

Chesapeake Bay Program Response to STAC recommendations for workshop on Toxic Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings

Draft June 10, 2020

Dear STAC leadership,

Thank you for the follow-up recommendations for the Toxic Contaminants of Concern in agricultural and urban settings (CEC workshop), which included:

- **Gaps in compiling and communicating potential removal efficiencies for contaminants**
 - Continued expansion and compilation of BMP studies
 - Examine known and emerging contaminants
 - Capitalize on possible co-benefits
- **BMPs are necessary investment to reduce contaminant loads and improve water quality**
 - Research investment to understand co-benefits or negative impacts
 - Close working relationship between researches and management community to develop tools

The Chesapeake Bay Program, led by the Toxic Contaminant Workgroup (TCW), has developed a series of actions to address STAC recommendations. These include:

CBP Action 1: Enhance Interaction with Audiences for Contaminant Information

The TCW is working to enhance interaction with selected audiences who will likely apply results from the STAC CEC workshop. We are focused on audiences implementing practices to reduce nutrients and sediment, so they can consider actions to also mitigate toxic contaminants. The primary audiences include:

- Jurisdictions: The states and the District of Columbia are carrying out their Phase 3 WIPs. They will have opportunities to consider co-benefits to mitigate toxic contaminants.
- Water Quality GIT & workgroups: The goal team and associated workgroups (Ag, Stormwater, WWTP) provide opportunities to discuss contaminants that occur in different landscape settings and practices that may have the most potential co-benefits.
- Local TMDL implementors: States, DC, and local jurisdictions have responsible for TMDL for several toxic contaminants including PBCs, metals, and mercury. These groups have expressed interest in reducing contaminants impacts, particularly in urban areas.

CBP Action 2: Take advantage of Phase 3 implementation

The jurisdictions must develop updated lists of practices that will be implemented every two years as they carry out their WIPs. These times provide opportunities for the TCW to summarize new findings on nutrient and sediment BMPs with contaminant benefits, and share them with jurisdictions to consider as they develop their 2-year milestones

CBP Action 3: Prepare Communication Materials to Inform Decisions

The TCW will interact with stakeholders on the most useful approaches to provide new findings. In addition to presentations of results, the TCW will discuss opportunities to prepare Fact Sheets and other briefing materials to communicate results.

CBP Action 4: Compile results and expand BMP studies

There are limited field studies on mitigating the effects of contaminants, primary due to their complexity and cost. The TCW will explore opportunities to synthesize findings from existing studies when there appears to be enough new studies to examine. TCW partners are conducting some limited studies for selected contaminants, such as PBCs, and will look for opportunities to expand efforts.

CBP Action 5: Include selected BMP results into CBP tools

The most promising opportunity would be getting selected toxic contaminant results into the Watershed Dashboard. Attempting to get contaminants into CBP suite of modes and /or CAST are desired but currently beyond the capabilities of the TCW.