

**DRAFT: SUBJECT TO REVIEW/COMMENT BY THE
MB and USWG**

April 9, 2018

Dr. Brian Benham, Chair
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
Chesapeake Bay Program
645 Contees Warf Road
P.O. Box 28
Edgewater, Maryland 21037

Dear Dr. Benham:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee's (STAC) report entitled "Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it Time for a State, Regional or National Program?". The authors and the steering committee should be commended for an excellent review and synthesis of prior monitoring and testing programs to define the pollutant removal performance of manufactured treatment devices (MTDs). Such programs are critically needed to find new, innovative and cost-effective practices to treat stormwater runoff from the urban sector of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The comprehensive and integrated approach outlined in the STAC report is an excellent road map to develop a rigorous, transparent, consistent and scientifically defensible process to bring new stormwater technology to market in the Bay watershed. The report is also a reminder of the key role that the private sector and public sector partnerships can play in Bay restoration.

The Chesapeake Bay Partners are addressing the report's primary recommendation to adopt a Chesapeake Bay Technology Assessment Protocol (CBTAP) to outline the minimum monitoring and testing requirements for MTDs to earn nutrient and sediment reduction credits in the watershed.

- Through the leadership of Norm Goulet of the Urban Stormwater Work Group (USWG), CBP partners were able to secure \$50,000 in competitive funds from the annual Water Quality Goal Implementation pool to continue the work of the STAC panel.
- Norm and members of the USWG drafted a scope of work and RFP in late 2016 to secure the services of a qualified contractor to develop the CBTAP and facilitate the work of an advisory panel.
- After an extensive technical review, the USWG selected a team of researchers from the University of Delaware and Virginia Tech to complete the six-task scope of work to further define the requirements of the proposed CBTAP testing protocol recommended at the STAC workshop.
- The equivalent of an expert panel was then formed which includes national experts in stormwater monitoring and BMP testing, a mix of other stormwater stakeholders from state regulators, local stormwater agencies and private vendors, and many participants from the original STAC workshop.

- The advisory group has met several times during 2016 and 2017 and is in the process of finalizing its recommended CBTAP testing protocol by late-2018.

The final and most important step will occur when the CBP partnership works to implement the testing program. More leadership will be needed to set up an effective administrative process for CBTAP and securing the initial funding needed to make it an ultimately self-sustaining endeavor.

In closing, on behalf of the Management Board, I want to thank you for your important and timely recommendations. Please extend our gratitude to STAC and the workshop steering committee for the time and effort involved in the production of this report. We greatly appreciate the ongoing role of STAC in serving as an independent review body directly towards continually improving our overall management of the Chesapeake Bay and watershed restoration efforts.

Most sincerely,

James Edwards, Chair
Management Board
Chesapeake Bay Partnership