

January 22, 2021

Lucinda Power  
Implementation & Evaluation Team Leader  
Science, Analysis & Implementation Branch  
Chesapeake Bay Program Office  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**RE: Conowingo WIP Financing Strategy Public Engagement Process**

Dear Lucinda,

As you know, the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (Conowingo WIP) Financing Team recently transitioned to the second phase of its project. The focus of Phase 2 is on developing and executing a launch strategy for a new Conowingo WIP financing system. This strategy will be guided by the structure provided in the *Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan Financing Strategy* document delivered to you and the steering committee last month. The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on the public comment and outreach component of our work moving forward.

An important part of our project implementation process has been the engagement of financing and policy experts. In fact, the development of the Financing Strategy itself was the result of extensive conversations, webinars, meetings, and exchanges with experts from across the country. The next step in the engagement process is to track all formal responses to the document as we proceed through the financing implementation process. To that end, on January 8<sup>th</sup> we convened the Conowingo WIP Financing Advisory Committee to discuss the plan in detail; attached are the minutes from that conversation. Each of these comments, and the many others that will follow, will be logged into a spreadsheet, which will include the project team's formal response when appropriate. This same process will be used to formally recognize and track comments received from the steering committee as well as the Principals' Staff Committee moving forward. When the process is complete, the spreadsheet will be forwarded to you and the steering committee chairs.

Finally, we would encourage you to forward the minutes from the January 8 advisory committee meeting to the steering committee members in preparation for the next steering committee meeting, which will take place the first week of February. We're confident that the response from these experts will provide important context to the conversations that will take place during that meeting.

As always, thank you for your support on this project and please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Dan Nees and Joanne Throwe  
Senior Fellows  
University of Maryland

CC: Jana Davis, Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Matt Rowe, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Jill Whitcomb, Pennsylvania Department of the Environmental Protection