



April 3, 2024

The Honorable Joshua Kurtz  
Maryland Natural Resources Office of the Secretary  
Chair, Principals' Staff Committee  
Sent via email: Josh.Kurtz@maryland.gov

Dear Secretary Kurtz:

On behalf of the LGAC, STAC and Stakeholders' Committee thank you for making time during the March 12, 2024, Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) meeting to discuss Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Advisory Committee (AC) roles and interaction practices. We are grateful for and encouraged by the positive tone of the discussions and look forward to working with you in a meaningful and substantive way. At the meeting we suggested three specific changes in current practice that we believe would help to recognize and better integrate the value-added capabilities of the CBP's independent advisors to the Executive Council (EC).

1. **Commensurate Response to Annual Recommendations:** We value our time with the EC to address our annual recommendations, however the current response process comes from the Management Board (MB). This may be appropriate for recommendations that focus on matters of programmatic implementation, but we feel strongly that recommendations with policy implications warrant fuller consideration on the CBP level where broader policy decisions are decided. Since policy is the purview of the PSC, we believe responses to our annual recommendation should come to us from the PSC.
2. **Recurring agenda time at PSC and MB meetings:** Recognizing that time is precious, we think a regularly occurring combined Advisory Committee agenda item at MB meetings (not designated for the Strategy Review System) and PSC quarterly meetings is appropriate for our status as non-voting members. Consistent with this role, we would expect to be consulted in agenda formulation, to submit relevant materials in advance of meetings, and to have our submitted material posted on the CBP meeting calendar page with other meeting briefing materials.
3. **Special assignments:** Collectively, Advisory Committees' membership is an exceptional resource of expertise and perspectives. The ACs (individually or as a group) could be assigned topic-specific requests for advice by the EC, PSC, or MB to help guide the

advancement of an objective. Our broad and diverse capabilities could be a significant force multiplier for the partnership.

We deeply appreciate the leadership and perspective that you and Governor Moore bring to the Chesapeake Bay Program. We look forward to continuing this conversation, working with you and your staff, to realize the full benefits that targeted independent advisors can offer during this critical juncture in the history of watershed protection and recovery.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Chao, Chair  
Local Government Advisory Committee



Larry Sanford, Chair  
Scientific and Technical  
Advisory Committee



Chuck Herrick, Chair  
Stakeholders' Advisory Committee