

# **Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's BMP Verification Review Panel Charge and Membership**

**Approved September 13, 2012  
by CBP Management Board**

## **Overview**

The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has embarked on a precedent-setting process for developing a basinwide BMP verification framework supporting state specific BMP verification programs. In addition to partnership adoption of a set of verification principles and development of sector focused verification protocols, an independent panel of national and regional verification experts will be established. The BMP Verification Review Panel will provide advice, feedback, and recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership as it develops a BMP Verification Program for confirming nutrient and sediment reductions from the full array of best management practices and technologies implemented across all sources (agriculture, urban, on-site treatment systems, wastewater dischargers, etc.) in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

## **Charge**

The BMP Verification Review Panel (the Panel) will provide advice, feedback, and recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership as it develops its Verification Program.

The Panel will review and provide feedback on and recommendations for changes to the draft set of BMP verification principles.

Individual panel members will work directly with the appropriate source sector/habitat restoration workgroups, providing advice, feedback, and recommendations during the respective workgroup's development of verification protocol specific to their sector/habitat.

The Panel will use the verification principles as criteria for assessing the strengths and any possible vulnerabilities in the state verification programs, providing written feedback and recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program's BMP Verification Committee on each jurisdiction's program.

The Panel will also evaluate whether the level of verification rigor is consistent across source sectors and across all seven watershed jurisdictions.

## **Membership**

The Panel will be comprised of recognized national and regional verification, certification, and mitigation tracking experts who are independent of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

The panel as a whole will include expertise and proficiencies in as many of the following areas as possible:

- Applied knowledge and experience in developing and managing verification programs.
- Applied knowledge and experience in balancing verification needs with resource/staff needs.

- Knowledge of variety of verification tools (on-the-ground data collection, verification techniques, statistical techniques, survey techniques, etc.) available and their utility and application for verifying practices across a multitude of sources.
- Expertise in the social sciences with regard to understanding how to best structure surveys and other mechanisms for gathering data and verifying actions taken.
- Knowledge of water quality-related nutrient and sediment reduction practices and innovative technologies within various source sectors (agriculture, urban, on-site systems, wastewater, etc.).
- Knowledge of the Chesapeake Bay Program, TMDLs, and concept of reasonable assurance for nonpoint source nutrient/sediment reductions.
- Knowledge and expertise necessary to really work through the entire verification framework coming forth from the work of the partnership.
- Understanding of how practices and technologies and their effectiveness may vary by geographic region in the watershed.
- Balance of membership from government, academic, programmatic, private sector, etc.

Specific members are sought from the following types of members, but there is no requirement for ensuring all of these potential members are included on the panel:

- Members with specific source sector experience in agriculture, stormwater, and on-site treatment systems.
- Member from the prior National Academy of Science/National Research Council's Chesapeake Bay Independent Evaluation Committee (see separate file listing the Committee members).
- Member(s) with recognized national perspective and can provide a larger view than just a regional and local focus.
- Member with from a local government with well recognized hands-on experience with verification at the locality scale.
- Member with demonstrated habitat restoration and mitigation program verification related experience.
- Private sector member with ISO 9000/14000 experience.
- Member with LEED/Green Building Council experience with verification procedures.
- Member(s) from the Chesapeake Bay Commission's Economics of Nutrient Trading Study Advisory Council members (see separate file listing Advisory Council members).
- Members with recognized regional/local expertise so the members come to the table already knowing the Bay watershed states, the issues, and the challenges being faced.

All panelists will be asked to identify any potential financial or other conflicts of interest prior to serving on the Panel. The Panel will have an equitable representation of experts, affiliations, and source sector and geographic knowledge. These conditions will ensure the Panel is not biased toward particular interests or regions.

The Panel may elect to solicit input or presentations from groups that may not qualify as panel participants but may provide valuable insights into the verification issue that will help with its review.