



University of Maryland  
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory  
Post Office Box 38  
Solomons, MD 20688-0038  
(410) 326-4281  
Fax: (410) 326-7302  
<http://www.cbl.umces.edu>

CHESAPEAKE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY  
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Dear Hilary Swartwood (swartwood.hilary@epa.gov)  
Water Quality GIT Staff

In this letter, we provide a recommendation for the appointment of Dr. Lora Harris to the Water Quality GIT committee as an at-large member. In our experience as academic scientists who have worked extensively with federal, state, and local agencies, we both believe Lora would be a great addition to this committee. Below we have attached the requested contact information and an abbreviated C.V. relevant to this appointment.

We understand WQ-GIT committee members are being selected based on level of commitment, professional skills and perspectives including geographic diversity and expertise. We believe Dr. Harris would bring considerable strengths to the committee in all these areas. Dr. Harris has had long-term interests in understanding restoration trajectories in estuaries that include the engineered aeration work in a tributary river near Baltimore (Rock Creek), oyster and other empirical and simulation modeling efforts aimed at understanding water quality trends and impacts, source tracking of wastewater using chemical tracer approaches, as well as traditional monitoring efforts coupled with public outreach efforts in Southern Maryland.

Dr. Harris was the chair of the STAC James River chlorophyll-a review panel and thus has direct experience in CBP management efforts. Lora is also a member on the CBP Diversity workgroup and has established national leadership on diversity and inclusion efforts in the geosciences. In short, she has the technical expertise needed and the added and important dimension related to the need for inclusion and diversity in the environmental world.

We urge you to give serious consideration to Dr. Harris's interest in this committee work. If additional information or clarifications are needed feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Boynton, Emeritus Professor

Jeremy M. Testa, Associate Professor

**Contact Information for Dr. Harris:** Lora Harris, 410-330-3888 (mobile due to pandemic), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, P.O. Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688; [harris@umces.edu](mailto:harris@umces.edu)