

# **BMP Expert Panel Process**

## **Recommendations for Moving Forward under Phase 6**

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# Current Status of BMP Panels

- Partnership currently has 19 BMP panels underway.
- Each of these panels was identified as a priority by the source sector workgroups for inclusion in the Phase 6 modeling tools.
  - Therefore, panels must be completed and approved by October 2016 for final model calibration.
- Partnership-approved BMP Protocols are in place to guide the panel process, including the partnership's review and approval of panel recommendations.
  - Revisions to Protocols have attempted to streamline the panel process.

# Panels That May Raise Policy Issues

- Manure Technologies (April 2016)
- Urban Tree Canopy (July 2016)
- Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture (July 2016)
- Wetlands (September 2016)
- Phase 6 Nutrient Management (September 2016)

# Issues and Challenges with Panel Process

- Comments not submitted within the 30-day review and comment period
  - Important to address comments early on – before report is brought for decision.
- Instead, comments are received either right before a decisional meeting or raised during the meeting itself with no advance notice.
- At times, no alternatives are brought to the table if an objection is raised.
- **Bottom line**: These issues violate the BMP Protocols and WQGIT Governance procedures AND such delays could result in panel recommendations not being included in Phase 6.

# Recommendations to Address Challenges

- The proposal is for the Management Board to issue a memo to the WQGIT and WQGIT Workgroups, outlining the following:
  - The 30-day CBP partnership review and comment period must be enforced.
  - Decisional meetings are to be held each time a report is submitted to a workgroup or the WQGIT in order to meet Phase 6 deadlines.
  - Flexibility on timing may be necessary when a panel report is submitted to a workgroup or the WQGIT (e.g. might not be submitted 10 business days prior to a meeting).

# Recommendations to Address Challenges, Cont'd

- Support for concurrent reviews may be necessary (e.g. a panel report may need to be jointly submitted to the source sector workgroup and the watershed technical workgroup for their approval)
- Convene a meeting between workgroup/panel/GIT chairs and coordinators prior to releasing draft panel report for partnership review, to ensure there is agreement on the timing and expectations for this review period.
- **Decision Requested**: Is the Management Board supportive of the development of such a memo with these recommendations?