and Follow-up Actions

- **Action:** STAR will discuss prioritizing nearshore monitoring at their December 17 meeting. STAR staff will include this discussion in their meeting minutes and share these with the MB in January.
- **Action:** Sean Corson (NOAA) met with Sarah Diebel (DoD) to discuss using REPI funding for oysters. In addition to the work on oysters, the MB is interested in having a partnership approach to using REPI funding. Sarah Diebel will talk to the REPI program staff and report back to the MB on next steps.
- **Action:** Sean Corson (NOAA) and Rachel Felver (CBP Communications Director) met and discussed connecting on a quarterly basis to share NOAA's work on oysters. These oyster success vignettes could be shared at MB meetings, as well as other meetings.
- **Action:** Brooke Landry (MD DNR) and Lew Linker (EPA) presented an assessment tool that used geographic isolation runs to estimate where the nutrients are coming from that would impact the area where SAV beds are located. The Modeling Workgroup tool would help identify areas on the land where focused BMPs could be prioritized that would most impact these unique SAV areas. The tool used to do this analysis may be found at the following link:
<https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/modeling/geoisoruns/>

Branding the Chesapeake Bay Program

- **Action:** CBP Communications Director Rachel Felver led the MB through a branding discussion for the Chesapeake Bay Program. If MB members or state agency staff would like to join the small team developing the branding strategy, please contact Rachel Felver at rfelver@chesapeakebay.net.
- **Action:** Rachel Felver will share with MB members the draft elevator speech for the CBP.

Overview of 2018-19 Bay Barometer

- **Action:** CBP Communications Director Rachel Felver will share the 2018-19 Bay Barometer content with MB members for review by December 20. The review deadline is January 10, 2020. The tentative release date is mid-February.

Business Meeting

- On Dec. 9, CBPO Director Dana Aunkst announced the appointment of Lee McDonnell as Chief of the Science, Analysis and Implementation Branch of the CBPO effective January 5, 2020. McDonnell is a licensed professional engineer with more than 25 years of experience at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) in environmental engineering application and implementation, policy development, and administrative management, much of which has been specific to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. He is a former Director of the Bureau of Clean Water at PADEP. Carin Bisland, Lucinda Power, and Lew Linker were all commended for their work in temporary assignments as acting Branch Chief after Rich Batiuk retired in 2018.